

Winter 2016/2017 Newsletter



The Rush Township Board of Supervisors and staff are pleased to bring you this Winter Edition of our Township Newsletter.

Winter Weather Operations and Guidelines

During the winter weather, the Rush Township Road Crew will make every effort to keep our township roads open and passable. There may be times that plowing will be suspended due to rate of snowfall and/or wind speed after which plowing will resume.

Residents are encouraged to wait until the street is cleared before you shovel your driveway and sidewalks. In most cases, after the "first pass", a snowplow will return later to widen the lanes of travel, access the drainage system, make room for more snow and widen the safety buffer on the shoulder of the road. This could lead to the blocking of driveways and sidewalks. In addition, the road crew asks that residents and visitors park their vehicles on driveways or parking lots and off the township roads and alleys, this will make snowplowing proceed more quickly and effectively.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to remove snow from sidewalks or any other areas designated for pedestrian travel within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling. In addition, it is illegal for any person removing snow and/or ice to put said snow and/or ice on any portion of any street or public thoroughfare of Rush Township. Any person who shall violate any provisions of the snow removal ordinance (Ordinance No. 119) could receive fines.

Prior to the start of the winter season homeowners should inspect their mailboxes. Be sure that it has a strong support, use reflective tape or other material to make it easier to see during the dark hours or storms. Plowing can push snow against or in front of mailboxes, causing damage to supports and limiting accessibility, make sure that you are checking it frequently to remove snow and checking the support. If your mailbox is not accessible to the postal carrier due to snow buildup, you may have to pick your mail up at the post office.

Additionally, if your grass is ripped up by a township snowplow, the road crew will try to repair the damaged areas in the spring.

The Rush Township Offices will be closed for the following dates:

Friday, December 23rd
Monday, December 26th
Monday, January 2nd



Prepare Your Home For Winter

1. Have your furnace or boiler checked and serviced. Maintain your wood-burning or pellet stoves.
2. Have your chimney checked and serviced at least once a year, have any build up removed from woodstoves and fireplaces.
3. Have your fuel tanks filled and monitor their levels throughout the winter.
4. Set your heat no lower than 55 degrees; open doors to unoccupied rooms to keep an even temperature throughout the house.
5. Add weather stripping around doors and windows to guard against drafts and heat loss. Remove your screens and install storm windows.
6. Check for any water leaks and be sure to fix any problems immediately. Wrap any pipes that are exposed to unheated areas such as attics, garages or crawl spaces.
7. Trim any trees and remove dead branches to prevent damage to your home or injury to people if they fall because of snow, ice or wind.
8. Check smoke detectors, fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries to ensure they are operating properly.
9. Make sure you have snow shovels on hand and stock ice melting compounds to melt ice and snow on walkways.
10. Have your snow blower and generator serviced and repair as needed. Have fuel for snow blowers and generators in an approved safety container and keep away from hear and do not store fuel in your basement.

Winter Driving Tips

Did you know that rear-end collisions account for most winter crashes?

1. Always wear your seatbelt and drive at a reduced speed.
2. Always turn on your headlights during inclement weather and give yourself plenty of time to get where you are going.
3. Keep your gas tank full.
4. Maintain at least twice the normal following distance when driving on snow or ice.
5. Clear snow and ice from your windows, mirrors, hood, headlights, taillights and trunk before driving.
6. Make sure you keep the following items in your vehicle: an ice scraper/snow brush, de-icer, small snow shovel, warning devices (flares or triangles), flashlight, bag of salt/sand, battery cables, tire chains, paper towels, and a blanket.
7. Maintain a distance of at least 6 car lengths behind a snow plow. Do not pass a snow plow.
8. Car pool whenever possible during the winter, fewer cars on the road make travel safer during a snowstorm and expedite snow plow operations. Use extra care when driving on a bridge or elevated ramp because they freeze before roads do.



Rush Township Housing Rehabilitation Program

The housing rehabilitation program for the Township of Rush is designed to encourage low/moderate income owner-occupants to restore their homes to a decent, safe and sanitary condition.

