

BOROUGH OF HAMBURG

Berks County, Pennsylvania



Fall 2024



HAMBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

All Borough Residents

With the seasons changing, Street Sweeping program will end on December 6, 2024.

This is a reminder that Street Sweeping Enforcement will continue until that date. We thank you for your cooperation by moving your vehicles as prescribed in the ordinance.

Did you know....

- The Hamburg Police monitor the weather constantly during threatening weather and post several days in advance of possible snow emergencies being announced.
- The Borough of Hamburg posts Snow Emergencies on social media as well as on regional news outlets.
- If you call the police department between 8:00 and 4:30pm to inquire about possible snow emergencies, you will speak to police personnel that will provide you with the most up to date information regarding the storm.
- Police Officers physically make announcements by driving around in marked police vehicles and utilize the public address system in the police vehicles to alert residents of the pending snow emergency.
- Police officers will attempt to notify residents to move vehicles, so it is important that your vehicle is accurately registered to your most current in Hamburg Address to avoid your vehicle being towed.
- If your vehicle is towed, contact the police department to determine which towing company removed your vehicle. You will be responsible for the tow bill as well as the parking ticket.



So, the best thing to do....

When snow is in the forecast, plan where you are going to move your vehicle to avoid ticketing and towing. Monitor the police department Facebook and other social media outlets for the latest updates.

Help us help you by simply moving your vehicle in anticipation of the snow emergency.

Official Newsletter

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Hamburg Municipal Authority

SAMPLING OF OUR PRACTICE AREAS:

- » Banking
- » Business
- » Cybersecurity
- » Employment
- » Immigration
- » Intellectual Property
- » Litigation
- » Municipal
- » Trusts, Estates & Tax
- » Real Estate & Land Use

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1001 S. 4th Street, Hamburg, PA, 19526



Hamburg Borough would like to thank the businesses and organizations that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. It is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.



THREN'S AUTO PARTS
(610) 562-7838

515 Hawk Ridge Drive
Hamburg, PA 19526

Family and Locally Owned

gbtenterprises@aol.com

<https://www.threnautoparts.com>



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THE BOROUGH OF HAMBURG



Hamburg Municipal Center, 1st Floor
61 North 3rd Street, Hamburg, PA 19526

Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (excluding holidays)

Phone: (610) 562-7821

Borough Council

An elected council governs boroughs. The term for office of a borough council member is four years. The Borough Code establishes a pattern of staggered elections so that roughly half the council is up for election at each municipal election year. Council determines municipal policy, enacts laws, approves budgets, establishes tax rates, and appoints Borough Officials. The position of council person entails a great deal of responsibility and concern for the safety and welfare of its citizens.

The mayor, who is also elected to serve a 4-year term, oversees the Police Department and oversees its operations. The mayor is the elected official who takes charge during the time of an emergency. Although the Mayor does not vote on legislative matters, they can vote in the event of a tie, veto an ordinance passed by council and attend and participate in all meetings.

Mayor

George Holmes

Council Members

Doug Williams, Council President

Michael Oswald, Council Vice President

Loralee Ventura

Steve Levan

Michael Adams

Darin Troutman

James Troutman

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

As winter approaches, our thoughts turn to other activities as we plan for the annual hibernation to the indoors. This is also a good time to plan a safe hibernation for your house as well. The constant change in the weather can have a significant effect on your house that, if left unchecked, may result in major repairs in the future.

Now is the time to inspect your house for anything that does not appear to be normal. Things to look for include loose siding, missing or torn shingles, broken or sticking doors, missing caulking around windows or any other item that will leave your home exposed to the elements. Now is the time to start addressing these items before the cold weather sets in and these items are forgotten.

You may also want to take a look at other items that are often overlooked until it is too late. One important item is your home heating system. Most people who are not on a maintenance program forget to have service performed until well into the heating season when the furnace decides to stop working. Unfortunately, this is the time that most heating contractors are busiest and you may have to wait for service. Avoid the headache and plan ahead.

Items such as your water heater may need your attention as well as other home appliances. Remember to check and make sure water pipes are properly insulated and not exposed to freezing temperatures. Be sure that leaves and debris do not obstruct water flow from gutters and downspouts. Water that freezes and is allowed to back up rooftops often provides you with unwelcome leaks. The lists are endless, but remember your home is a major investment - take good care of it.



BERKS NATURE



We believe nature is essential to our quality of life. Berks Nature is a conservation non-profit organization with 28 year-round staff committed to connecting people to nature and to protecting Berks County's natural resources.

