



THE Rapho REPORTER



Welcome to Our Fall 2025 Newsletter

Dear Residents and Friends,

Rapho Township is pleased to share our Fall 2025 Township Newsletter. This publication provides you with information on municipal services and officials, contact numbers for municipal offices and other agencies, updates on current projects being undertaken within Rapho Township, as well as educational and noteworthy information.

Please take note of the beautiful Sugar Maple Tree and plaque pictured above that was recently planted along the right side of the entrance to the Woody Waste Facility. It will stand as a reminder of our strength and endurance that enabled us to rebuild. It was a total team effort from staff, the community and the stakeholders that has enabled us an opportunity for new beginnings. The tree was donated by the Township Engineer – James Caldwell and Rettew Associates. **Thank you, Jim and Rettew!**

We extend a special thanks to the business and professional members of our community whose support through advertising has made the publication of this newsletter possible, at no cost to taxpayers. Please support the local businesses that support Rapho Township.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all residents of Rapho Township to contact the municipal offices for any assistance you may need. Community service is a priority of the Township. We strive to do our best to make this community better for all residents.

Thanks!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Greetings From The Township Manager 3	Avoid A Barrel Of Trouble - Drain Before The Rain 8	Lawncare's Winter Break.....11
Woody Yard Waste Recycling..... 4	Municipal Election Information 8	Winter Weather Tips And Reminders.....11
Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance.....6	Answers To FAQs Concerning Trash & Recycling...9	Set The Table For Safety.....12
Gun Safety And Your Children.....6	Winter Driving Tips.....10	Lithium Ion Battery Safety.....13
A Reminder From The Tax Collector7	Home Heating Systems and Winter Months10	Township Contact Information.....14
Trick Or Treat Night.....7		



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GREETINGS FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

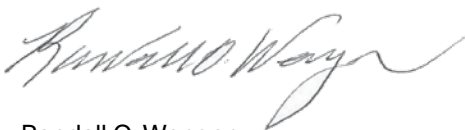
As we enter the season of Fall and I reflect on the year thus far, I am reminded of what has been accomplished this year. The Winter season brought us a few snow events, thus giving our Road Crew several challenges during the winter months. In April our Public Works building was finally finished and we were able to move from our temporary location in Mount Joy Township, back to our "home" on North Colebrook Road. With the Winter season only a few months away, I feel certain the Road Crew will thoroughly enjoy getting into warm trucks this year as they set out to treat the roads of Rapho Township, as well as having a wash bay to clean all road dirt and salt from the trucks after each event.

In June, we were very pleased to once again have a Woody Yard Waste Facility on site for our residents. The electronic entrance system is slightly different from our prior system, as well as the physical location has slightly moved from the previous recycle yard. Please refer to the more detailed article in this issue of our newsletter.

July brought us torrential rainstorms and wind on several occasions, with one event bringing eight inches of rain in six hours to the Mount Joy area. I remember where we were two years ago, in late July of 2023, and cannot imagine how our Public Works Department possibly could have navigated through these rain events without equipment, supplies, vehicles, and even a home base. I am happy to say that we are once again prepared for whatever weather events Mother Nature brings our way.

On behalf of the Township Staff and myself, we are happy to be serving the residents of Rapho Township from our facilities located at 971 N Colebrook Road, Manheim.

Best Regards,



Randall O. Wenger
Township Manager



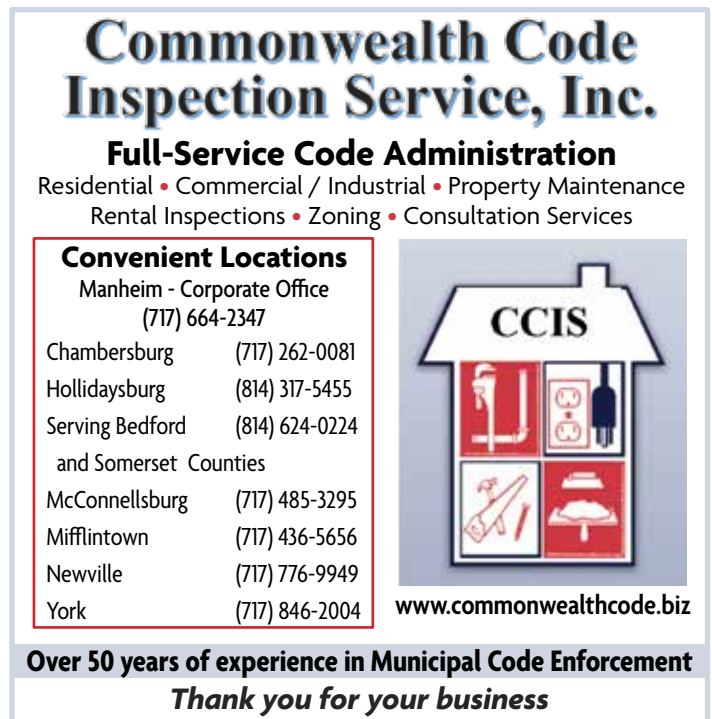
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WOODY YARD WASTE RECYCLING



