



Borough of Topton WINTER Newsletter January 2024

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

LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

I hope all of you had a wonderful ending to your 2023 and you are starting off 2024 with joy in your hearts. Every new year brings thoughts of new goals, more movement with ongoing goals, and maybe choices to leave some goals in the past. This is true for your Borough Council as well.

We've been focusing our goals on building a solid foundation that will help us grow to be a stronger municipality within our larger community, and ultimately lead to a better place to call home. While they may not be flashy additions to our borough, we do believe they are the most prudent decisions.

I know it's difficult in our busy lives to give *everything* the attention we may want, so I'll touch on some of the projects that face the borough as we enter 2024.

- We need to build a backup well to preserve our ability to provide water and sewer services.
- We need to create a system where our water and sewer systems are self sustaining and don't rely on supplemental funding to make up the gaps.
- We need to repair and bolster our aging infrastructure.
- We need to have a path out of the debt we carry and become more financially stable.
- We need to build stronger relationships with our neighboring municipalities to support our entire community.

Many of these initiatives would benefit greatly by gaining input from more of our community, so I encourage all of you to get involved in any way you can. Whether that be contributing to a borough council committee, being part of an individual project, or simply having your voice heard in the discussions at council meetings. Your input will help us all become a stronger community. I hope that anyone with the space in their lives will get involved at whatever level you can.

The rising prices of everything we need and everything we do have put a lot of pressure on all of us, both individually and as a whole. Borough Council has had to make some hard, and I'm sure in many cases, unpopular decisions. Decisions that may not immediately seem to help the situation for our residents as individuals but are intended to create a more solid footing going forward.

Sincerely,

Ethan Polinsky, Borough Council President



Important Dates:



- 1/29 Monday:** Water Bills Mailed
- 2/28 Wednesday:** Water Bills Due
- 4/13 Saturday:** Electronic Recycling

Borough Office Hours:

- 8:00—4:00** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- 8:00—Noon** Wednesday, or **By Appointment**
- Office Closure:** Good Friday, March 29th

Borough Web &
Social Media Sites

www.toptonborough.com
[instagram.com/toptonborough](https://www.instagram.com/toptonborough)

[youtube.com/@boroughoftopton](https://www.youtube.com/@boroughoftopton)
[facebook.com/toptonborough](https://www.facebook.com/toptonborough)

Reminder:

Date Checks for 2024!

WAYS TO PAY WATER & SEWER BILL

Bills are due **Wednesday, February 28, 2024.**

- 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.
- Pay with a check by **mail**. Payments must be received in the office on/before the due date to avoid late fees.

PAYMENT PLANS

Residents interested in establishing a payment plan may come to the Borough Office at any time prior to the due date to establish a payment plan. **Late Notice Fees** are **waived** for residents enrolled in a payment plan as of the due date.

2024 BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Location: **Topton Borough Hall, 205 S. Callowhill Street**

Meeting Start Time: **7:00PM**

Meeting Dates—2nd and *4th Monday each month (*if needed)

January 2, 8, 22	April 8, 22	July 8, 22	October 14, 28 (2025 Budget Presentation)
February 12, 26	May 13, 28 Tue	August 12, 26	November 11, 25
March 11, 25	June 10, 24	September 9, 23	December 9, 23

AGENDAS & MEETING MINUTES can be found on the Borough Website

THE BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY LIBRARY— Home Delivery



The Brandywine Community Library provides a **home delivery service** to Topton residents who are unable to visit the library due to temporary or long-term physical illness, disability, transportation issues or other reason. Patrons must reside within the Borough of Topton and have an active library card.

Materials available for delivery include **books (fiction, nonfiction, and large print), audiobooks, magazines, music CDs and DVDs.** You may request specific titles or books by your favorite authors. Materials will be selected for you based on the reading interests you have indicated on the Home Delivery application, or you can contact the Library with specific requests.

This is a **free service** and facilitated by library staff and volunteers. Materials are typically delivered on Thursday afternoon twice a month. Overdue fines are not charged on Home Delivery items; however patrons are responsible for damaged or lost items.

To sign up please **call 610.682.7115** or **email bcl@brandywinelibrary.org** for an Home Delivery Application.



ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT!

WHERE: Weis Street Parking Lot, Topton

WHEN: Saturday, April 13th, 9:00-11:00 AM



More Details to Follow—check Facebook or the Topton Borough website for more information.

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

Residents...

Clear sidewalks of snow, ice, sleet and hail within **24 hours of the end of a storm**, and keep clear. (Ord. 3-2021)

No sidewalks? A walkable path should be cleared adjacent to the street in the grass or other surface. (Ord. 1-2023)

Businesses...

Remove snow, ice, sleet and hail from sidewalks within **4 hours of falling or forming**, and keep clear. (Ord. 3-2021)

If snowfall ends after dark, the 4 hour time limit for removal begins at daybreak.



It is **illegal** to shovel or blow snow into roadways, including streets, or alleys.

Properties with fire hydrants are encouraged to clear the surrounding area.



Thank you!

FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE OR TO DONATE

Brandywine Food Pantry—By Appt

St. Peter's UCC (610) 682-7633

122 W Franklin St, Tipton

First 3 Tuesdays & 3rd Thursday

9:00AM to 1:00PM (approximately)



Helping Harvest Mobile Pantry

Brandywine Heights Middle School

200 Weis Street, Tipton

11am—1pm on 3rd Tuesday of Month

*Weather Permitting

Friend, Inc.