We foster the connections between people and nature by providing immersive education experiences for families and students at The Nature Place, operating a hands-on Nature Preschool, and by managing 5 public nature preserves and over 27 miles of dog-friendly trails.

We protect Berks County's ecological integrity and natural resources by preserving land, monitoring waterways, and growing climate resiliency.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Berks Nature depends on donations and grants to complete our preservation, restoration, and education work.

Berks Nature has a desire to connect to the residents in Hamburg to provide resources and opportunities to connect to nature. Our headquarters and nature center, The Nature Place, are quite popular as we had over 10,500 visitors last year! However, we recognize a disconnect between our center and several communities in Berks due to distance.



As such, we have been working with the PA Fish & Boat Commission to utilize Kaercher Creek Park to provide programming for the Hamburg region.

Berks Nature has an interest in learning more from Hamburg residents regarding what is important to you regarding natural resources, recreation, and education. Stay tuned for notice of a public meeting in your region, and as always, please feel free to provide feedback and explore anytime: www.berksnature.org

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Thren's Auto Parts has been a family owned & operated business in Hamburg, PA since 1937. The four-generation business was originally located at 335 State Street from 1937 to 1999. The store relocated in 1999 to the current location of 515 Hawk Ridge Drive.

Thren's Auto Parts was originally a Western Auto Associate store founded by Clayton Boltz. In 1946, Clayton was joined in the store by his son-in-law Raymond Thren with Gerald (Jerry) joining in 1966. In 1985, Raymond retired, and Gerald took over the reins of the business. In the present year of 2024, the business is managed by Gerald's children Scott & Angie, the fourth generation since 1937.

The Thren Family has been honored to serve the Hamburg area with their quality family service for more than 85 years with many years to come.



Serving the area with quality family service for more than 85 years!





OUR TOWN FOUNDATION

By Deena Kershner, Executive Director

Our Town Foundation (OTF) is proud to serve the Hamburg downtown and surrounding area as the local non-profit community revitalization organization. From past projects like hiking and biking trail improvements, completing a \$1.5 million streetscape project, and enhancing three borough owned parking lots, OTF has brought in more than 4 million dollars in improvements and grants to the town. But what we are most excited about is the future. We are getting closer and closer to completing our development project at State Street Square and cannot wait to invite the community to special events held there. At the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival, Classic Rock group, Mere Image, played the first ever song on the completed stage! Due to community support we were able to complete the exterior of the building. We are now accepting donations to move into our next step of construction which includes finishing the interior of the building with bathrooms, kitchen, and storage area. Find a link to donate at www.hamburgpa.org. At this point we are also starting to look for additional volunteers who would like to join the State Street Square Events and Promotions committee and be a part of making this project a success in the town. If you are interested, please request a volunteer application at otfassistant@verizon.net.



We are also excited about the future of Hamburg's downtown with a resurgence of new businesses and opportunities for residents and visitors. Over the past few months, we held multiple ribbon cutting events to welcome new businesses in town. We also held the 21st Annual Taste of Hamburg-er festival bringing in thousands of people to shop and dine in town supporting hundreds of local businesses and non-profits. In addition, Pennsylvania passed the State's Main Street Matters program which is bringing additional funding opportunities to small towns. We are completing the necessary steps and will be submitting our application for designation as a Main Street Program to bring this support to Hamburg. Main Street Programs use a comprehensive, community-based approach to revitalizing downtowns and central business districts, which has been applied across the United States since the early '80s. We have found success as a designated program in the past and see a great need for this approach to continue in Hamburg.

As an entity of OTF, the Hamburg Strand also plays a special part of the community. When the Strand was on the verge of closing in 2013, OTF stepped up and invested to keep this historic business alive. Now the Strand is alive and well, bringing in hundreds of movie goers to the town each week. The Strand plays first run movies as well as holds Faith Nights, Classic Nights, and newly introduced Concert Nights to offer a variety of movie options for people of all ages and interests. For the holiday season, make sure to get a ticket to the Strand's annual showing of the Polar Express and create a special tradition with your family. Check upcoming showings at www.hamburgstrand.org.

The Hamburg Area Arts Alliance, another program of OTF, has been busy bringing opportunities for local artists to show and sell their work, as well as gather and teach art in the community. There are many free art demos happening in the Arts and Craft Gallery, 320 State Street, on Saturdays in November. Stop in the Gallery for these events and to check out hundreds of locally made arts and crafts for sale. More info is found at www.hamburgarts.org.