As the saying goes, "all good things take time." Well, our Woody Yard Waste Facility finally opened in June and has seen a constant, steady stream of residents since its opening, especially since all the storm damage in Rapho Township. Each resident who renewed their key fob (from the old facility) for 2025 was mailed a new Access Card that replaced the key fobs. If you did not renew your key fob for the year, please stop into the office for your renewal and an Access Card will be issued to you. You may simply dispose of the key fobs, as we have a completely new system and the key fobs are now obsolete.

In December, the Township will be mailing renewal letters for 2026 to residents who renewed their Woody Yard Waste Recycling Facility Access Cards. We ask that you detach the bottom stub (invoice) and mail it with your payment to 971 N Colebrook Rd Manheim, PA 17545. Additionally, we have a Night Drop Box at the Employee Entrance to our office building, and we check that box each morning. Remember that payments should NOT be mailed to the Lockbox that you use for your trash payments.



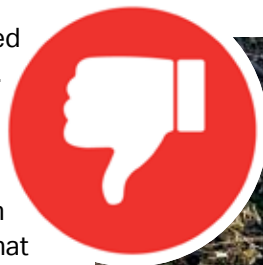
Rain Garden at the entrance to the Recycle Yard.



left bin for bagged yard waste and the right bin for woody yard waste

A Friendly Reminder...

The Woody Yard Waste Facility is **ONLY** to be used for branches, limbs, garden waste and yard waste. At **NO** time is it to be used for refuse! Recently, someone deposited a broken, red, wooden rocking chair into the facility. One of our employees had to take time from their regular duties to remove all the pieces and haul them to our dumpster. We also received pieces of wood that were larger than 24 inches in diameter. Wood larger than 24 inches in diameter and/or 8 feet long cannot be accepted for grinding. Additionally, while grinding the woody waste, we found grass clippings. Grass clippings should never be brought to our facility. The trash haulers do not accept them, as they are combustible. We ask our residents to kindly obey the Rules and Usage Policy of our Woody Yard Waste Facility.



We thank you for your cooperation.



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CHIQUES CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE



The Chiques Creek Watershed is composed of land and waterways that ultimately drain via the Chiques Creek into the Susquehanna River near Marietta. This includes Donegal Creek and its tributaries, the Little Chiques Creek and its tributaries, as well as the Chiques Creek and its other tributaries.

The watershed includes a rich agricultural region, with other industries and expanding urban and residential areas as well. This development impacts water resources in complex ways, including the quality of streams fed from the ground and from stormwater runoff and how stormwater is managed. Think as well about the impact of industrial and wastewater discharge. Think about the quality and amount of groundwater and about potable water. Add in legacy dams, development in flood plains, and riparian buffers along creeks and drainages. What does it take to build resilience to flooding, ensure safety and supply of drinking water, and promote the ability of our streams to support aquatic life and recreation like fishing and swimming?

The Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance (CCWA), a non-profit organization, has helped bring public awareness to these matters since its incorporation 25 years ago. CCWA has supported two stream renovations (Mummau and Logan Parks), organized numerous exhibition and learning events (Expos, Creek Stomps with Lancaster County Conservation District, Learn and Lunch, Walks in the Park, various public informational meetings) and has had displays at several other events, including the annual Manheim Farm Show.

During 2025, we returned to the governance model directed in our bylaws and have experimented with meeting formats and activities that might allow us to engage more people in the communities across the Chiques Creek Watershed. We've also helped with some unexpected cleanups and tree maintenance after flooding of June 30th and July 14th.

CCWA's mission is to help preserve the watershed and its natural resources for present and future generations, and a big part of this is accomplished through outreach and education, as well as activities that help us "meet in the field."