Noble St, Kutztown

(610) 683-7790

Noble Street Pet Pantry

(610) 683-7791

Noble Street Pantry—By Appt

First Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of each month by appointment.

(610) 683-7791

Noble Street Open Pantry

6:00 to 7:00 PM 3rd Thursday

10:30 to 11:30 AM 3rd Friday

* No Appointment Needed *

? What is...

➔ A **confidential** one stop resource to find out information about community services.

➔ Available **24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.**

➔ Reachable by phone (211), text (898-211) or website (PA211.org).




MS4 Illicit Discharges

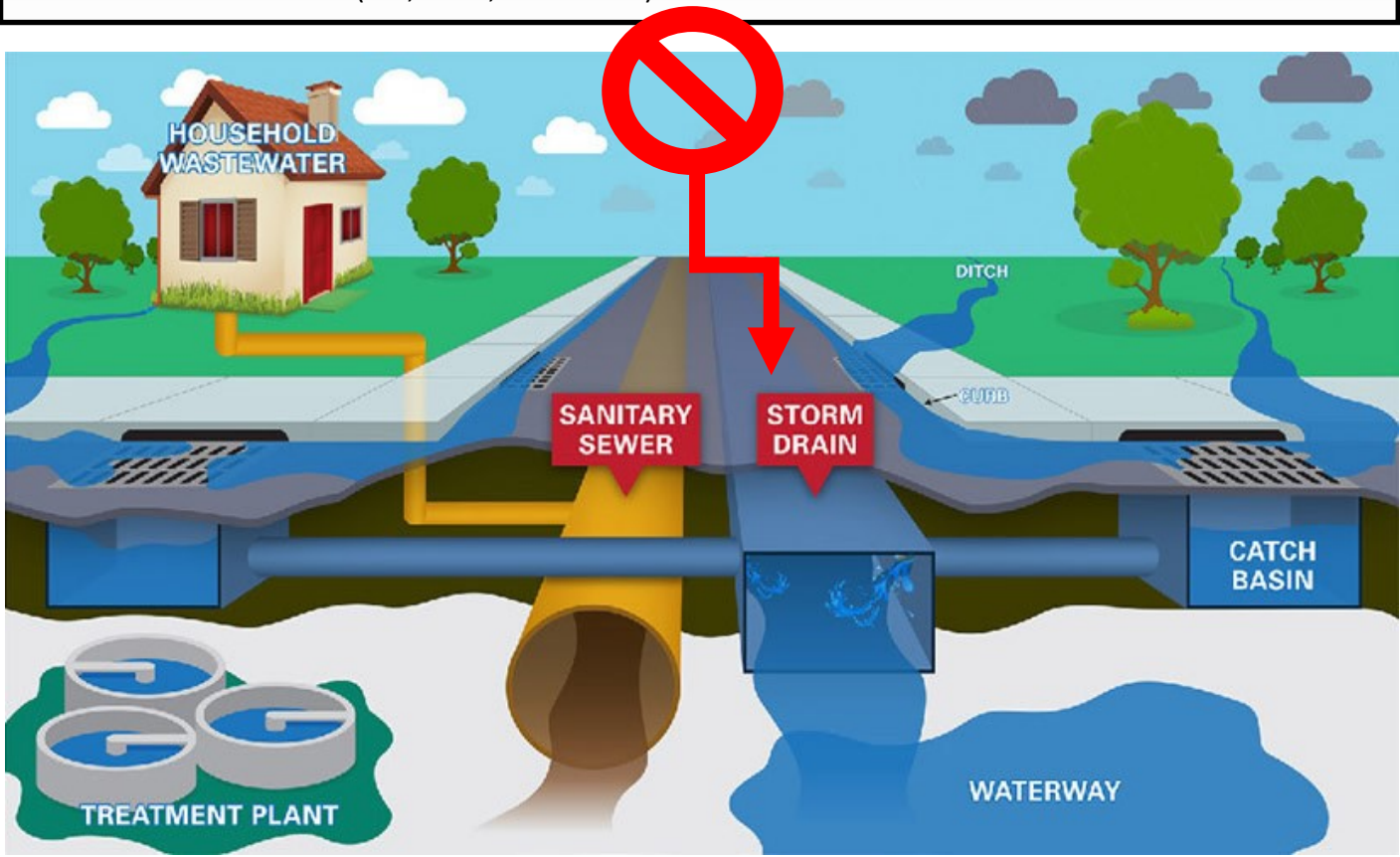
Illicit Discharges:

Any discharge into an MS4 system that is not composed entirely of stormwater is considered an illicit discharge. Waste and wastewater from non-stormwater sources cannot legally be discharged down storm drains into a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

Impact:

Illicit discharges can carry dangerous untreated pollutants into our waterways, creating risks to public health, wildlife and the environment.

 VISIBLE Discharges—Examples	INVISIBLE Discharges—Examples	
Sediment from Erosion or Soil Runoff	Fertilizers & Pesticides	Heated Water
Trash or Recycling Materials	Household Toxins	Oil & Grease
Waste Products (Pet, Paint, Lawn...etc.)	Pool Water	Car or Laundry Wash Water



Be Stormwater & Snowmelt Smart

Winter Tips

SHOVEL—Shovel snow into vegetated areas where meltwater can soak into the ground & reduce runoff.

STORM DRAINS— Keep storm drains clear of snow to prevent flooding.

SALT & DE-ICERS — Use sparingly & store under cover to minimize polluted runoff.