



**Changes to Trash Contract:** Effective March 1<sup>st</sup> Clarks Summit's trash pickup will change. Going forward you will only be able to put out 1 bulk item each week. We still ask that you JP Mascaro at 1-800-243-7575 if you have bulk item out. Additionally, recyclables will only be picked up every other week. Please be on the lookout for a mailer in February that will provide a calendar showing when your pickup date it.

### **Hometown Heroes Banner Program:**

The Clarks Summit Borough is proud to announce the Hometown Heroes Banner Program. The program serves as a tribute to recognize past and fallen men and women from the Clark Summit Borough who have served our country in the armed forces. Heroes must have been a resident of 25 years of Clarks Summit Borough to participate in the program. Contact Patrick Williams for an application – 570-587-5567.

### **Winter Reminders:**

- Snow and ice shall be removed from sidewalks in all business districts within 2 business hours after the cessation of any fall of snow, sleet, or freezing rain or by the beginning of business hours of the next business day following such fall, whichever is shorter.
- Snow and ice shall be removed from all other sidewalks within the Borough on the same day of the cessation of any fall of snow, sleet, or freezing rain or within the first 4 hours of daylight after the cessation of any such fall, whichever is longer.
- In the event the snow/ice becomes so hard that it cannot be removed, abrasive material such as sand or ice melt material is suggested. A clear path of at least 30" wide is required on the sidewalk area.
- No person shall deposit any snow next to a fire hydrant or on any sidewalk or roadway.
- **Do not shovel/blow snow into the roads.**
- No on-street overnight (11pm to 6am) parking in the borough until 4/1/20
- Please do not use salt on concrete sidewalks

**FYI** Local governments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are afforded sovereign immunity against third party claims for property loss under the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act. Some exceptions do apply, but generally conditions are very specific for exceptions to be validated. Because most sewer system backups are unforeseen events, they generally do not fall under this exception. Therefore, damage to your home or property is typically not compensable by the Borough or its insurance carrier.

**DON'T: 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.

**QUALITY OF LIFE ORDINANCE: PLEASE NOTE:** The purpose of this Ordinance is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors to the Borough by pursuing lack of maintenance of properties, improper storage of trash and rubbish, storage of inoperable/non-registered vehicles, and accumulation of snow and

ice. Upon finding a quality of life violation, any Public Officer authorized by the Borough of Clarks Summit, may issue quality of life violation tickets to the owner and/or occupant of the property at issue.

Violators will face the following fines: First Fine, \$25.00, Second Fine, \$50.00, Third and additional fines, \$100.00. Repeat offenders will be actively pursued.

**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.

## Street addresses

The number 1 argument for putting a street number on your home:

1. Prevent difficulty in emergency fire, ambulance and mail access to correct address.

**Clarks Summit Fire Company: Volunteers Needed! What can you do to help?**

1. Join the fire department

There are more calls coming in, and fewer people to respond to them. And fire departments have tasks that don't involve fighting fires. That could include Bookkeeping, Fundraising, Teaching fire safety to children, Installing smoke alarms in area homes, and Helping with maintenance around the fire station

2. Donate to your local department

Donations are always welcome. For the most basic gear, a volunteer could face a \$3,000 expense. Fundraising now takes up to 60 percent of a volunteer firefighter's time.

3. Attend fundraising events

Attending a fundraising event organized by your local fire department is technically another way of donating, but you're getting something in return. For years, departments were able to rely on benefit auctions, carnivals, community bingo and raffles to cover costs. But now, with equipment prices rising and fewer volunteers to organize such functions, it's barely enough to get by. They need all the support they can get.

## Abington Community Library

Register for a free library card at the Abington Community Library, a pass to enjoy not only books and movies but also new items like a SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) lamp, a Launchpad tablet filled with educational children's games, or a Playaway audiobook device.

Meet friends at a movie matinee, book club, or painting class. Storytimes for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers will teach your little ones early literacy skills through play, music, and stories. Students will enjoy programs like Math & Science Club for Grades K-4 or Teen Reading Lounge. In 2020, we are thrilled to offer the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program with the Lackawanna County Library System. The Abington Community Library is also now in the process of becoming a Family Place certified library, with a new early literacy space and programming developing in the spring!

Beginning Jan. 13, all ages are invited to participate in a Winter Challenge. Read and complete other activities to earn prizes. Join us on Sat., Jan. 11 for cake and punch from 11AM to 1PM as we celebrate our 60th birthday.

Register throughout the year for events and classes for all ages.

Abington Community Library, 1200 West Grove Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

570-587-3440. [lclshome.org/abington](http://lclshome.org/abington). Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.