Check out our website, in particular the **Upcoming** page that has a calendar of events, as well as the **Micro-blog** page where we capture short snippets from past events and activities. We invite you to join us and **Get Involved!**

Kind regards from the CCWA Officers, Board and Members

<https://www.chiquescreekwatershedalliance.org/>

GUN SAFETY AND YOUR CHILDREN

As the hunting season is beginning, please take note of some gun safety tips and advice from the National Crime Prevention Council.

Talking to Your Children About Gun Safety

It is important to start a dialogue with your children about what to do if they find a gun. The following is suggested language for talking to your kids about firearms.

Guns are very serious. An accident involving a gun can hurt or even kill you or someone you know. Most adults are allowed to own a gun by law, and many have one. This means that even if there isn't a gun in your house, you need to know what to do if you see a gun.



- If you see a gun, follow these four steps:
 1. Stop. 2. Don't touch. 3. Get away. 4. Tell an adult.
- When you follow these steps, you're protecting yourself and helping to keep other people safe.

Here are some tips about what to do in specific circumstances:

- Walk away and tell a parent if your friend shows you his parent's gun.
- Tell an adult immediately if you see a gun in someone's backpack at school.
- Tell a trusted adult if you hear another student say they are going to bring a gun to school.
- Follow the four steps if you find a gun in the park by your house.
- If you're not sure why a gun is dangerous, talk to a parent about it.

A REMINDER FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR ...

Have you paid your County/Municipal Real Estate Tax?
If you live in Pleasant View Estates, Covey Run, Willow Creek,
Green Park & Elm Tree Developments have you paid your Street Light Assessment?
All bills are due and payable by December 31, 2025
after which they will be turned over to the Lancaster County Tax Claim or Rapho Township.

Checks made payable to:
Melva J. Kready, Rapho Township Tax Collector
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AVOID A BARREL OF TROUBLE – DRAIN BEFORE THE RAIN!

With the recent intense and unpredictable summer storms, heavy rains have caused widespread flooding across the region, prompting water rescue efforts and road closures. These incidents have been a reminder of how vital it is to prepare our communities for storm events – and how small actions can make a big difference.



Stormwater runoff happens when rain flows over impervious surfaces like rooftops, driveways, and roads, picking up pollutants and debris before entering our streams and rivers. When storm drains, swales, and drainageways are blocked, water can back up, leading to flooding, erosion, and property damage. Keeping these systems clean and clear is not just about protecting your home, it's about safeguarding your neighbors, local infrastructure, and the environment!

Here are a few proactive measures every homeowner can take to reduce stormwater risks:

- **DRAIN RAIN BARRELS AND CISTERNS:** Before a major storm, empty these containers to prevent overflow and allow them to capture new rainfall.
- **CLEAR STORM DRAINS AND SWALES:** Remove leaves, trash, and debris regularly, especially before forecasted storms.
- **OBSERVE STORM INLETS:** Periodically take time to check the inlets in the streets in front of your home to make sure they are clear.
- **MAINTAIN DRAINAGEWAYS:** Ensure ditches and channels are free-flowing and not obstructed by yard waste or overgrown vegetation.
- **CHECK GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS:** Make sure they're directing water away from your foundation and not contributing to pooling.

It is important to note that stormwater management facilities are designed to handle specific storm events, such as 10-year or 25-year storms. When storms exceed these design limits, flooding can still occur, even if inlets and drains are cleared and functioning properly. While local efforts help reduce risk, they cannot prevent flooding during extreme weather events.

By staying alert and taking simple steps before the rain, we can all help reduce flooding risks and protect our communities, one storm at a time.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

October 20: Last day to REGISTER to vote in the November election. Voter registration forms must be received at the County Voter Registration Office by this date. Call 717-299-8293 for more information. vote.pa.gov/Register

October 28: Last day to apply for the mail-in or absentee ballots. vote.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot

November 4: Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the County Board of Elections no later than 8:00 PM. vote.pa.gov/County

November 4: Municipal Election Day. Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. vote.pa.gov/Polls



ANSWERS TO FAQs CONCERNING TRASH & RECYCLING

Frequently our office is contacted with questions about trash and recycling. I thought perhaps the newsletter would be a good place to answer a few of the most common questions we are asked, such as...