OTF is here to support the community. If you are a local business, please reach out to us for membership information and to be included in the Hamburg business directory at www.hamburgpa.org. As a resident of the borough, do not forget to do your part to support small and local businesses in Hamburg and beyond. Get your coffee and baked goods at one of the great shops in town. Go out for a meal or drink at a local restaurant. Before you buy online, check out our local stores for great gifts and supplies. When you require a service, make sure to check a local vendor first. And join in and get local shopping done on November 30th for Small Business Saturday to kick off the holiday season. We thank you for being a part of this community and helping to make it great!



READING RAILROAD HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Reading Railroad Heritage Museum is a railroad museum located at 500 S 3rd Street in Hamburg dedicated to the preservation of the Reading Railroad owned and operated by the Reading Company Technical & Historical Society. It features several pieces of retired rolling stock including Blueliners and Budd Rail Diesel Cars, plus a few model train layouts as well other railroad memorabilia. The museum is open year-round on Saturdays and Sundays. Their website is readingrailroad.org. Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

HAMBURG BOROUGH COLLECTION CALENDAR

Trash and Recycling Collection

Collection is changing to weekly services for both trash and recycling. Residents are reminded that there is a four trash (4) bag limit per household (trash only). Maximum trash collection weight - Seventy five (75) pounds. Container size not to exceed 32 gallons. Trash and recycling are not to be placed out for collection earlier than 6:00 p.m. the evening before scheduled collection date.

Single-Stream Recycling Collection

Hamburg Borough offers "single-stream" recycling program which makes it easier than ever to recycle. Your household recycling will now go in the same container. **No need to separate your papers, metals, cardboard, glass and plastics, etc.** J. P. Mascaro & Sons will pick up recyclables every week on Tuesday with a truck that resembles a trash truck.

What Can be placed out as Recyclables?

Paper and Cardboard

(no books, no contaminated pizza boxes)

Wax Cartons: Milk, juice, soup, flavored drinks and cartons can be recycled.

Aluminum

Glass (no window glass, mirrors, light bulbs)

Plastics #1- #7 (no toys, styrofoam, ceramics)

Flexible Plastic Packaging (place loose in bin)

Yard Waste Collection

Collection in open containers or compostable bags. **No plastic bags! Saturdays in 2025**
2024 (9/7 - 12/7) 2025 (3/1 - 11/29)

Bulk Item Collection

One (1) bulk item collected once a month on the second Tuesday of every month. The service collection day is indicated on the calendar below. Includes items such as sofas, water heaters, and stoves. However, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, or dehumidifiers cannot be collected due to the special handling required for items containing CFCs (Freon). Carpets should be cut into three-foot strips, rolled, and tied into a maximum of ten rolls. Additionally, mattresses and box springs must be wrapped in plastic before disposal, and each counts as one item. For twigs and branches, they should be cut into 3-foot lengths, bundled into a maximum of 10 bundles per pickup, or 10 logs, or one (1) stump.

E-Waste Alert! Disposal Ban:

Solid waste disposal facilities in Pennsylvania do not accept devices such as TVs and computer devices including hard drives, monitors, keyboards, mice and printers or their components.

Holiday Schedule:

If collection falls on or before a holiday collection there will be a one (1) day delay in service.

September 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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November						
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December						
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■ Trash and Recycling collected every week on Tuesday.
 ■ Bulk Item Collection (2nd Tuesday)
 ■ Christmas Tree Collection (1/11/2025)

■ Yard Waste Collection: Saturdays
 2024 (9/7 - 12/7)
 2025 (3/1 - 11/29)

■ Holiday

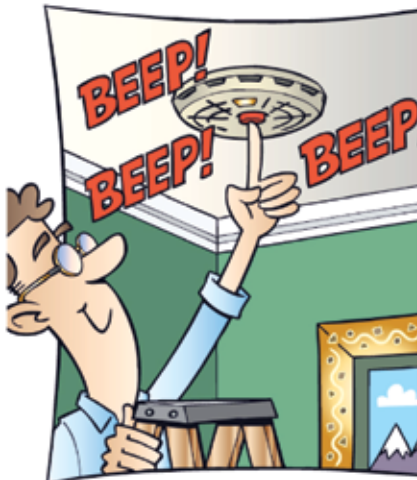


Hamburg Fire Co News

We need your support!

The Union Fire Company No. 1 of Hamburg, Berks County, Pennsylvania is a 100% volunteer fire company. Providing fire protection, rescue services and fire prevention programs to the residents of the Borough of Hamburg, Tilden Township, Windsor Township, and the surrounding area since 1832. We do this through the annual fund drive, donations, fundraisers, boot drives, contributions from local municipalities, state grants, and federal grants.

