



Borough of Topton

Spring Newsletter

205 South Callowhill Street Topton PA, 19562 | 610-682-2541

April 2022

UPCOMING DATES

May 21st	Community Yard Sale
June 26th	Park Bash
July 24th	Flamin' Dick and the Hot Rods and Car Show
Aug 2nd	National Night Out
Aug 20th	Fireworks and Kinda Sorta Maybe

IMPORTANT REMINDERS & INFO

Branch Pick Up—Branch pick up is the last Tuesday of the month April through September

YMCA Playground—Visit our website or Facebook for information on registration

Clean Up After Your Pets—Please remember to clean up after your pets when you walk them around town!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and Happy Spring!

If you were not aware, I am Borough Council's new president. I have been serving on council for 8 years and look forward to my new role as president. There are some new and exciting happenings starting in town. The TASA project will provide a walking route that connects our schools to the center of town and is set to begin at any time and will continue through the year. We will also be seeing pedestrian safety measures installed around the park. I look forward to seeing everyone at our second annual Party in the Park with fun, food, and music for everyone Sunday, June 26!

Council President,
Michelle Lorah

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Visit <https://toptonborough.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021-CCR-rev.pdf> to view Topton's 2021 drinking water quality report. A copy of the report may also be viewed in the Borough office.

WAYS TO PAY YOUR WATER & SEWER BILL

Bills are due May 21, 2022

- Pay online at toptonborough.com (There is a \$4.75 fee to pay online with a card.)
- Pay at the office with cash, check, or with a card. (There is no fee to pay with a card in the office.)
- Pay with a check in the drop box in the office door or by mail.

www.toptonborough.com

facebook.com/toptonborough



Representative Ryan Mackenzie

134th Legislative District

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

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Apply Now for 2021 Property Tax and Rent Rebate

By State Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R-Berks/Lehigh)

Eligible Pennsylvania residents are reminded to apply to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to claim rebates on property taxes or rent paid during 2021. Remember – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Help is available from my district office at no charge, but appointments are necessary. Please call 610-965-9933 to schedule a time when my staff can assist you with the application. Our office is located in the Lower Macungie Township Administration Building at 3402 Brookside Road.

The rebate program benefits eligible residents age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for certain qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. The Revenue Department automatically calculates supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners.

The deadline to apply for a rebate is June 30. Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1, as required by law. Additional information, as well as claim forms, can be found on the Department of Revenue website, www.revenue.pa.gov.

Since the program's inception in 1971, older adults and those with disabilities have received more than \$7.1 billion in property tax and rent relief. The program is funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery and revenue from slots gaming.

COMMUNITY GARDEN — TOPTON COMMUNITY INTEREST SURVEY

Topton is looking into the possibility of offering garden plots for rent in Topton for people to grow their own vegetables, flowers, and/or herbs. If you might be interested in renting a plot for the growing season for a year, please clip this notice with your choice marked yes and return to the borough by May 7th, 2022.

This project is in the early planning stages. If there is sufficient interest, we will proceed to look into this possibility. Otherwise, we will let this potential project drop. Don't know how to garden? We have a Master Gardener in town who will give advice and pointers at scheduled times.

_____ YES Please check if you may be interested (No commitment)

_____ Name

_____ Contact Information

RECYCLING

Do's & Don'ts



Commonly Accepted & Unacceptable Material

While not all inclusive, below are some of the most common items to keep in and out of the recycling bin.

Materials That Cause Problems

The most common materials that cause problems include plastic bags, plastic film, garden hoses, and wiring. Never include any material that may bind or restrict recycling sorting machinery. Sortation lines are routinely shut down due to the inclusion of these materials, which must be manually removed and disposed of by workers.

Never include any potentially hazardous material in your curbside bin. Examples are propane tanks, broken glass, needles, etc. In addition to contributing to contamination in the recycling stream, these materials are dangerous to the haulers and workers handling this material.

Include:

- Plastic bottles and containers
- Cardboard and paperboard
- Aluminum, tin and steel cans
- Magazines and newspaper
- Glass bottles and containers

Do Not Include:

- Plastic bags or plastic films
- Recyclables in plastic bags
- Any soiled/wet/greasy material
- Food waste
- Disposable polystyrene containers
- Broken glass
- Ceramics, crystal, and leaded glass
- Plastic toys, bins, bulk items
- Propane tanks

TOPTON MINI MUSEUM

Topton Mini Museum hours have recently changed. The museum will now be open only on Saturdays from 9:00-11:30am. The Topton Borough Mini Museum recognized Fegely Signs and Troy Fairchild with the Appreciation Award. Stop by to take a look at Topton History!

WHAT IS AN MS4 AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System refers to a collection of structures designed to gather stormwater and discharge it into local streams and rivers. MS4 is short for, "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System", where the word "Municipal" refers to a unit of local government like a borough or a township, but may also refer to an organization responsible for the administration of a developed area. And the number 4 refers to the four words that start with the letter "S"; "Separate," "Storm," "Sewer," "System."

Whether you live in a town, the country, a city, or the suburbs – when it rains, the water that runs off needs somewhere to go. Stormwater affects everyone! We are all part of a watershed. Watersheds are land areas that drain to the nearest body of water. For example, if you are in western Pennsylvania, you are part of the Ohio River watershed, while eastern Pennsylvania lands may ultimately drain to the Chesapeake Bay. Smaller local creeks and streams also eventually drain to a larger local water body. Stormwater issues can lead to many issues and restrictions including **flooding, pollution and health impacts, streambank erosion, sedimentation, impacts to groundwater recharge, and impacts to recreational opportunities.**

Making changes to how stormwater is managed can go a long way to reduce negative impacts. Even small actions by individual homeowners, like using a rain barrel, choosing permeable landscaping surfaces, or installing a rain garden, can make a difference. Stormwater affects everyone!

Visit <https://extension.psu.edu/what-is-an-ms4> for more information on stormwater management.

Emergency Services

FIRE

It has been a busy start to the year for us at Station 21. In the first quarter we responded to 100 calls for assistance. Calls have ranged from the simple storm related trees and wires all the way up to structure fires and everything in between.

As you may have seen on our Facebook page, we had 12 new members join us last year. Those members have grown tremendously over their time with us. The trend is continuing for us so far this year, we have already gained a few more members. Please if you wish to volunteer stop by and pick up an application, we will gladly have you.

There have been some changes this year to our Fire Line Officers.

Fire Chief – Jason Robinson (29 Years in the fire service)

Deputy Chief – Randy Sicher (31 Years in the fire service)

Assistant Chief – Daryl George (28 Years in the fire service)

Assistant Chief – Curt Swoyer (17 Years in the fire service)

Captain – Scott Adam (47 Years in the fire service)

Lieutenant – Andrew Turner (7 Years in the fire service)

Fire Police Captain – Chris Laub (19 Years in the fire service)

As you can see the experience level amongst our leadership team shows our dedication and commitment to protecting our community. We also have many active firefighters with extended years of service. The increase in new members over the last year has been a wonderful thing for us. We look forward to teaching and helping the new members learn and gain the knowledge that we have gained over our years of service. This growth in membership gives us a strong outlook for the future of the company and hopefully the development of future leaders.

If you are passing by the station and our doors are open, please stop in and say hello to the crew. If you see us out during our Tuesday evening training sessions, please feel free to stop by and watch and ask questions. We love sharing what we do and how we do it and every one of us will be happy to show you around. As always, we look forward to the community events and showing our equipment to you all.

WE THANK YOU ALL FOR THE CONTINUOUS SUPPORT AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO SERVE YOU IN THE COMING YEARS.