- May I call Penn Waste with any questions, concerns or issues with my service or my bill? Our contract states that all communication from the customer to Penn Waste must go directly through the Township Office, specifically with the Recycling Coordinator – Ena Marie Banks. Her contact information is: enamarie@raphotownship.com or 717-665-3827
- May I send my annual payment for the Woody Yard Waste Facility to the same address I mail my trash payment? Trash payments **MUST** be sent to PO Box 4604 Lancaster, PA 17604. **ONLY** trash payments should be mailed to this address. All other payments and correspondence **MUST** be mailed to 971 N Colebrook Rd Manheim, PA 17545.
- What do I do with the caps and lids from the bottles and containers that I'm recycling? After rinsing out your bottles, cans and containers, all caps and lids should be thrown in the trash.
- Will Penn Waste dispose of my mattress and boxspring? You may purchase Oversized Tags (\$4/each) to be used for items such as, a mattress, a boxspring, a grill, a bicycle, a couch, a chair, etc. You may place two (2) oversized items curbside with your trash and recycling each week. However, please contact the Township Office to schedule the items for pick up on your service day.
- Is a washing machine considered an oversized item? Appliances are considered White Goods that are picked up on your collection day, twice/year in March and in September. Please refer to the 2025 Rapho Township Trash & Recycling Collection Calendar for the exact date. <https://www.raphotownship.com/DocumentCenter/View/1663/2025-Rapho-Township-Collection-Calendar>. Each White Good would require a \$15 tag/appliance, as well as tires would require a \$3 tag/tire and are picked up at the same time. All tags may be purchased in our office, and the schedule of items must be sent to Penn Waste the Friday before the Special Collections Week.
- Will Penn Waste pick up my TV? One of the few items that Penn Waste will not pick up is televisions. They must be taken to the HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) facility located at 1299 Harrisburg Pike Lancaster, PA 17603. This is a drive-thru facility that is also a free service from LCSWMA (Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority).
- How do I dispose of my grass clippings if my trash hauler won't take them and we cannot bring them to the Rapho Township Woody Yard Waste Facility? Grass clippings are combustible, and in fact, quite a few trash trucks have caught on fire from grass clippings being thrown into the trucks. You are encouraged to raise your mower height to 3 inches and use the mulch setting of your mower. The grass clippings are a natural fertilizer for your lawn and help to make it more lush and green.
- What are the procedures when my trash/recycling is missed? The trash hauler's hours of operation are 5:00 AM – 6:00 PM, and our contract agreement states that the customer must place their trash/recycling curbside the night before their service day. If you have not been serviced by 6:00 PM please call the office and leave a voicemail with the Trash & recycling Coordinator, stating your name, address, phone number and if trash and/or recycling was missed. Your information will be passed onto Penn Waste the next morning.

These are a few of the most common questions we receive, but feel free to call the office anytime, with any other questions not answered in this article.



WINTER DRIVING TIPS

The trucks, equipment and plows of the Public Works Department as well as its Road Crew are ready for whatever Winter weather events come their way. The plows are on the trucks, salt has been delivered, and the salt spreaders are ready to treat the roads of Rapho Township.

We are ready for the Winter season, how about you? It's always a good idea to make sure your vehicle is prepared for the Winter elements by checking fluid levels, lights, defrosters and windshield wiper blades, as well as checking the tire pressure and tire tread, making certain the depth of the tread is adequate to perform safely on ice and snow-covered roads.

Not only should your vehicles be prepared for Winter driving, but the drivers should also be prepared for Winter or vehicle emergencies, by carrying an emergency kit, which should include items such as non-perishable food, water, first-aid supplies, warm clothes, a blanket, cell phone charger and a small snow shovel. Your emergency kits should be tailored to the specific needs of the individuals who use your vehicle, with items such as baby supplies, extra medication, pet supplies or even children's games.

Pennsylvania drivers are reminded of the law that requires drivers to remove accumulated ice or snow from their vehicles, including the hood, trunk, and roof within 24 hours after the storm has ended. This applies to all vehicles, including commercial vehicles. Drivers in violation of the law are subject to a fine of \$50. Additionally, motorists can be cited up to \$1,500 if snow or ice is dislodged and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious injury.



PennDOT also reminds motorists when encountering a plow truck on the road, to give it plenty of space. The areas close to the sides and behind a plow truck are considered the "No Zones." Drivers should avoid these areas and never try to pass a plow truck. This becomes a dangerous situation for everyone involved.

A commonsense rule for motorists during a Winter weather event is that if it is not absolutely necessary to travel, please stay off the roads. The fewer vehicles that are on the roads, the easier it is for the drivers to plow the roads, making them safe and passable for travel. Stay in your nice, warm homes and let the plow drivers do their jobs.