Through your donations 2023-2024 we purchased three large thermal imaging cameras, four small thermal imaging cameras, three backpack blowers, 15 sets of brush turnout gear, two brush rakes, five gas meters, and five chain saws to replace older saws. The second floor in the firehouse is in its final stage with HVAC needed to be funded and installed. This was all made possible by your support from the donations you have made to the company. We have started the build process for a new Rescue to replace the 1986 Hahn Salisbury Rescue Truck. The truck has served the community faithfully for 38 years. Estimates for the rescue are \$1,300,000.00 to \$1,500,000.00 to replace. We are hoping for grants and your support in donations to help offset the cost of the new rescue truck.



scan to donate!

Fire Prevention Initiative:

“Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!”

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or don't respond when tested.

IF YOUR HOME NEEDS A WORKING SMOKE DETECTOR/CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR CONTACT THE FIRE COMPANY FOR ASSISTANCE 610-562-9195!

HAVING A WORKING SMOKE DETECTOR/CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to your 100% Volunteer Fire Department. Proudly serving the residents and community of Tilden Township, Hamburg Borough, and Windsor Township

CODE ENFORCEMENT

When do I need a permit?

That is a question many people ask when it comes to doing work around their homes. There are multiple types of permits issued by the Borough. The Borough issues building, mechanical (HVAC), plumbing, and electrical permits. We also issue other permits that can be issued as a standalone permit or issued in conjunction with other permits. They can include zoning, sidewalk, driveway, and dumpster permits to name a few. Below are some examples of projects that do and do not require permits, but to be safe, it is always best to contact the building department before starting any project.

Common Projects that **DO** require permits:

- ✓ Most commercial
- ✓ Deck
- ✓ Addition
- ✓ Remodel
- ✓ Demolition (partial or total)
- ✓ Sidewalk or driveway work
- ✓ Mechanical system or component repair/replacement
- ✓ Water service line repair/replacement
- ✓ Sewer lateral repair/replacement

Common Projects that usually **DO NOT** require permits:

- ✗ Roof replacement (non-structural)
- ✗ Replacement of vinyl or aluminum siding
- ✗ Replacement of doors and windows (if you do not change the opening size)
- ✗ Replacing kitchen cabinets or countertops
- ✗ Painting and paper hanging

Selling a property?

Every property to be sold within the Borough is required to have a property transfer inspection conducted prior to its sale. These inspections look for life safety items, for example, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's), etc.



Dumpster Permits

With springtime fast approaching, many are itching to get some spring cleaning done. If your spring cleaning requires a dumpster, please note that Borough Code requires a permit for any dumpster or storage container that will be in place for more than 24 hours on private or public property.

HAMBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

The Hamburg Municipal Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant is owned by the Hamburg Municipal Authority and operated by the Borough of Hamburg. Originally constructed in 1961, the Wastewater Plant has undergone 3 major upgrades in 1975, 1993, and 2005 to accommodate the population and businesses growth in the surrounding Hamburg area. In the late 1990's the Hamburg Municipal Authority purchased and absorbed the Windsor Township Municipal Authority.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently rated for 1.5 million gallons a day or 3,700 lbs. of BOD a day. The Wastewater Plant currently services the areas of Hamburg Borough, Windsor Township, Tilden Township, and Port Clinton Borough. The Authority roughly serves 2,850 sanitary sewer connections and a little over 22.5 miles of sanitary sewer pipe.

The Wastewater Plant consists of 5 full-time employees. First, we have Dave Mazaika who is our Maintenance/Heavy equipment operator who has been employed with the Borough for over 31 years. We also have 4 DEP certified Wastewater Operators Mary Radcliffe, Brian Nelson, and Marsha Stoudt, and Kyle Chelius as the Wastewater Supervisor.

Last year in 2023 our amazing team treated and cleaned over 286.3 million Gallons of water before going back into the Schuylkill River along with processing and disposing of 712.6 Dry Tons of waste into a landfill.



HAMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

35 N. Third Street, Hamburg, PA 19526 • 610-562-2843

Contact Us and Follow Us on Social Media

Website: Hamburgpubliclibrary.org

Facebook: @HamburgLibrary

Instagram: @HamburgPublicLibrary

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10-5

Tuesday: 10-8

Thursday: 1-8

Saturday: 9-4



The Hamburg Public Library has been continuously serving the community since 1904. We offer:

- A large collection of books for children and adults
- DVDs, Music CDs, Audiobooks, Magazines, and Newspapers
- Thousands of eBooks and Audiobooks
- Free access to materials from all Berks County Libraries and RACC
- Free passes to local Reading Public Museum, Hands-On House, and Berks History Center
- Free access to computers and Wi-Fi
- Free access to activity kits
- Free fun and educational programming for adults and children

Stop by the library for your free library card today!