The housing rehabilitation program assistance will be in the form of grants/non-interest bearing loans that will be of a forgiveness type in which the loan would be forgiven at a rate of 25% per annum over a period of four years. Homeowners can obtain a "Housing Rehabilitation Application" at the Rush Township Municipal Building.

These HOME income limits represent the income limits for the area as reported by HUD effective June 6, 2016. The Township Supervisors will revise these limits whenever HUD adjusts the income limits for Schuylkill County.

Size of Family	Gross Income Limits
1 Person	\$32,900
2 Person	\$37,600
3 Person	\$42,300
4 Person	\$46,950
5 Person	\$50,750
6 Person	\$54,500
7 Person	\$58,250
8+ Person	\$62,000

Gross income limits represent the annual income that is anticipated to be received during the coming 12-month period by all household members.

The unit to be rehabilitated must have been owned and occupied by the Applicant at least 12 months prior to the date of Application for Rehabilitation Assistance. Additional requirements for qualification will be addressed in the application and Housing Rehabilitation Policy.

The Program will only be active when the Township has funds available to proceed with

Program work. The Township strongly encourages homeowners to repair and maintain the structure while awaiting assistance.



Curbside Recycling

As part of the weekly garbage collection Rush Township also offers curbside recycling pick up for our residents. Items allowed for recycling pick up are: glass bottles & jars, aluminum, steel & bimetal cans, newsprint, magazines, phone books, cardboard and plastic bearing a #1 thru #5 on the container. In addition to curbside pick-up of recycling, Rush Township also has a large recycling bin located in the parking lot of the Township Building for anytime drop off.



FREE Electronics/Metal Recycling

Rush Township offers FREE electronics & metal recycling (i.e., bikes, grills, washers, dryers & stoves) for residents. Drop off at the Township Building Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. A current Drivers I.D. is needed for proof of Rush Township Residency. If you need assistance unloading your electronics or pick up of your large metal items, please call the township office at 570-668-2938 to make arrangements. Please see our website for more information.

Please note: At this time the Township has suspended its electronics recycling due to Pennsylvania electronics recycling laws. Stay tuned to our website for any changes as we are hoping to resume sometime in 2017.



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With the start of spring brings spring cleaning, yard/garage sales and outdoor events. In our September 15, 2016 Supervisor's Meeting we passed two (2) new ordinances (Ordinances 194 & 195) with regard to placement of signs on regulatory signs and the amount of time that signs may be displayed on the regulatory signs. Prior to placing any signs in the township, please view these Ordinances on our website, if you have any additional questions regarding these ordinances, please call the township office at 570-668-2938.

The Road Department will also start the spring leaf and branch collection in March and continue into April. All branches must be brought curb side, may not exceed eight (8) inches in diameter and must be removed from the tree by the homeowner. All leaves must be raked curbside, please do not place the leaves in bags. The Rush Township Road Supervisor has the right to determine when pick up will be completed and also has the right to refuse to chip. Similar to last year's collection, we will split the township up into sections and dedicate one (1) week per section. The dates for collection will be announced at the monthly supervisors meeting, with Code Red alerts sent out the week prior to each section's collection as well as listed on our

website. If you have any questions, please contact the township office.

CODE RED – Keeping Our Citizens Informed

Residents are urged to enroll for the Code Red Alerts on the Rush Township website. To enroll on the website, go to the homepage, then under the news tab scroll down to the link for Code Red Enrollment, click the link and complete with your information. You have the option to receive notifications by telephone, text message or email.

Code Red is an Emergency & Notification Communication Network.

Ash Pick-Up on Thursdays

Rush Township Road Crew picks up ashes for our residents every Thursday. Please have your ashes out Wednesday night. Please contact the Rush Township office at 570-668-2938, if you need to be added to our ash pick-up list. **Please do NOT put your ashes out for trash collection.**

Do not forget to visit our website for up-to-date information and events on the Township. www.rushtownship.org