



**I have a creek in my yard:** Since most creek-side property is privately owned, a great deal of responsibility for the vitality of a creek lies with the property owner. When caring for creeks, use creek-friendly gardening and landscaping practices. Yard waste must be disposed of properly, never stored or placed near the creek. Soil and yard waste disposal in creeks become unsightly, destroy aquatic habitats and may worsen flooding problems. While they are biodegradable, organic waste uses oxygen that fish, aquatic insects and native plants need for survival. Yard waste must be properly disposed of using the curbside yard waste collection program.

**FLUSHABLE WIPES:** Personal wipes do cater to the consumer by being efficient and convenient, but flushing them down the toilet may be a mistake. Wastewater authorities say wipes may go down the toilet, but even many labeled flushable aren't breaking down as they course through the sewer system. Combining with grease and oils, these wipes are often causing blockages and costing tax payers millions of dollars. Understand that anything that can flush down a toilet is "flushable". A golf ball is flushable, but it's not a good idea.

Preventing wet wipes from blocking sewers is just one part of the personal wipe problem. The wipes also might pose environmental risks, because they're made from plastics and synthetic cellulosic fibers, some of which are non-degradable. All of this ultimately makes its way to the country's system of creeks, streams and rivers.

**SUMP PUMPS AND STORM GUTTERS:** Discharging a sump pump into the Borough's sanitary sewer system is a big 'no-no'. One reason that municipalities don't allow this is that during big storms their sewage treatment facilities can be overloaded. When this happens, either sewage backs up into people's homes, or the sewage water only gets partially treated before being dumped in to local streams and rivers (yuck).

It might seem like the most convenient option to discharge your pump into the sanitary sewer, but you're actually risking water and sewage damage to your home. They **can** also cause sewage overflows on your property during heavy rain.

**BACK FLOW PREVENTORS:** Backflow prevention systems are devices installed onto a pipe that **only allow water to flow in one direction**.

A sewer backflow valve can prevent waste water backups, particularly from a public sewer. But before we get into the details and benefits of a sewer backwater valve, let's explain what backwater is. Sewer backflow is a term used in plumbing for unexpected and unwanted flow of water in reverse direction. Normal plumbing allows wastewater to flow from a home to the city sewer, but backflow is the exact opposite.

A sewer backflow valve can be installed in the main sewer pipe outside of your home or in the basement at the farthest exit point from the home. The device is installed downstream to prevent sewage from flowing into your sewer pipe above the device.

**LEAF PICKUP:** Please be aware that leaf pickup will begin in mid-October. Leaf pickup will run until Thanksgiving, weather. Leaves must be on the yard, not the road or swale, not next to or around poles or

mailboxes and need to be within 6 feet of the street. We cannot pickup leaf piles that extend deeper than that into the yard.

Please do not bag or tarp the leaves, the tarps and the bricks/stones used to hold it down create a safety hazard for our crew. We apologize in advance but we cannot schedule your pickup. The crews will be working continuously, circling the town approximately once a week.

**Recycling Reminder:** Please remember to recycle! The following is a list of acceptable products for recycling: #1-7 Plastic Bottles, #1-7 Plastic Tubs & Screw Top Jars, Cans, Clean, Balled Aluminum Foil (2" or Larger) and Pie Pans, Corrugated Cardboard & Paper Bags, Empty Aerosol Cans (No Caps), Empty Pizza Boxes, File Folders, Glass Bottles & Jars, Loose Metal Jar Lids & Steel Bottle Caps, Magazines, Brochures & Catalogs, Newspapers & Inserts (No Plastic Bags), Opened Mail, Junk Mail, and Greeting Cards, Paper-back Books, Paperboard Boxes, Paper Egg Cartons, Paper Milk/Juice Cartons (No Foil Pouches), Phone Books, Rigid Plastics, Shredded Paper (must be in clear plastic bags), White or Pastel Office Paper

**Tree Planting - What can you do to help?** Clarks Summit Borough has committed to a goal to increase our tree canopy to 45% by the year 2025. By meeting this goal, Clarks Summit will fulfill its commitment to the Chesapeake Bay Initiative, an everyone-is-downstream effort to clean up the bay and our own waterways by planting trees throughout the watershed. We want to encourage borough residents to help us meet this goal by planting more trees in their yards. The trees that you plant locally to help clean the Chesapeake Bay watershed regionally will also cool your homes and purify the air in summer, provide natural habitat for wildlife, reduce storm water run-off, and beautify your neighborhood and the borough of Clarks Summit. If you plant a tree anywhere in your yard, we can count it towards our goal. Please let us know. You can contact the borough office at 570-586-9316.

**Proper Disposal of Grease** - The Abington Regional Wastewater Authority needs your help! There are few items in the world of food more difficult to dispose of than grease. And you should never take a shortcut by pouring it down the drain! Incidents have occurred in neighborhoods where the sewer pipes were clogged with fat, and people's basements flooded with sewage as a result. So what should you do? For fats that solidify, let them do so, then pitch them in your regular garbage. Chill grease in the fridge if you need to get it to harden up. For ones that don't solidify, pour them into a bottle, and throw the whole container away with your regular garbage.

**Tree Maintenance** - Clarks Summit ordinance holds homeowners responsible for maintenance of any trees on right-of-way property. Many of our streets in older neighborhoods are lined with trees between the curb and sidewalks—most of them planted long ago. As they age, they need more and more care. Although these trees may technically be public trees, they are to be cared for by the homeowner.

**Abington Community Library** - Come to the Abington Community Library this fall and find the perfect book, magazine, movie, music cd, or audiobook for you. Join us for classes, storytimes, and special events. Stop by the Library, call us at 570-587-3440, or check out our website at [lclshome.org/Abington](http://lclshome.org/Abington).

The Friends of the Abington Community Library will hold their annual Book Sale on Saturday, October 6 at the Clarks Summit United Methodist Church from 8:30AM-2PM. Choose from thousands of books and movies. Shop for good bargains and support the Library at the same time.

On Saturday, October 27, come to the Library to drop off unused or expired medications. The Lackawanna/Susquehanna Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs will sponsor this Medication Take-Back Event from 10AM-2PM. Please, no needles, inhalers, or open liquid medications. While here, consider giving blood for the Geisinger Blood Drive, which runs from 9AM-2PM. Blood donations stay local to help our neighbors in need.

Mark your calendars! The Dorothy Boccella Holiday Marketplace will be held on Saturday, November 10 from 10AM-5PM and Sunday, November 11 from 11AM-5PM. Shop handmade items from local vendors, just in time for the holidays. Free admission to this craft fair. Additionally, purchase tickets today for exciting chance raffle baskets on display at the Library. Tickets are 2 for \$1, 12 for \$5, and 25 for \$10.