Our Next Chapter

After 120 years of serving the community, the Hamburg Public Library is expanding to better serve you. We are adding 2,650 square feet, including a finished second floor. New features will include an accessible entrance, comfortable seating, spaces for teens and children, meeting rooms, and more. While we grow, we are committed to preserving the history that makes our library special. Join us in shaping the future—find out more at hamburgsnextchapter.org.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

COFFEE AND CRIME BOOK CLUB

4th Monday of each month, 10 AM

Join us for a discussion of a crime book and local coffee. Ask the circulation desk about the month's book!

CRAFTER HOUR

1st Thursday of each month, 6 PM

Registration Required

Crafter Hour is a free craft time for adults. We will provide all the materials and tools; all you need to do is bring your creativity (and sign up in advance!)

SIT AND STITCH

4th Thursday of each month, 6 PM

Crafting connections, one thread at a time. Whatever your craft (knit, crochet, embroidery, latch hook...), we invite you to bring your works-in-progress to "Sit and Stitch." Newbies or experienced crafters are welcome!

SPICE CLUB GRAB AND GO

3rd Monday of each month

Stop by the library on the third Monday of the month to pick up a monthly spice! Kits include a different spice every month, recipes, information, and cookbook recommendations. While supplies last.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

3rd Thursday of each month, 6 PM

All ages welcome.

Join us for a fun, informal game night here at the library! No preregistration required.

BUILDER'S CLUB

4th Saturday of each month, 11 AM

4th Wednesday of each month, 2 PM

Come and bring your building skills: we will have Legos and more!

STORYTIME

Wednesdays at 11AM

Storytime includes fun stories, songs, crafts, and activities. Please check our schedule at the library or online.



While the Hamburg Public Library receives support from state and local government, we also rely on the help and support of community members to continue to provide exciting programs such as these, as well as essential library services. The Hamburg Public Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information on supporting your local library, please visit: tinyurl.com/supporthpl

What to do in a snow-squall crash:

- In most cases, you are safer in your vehicle with seat belts fastened.
- If possible, drive slowly to the front of the pileup and get off travel lanes.
- If you must leave your car for an emergency, try to wait until it looks safe.
- Do not stand outside your vehicle on or near the roadway.

SET THE TABLE FOR SAFETY

Whether testing out a new dish or whipping up a family classic, there's one recipe that should also be included on the menu this holiday season: **safety**. Follow this "Recipe for Kitchen Safety" and help this year's festivities create memories instead of danger.

INGREDIENTS FOR SAFETY

FUNCTIONING SMOKE ALARMS



FUNCTIONING GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCIs)



VIGILANCE



DIRECTIONS

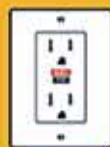
- 1 Smoke alarms should be installed in **every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home**. For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that they all sound if one sounds.



- 2 Test the batteries in each smoke alarm **every month**, replace them **once a year**, and replace the unit every **10 years**.



- 3 GFCIs are electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults, or leakage currents, that could shock or electrocute someone. GFCIs should be installed where **electricity and water may come in contact**, such as the kitchen. GFCIs should also be tested **every month**. Additional instructions for testing can be found at www.esfi.org.



- 4 Prevent fires by making sure your oven and stovetop are **clean and free of grease and dust**. You should also clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly. Lastly, vacuum the refrigerator coils every **three months** to prevent potentially dangerous dirt build-up.



CLEAN APPLIANCES



KITCHEN TIMER



KITCHEN SAFETY



- 5 **Never leave cooking unattended**. You should not cook if you are sleepy or under the influence of alcohol. Children should also be closely supervised and kept at least **three feet away** from all cooking appliances.



- 6 It's easy to forget about something that's cooking, especially when you're entertaining guests. **Use a kitchen timer** to make sure your dish doesn't become a fire hazard.



- 7 **Enjoy!** Being proactive about safety will give you peace of mind and allow you to enjoy your time with loved ones.

ESFi. For more information about **cooking and holiday safety** visit www.esfi.org

Hamburg Borough
61 North 3rd Street,
Hamburg, PA 19526

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 609



Fall 2024



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