HOME HEATING SYSTEMS AND WINTER MONTHS

Now that your vehicle is ready for the Winter months, how about your home's heating system? Is it ready to serve you and keep you warm through the upcoming months? Here are a few tips and reminders:

- Your system should be cleaned and inspected by a qualified HVAC technician each year.
- Clean filters are an integral part of your heating system, and should be changed each month, or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Seal holes or cracks with mastic tape.
- Keep heat from escaping and prevent large energy losses with duct insulation.
- Clean ductwork and registers on a regular basis.
- For proper heat distribution keep areas around registers unobstructed by furniture or equipment.



LAWNCARE'S WINTER BREAK

As the lawn maintenance season nears its end and the last of the leaves are being mulched, it seems an appropriate time to review the Winter nutrient management rules.

Remember, nutrients should only be applied when the turf is actively growing. So, as Winter approaches and temperatures cool, our lawns go dormant. At this point, nutrients are generally no longer needed until the Spring growing season resumes.



However, should a nutrient need arise, remember to follow this additional Winter fertilizer use restrictions:

- Nitrogen is restricted to 0.50 lbs/1000 ft² from December 15 through March 1.
- Phosphates are always prohibited unless the turf is being repaired or established, or a soil test indicates a phosphorous need.
- Do not apply fertilizer to frozen or snow-covered ground.
- Do not use fertilizer as snow or ice melt.

Enjoy the Winter lawncare break – winterize the mower, properly store any remaining product and always be wise when you fertilize!

WINTER WEATHER TIPS AND REMINDERS



There are **147.72 miles** of roads in Rapho Township – **97.72 miles** are township roads, and the other **50 miles** are state roads. When a winter weather event occurs, our Public Works Department dispatches plow trucks to maintain the township's 97 miles of roads. The road crew works diligently to get each Township Road open and passable in a very timely fashion. To help them do their jobs, please follow some basic guidelines:



- Do not attempt to pass salt or plow trucks, even when they are moving slowly.
- Avoid parking on the street, if possible.
- Clear an area ahead of your driveway opening to allow the snowplow to unload before it reaches the driveway opening. Plows cannot be lifted at driveways.
- Be aware that snow removal continues after precipitation has stopped as we work to widen the cleared area.
- Do not throw, blow, or plow snow into the street.
- Remove snow and ice from the sidewalk along your property within 24 hours after precipitation has stopped.
- Clear snow from fire hydrants near your property.
- Avoid storm water pollution during the winter months by considering alternatives to road salt like potassium acetate (KA) or sand.
- Do not hose down your car or your garage on a mild winter day. Residue left from road salt, oil, gas, and other road pollutants drip from your car, and are flushed into the storm sewer system. Use a car wash instead.
- Clear snow and ice from storm water inlets to allow water to drain.

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.



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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

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RAIN BARRELS

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WHAT EXACTLY IS A RAIN BARREL?

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rain water from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains, streams, and eventually the Delaware River watershed. It is constructed using a reused 55 gallon food grade barrel, a bottom drain, a spigot, an overflow a screen to keep debris and insects out, and a downspout diverter to carry the water into the rain barrel.

A rain barrel is a relatively simple and inexpensive way to capture and store rain water for use at later times. It conveniently sits under residential gutter downspouts from you home, garage, and/or shed.

BENEFITS OF USING A RAIN BARREL

Lawn and garden watering can take up a large percentage or total percentage of total household water use during the summer months. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most, during periods of drought! A rain barrel provides an ample supply of FREE water for flowers, gardens, lawns, and even car washing!

A rain barrel can conserve water and save YOU money during peak summer months. Conserving water helps protect the environment, saves energy (decreased demand for treated tap water and well water) and decreased the impact of runoff to streams and the Delaware River. Therefore by installing a rain barrel YOU can help protect the water quality, aquatic species, drinking water quality, and recreation in the Delaware River watershed.

A formula to remember: 1 inch of rain on a 1,000 sq. ft. roof yields 623 gallons of water. Calculate the yield of your roof by multiplying the square footage of your roof by 623 and divide by 1,000.

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Kyle Youndt
Pat Shupp
Gary Good

Board of Supervisors
1st & 3rd Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.

BOS Work Session
6:00 p.m. Thurs. preceding 1st BOS
meeting after Planning Commission
meeting

Planning Commission
1st Mon. at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board
1st Tues. at 7:00 p.m.

A reminder...

**The Township Building will be closed
on the following dates:**

- November 27th & 28th
- December 25th & 26th

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Lancaster County-Wide Communications Non- Emergency Phone Numbers:

Administration:
(717) 664-1100 or
(800) 297-5292

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