



**2020 Zoning Ordinance Update:** The Borough continues to work on updates to the zoning ordinance as part of the multi-municipal SAPA project. The Borough plans to have an updated draft available in mid-April and plans adoption in June 2020. As part of this process, the participating SAPA communities scheduled a **public open house to preview all the new ordinances on April 21, 2020**, from 6PM to 8PM at the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County, 3201 Rockwell Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18508.

**BRUSH PICKUP:** From April through September monthly pickup of brush will be done by the Borough department of Public Works. Brush must be left on the yard (not in the street or storm swales) at the edge of the property and cut to manageable size. Only brush cut by the property owner will be removed. If you hire a service to trim your trees or brush, they must remove the brush themselves. We apologize but we cannot schedule or guarantee a time for pickup. It will occur monthly as the crew has time between projects.

### Spring Reminders:

- Before planning a yard sale, visit the Borough website for information on signage and the number of sales that are allowed in one year.
- There are certain regulations to consider when installing a temporary inflatable or metal pool. If the water is over 18", a fence is required. There are also certain setback requirements.
- For any questions on these reminders, please call the Zoning Office at 570-585-4811.

**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.

**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.

**Prescription Drop Off Box:** The police would like to remind you that we have a prescription drop off box located in the lobby of the police station. Help stop prescription drug abuse. Drop off your expired, unused or unwanted medications for safe disposal.

**Changes to Trash Contract:** Effective March 1<sup>st</sup> Clarks Summit's trash pickup changed. 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 for a calendar showing when your pickup date it.

**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.

**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**

Attend our Friends of the Abington Community Library Book Sale on Saturday, March 28, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Thousands of books, CDs, and DVDs are available for purchase for all ages. Free admission! Can't wait? Purchase a Friends membership (\$10/individual or \$15/family) and get early access on Friday night at 5 PM. Credit cards are accepted; bring your own bag. This event takes place at the Clarks Summit United Methodist Church and directly benefits the Abington Community Library.

Lace up your running shoes! In partnership with the National Running Center, the Clarks Summit Patriot Mile Run/Walk is back again on Saturday, May 23 at 10 AM. This fun run/walk is open to ALL ages. Sign up now for an early-bird registration; this year, we're offering family pricing, too. Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/ClarksSummit/ClarksSummitPatriotMile> or at the library. All proceeds benefit the Abington Community Library. Thanks to media sponsor WNEP!

Save the Date for our Founding Mothers Fundraiser happening this summer! Join us on Friday, June 19 at 5 PM at Hillside Park under the pavilion as we welcome Abigail Adams (portrayed by costume historian and author Deborah Courville). She'll discuss her life and times in an engaging and lively presentation. Boxed dinner provided. \$30/adults, \$15/children (3-12 yrs).

We're thinking about sunny days ahead! Our cruise to Bermuda is September 19-24 and features a literary experience, plus gorgeous views and relaxation. Discuss pre-selected books with other literature lovers. Literary swag and other perks await you! Don't want the literary aspect? Just come and cruise to Bermuda! Search "Abington Community Library Readers Cruise" on Facebook to get more information on pricing and details. You can also email: [RRoberts@albright.org](mailto:RRoberts@albright.org).