

Published: Tuesday, October 12, 2010

# Amendment allows guns in Amity Township parks

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**By Denise Larive, News Writer**

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Park Rules Ordinance Amendment 267 on Oct. 6. The amendment states that “permitted” firearms (purchased following a background check) are permitted in its seven parks and must be carried openly.

“Under state game laws and the crimes code, [police] cannot prohibit the carrying of firearms,” said Solicitor Brian F. Boland. “The discharge is prohibited.”

A concealed carry permit is required to conceal a firearm and is obtained through a separate application.

Those parks include Amity Community Park, Hill Road Recreational Area, Myron S. Wheeler Recreational Area, Locust Grove Recreational Area, Amity Park Road Recreation Area, Monocacy Hill Recreation Area and Lake Drive Recreation Area.

The ordinance amends the Amity Township Park Ordinance passed on April 18, 2006.

That ordinance established park hours and rules prohibiting alcohol and drugs and their use, smoking, indecent or threatening language and behavior, solicitations, dangerous animals, damage to property, the setting of fires, certain athletic activities and equipment, vehicles and other prohibited uses such as fireworks, overnight camping and parties of 25 or more people.

It also states that the possession or use of firearms, paintball equipment, slingshots, pellet guns, projectiles of any nature or any instrument which fires or discharges any projectile is prohibited.

Hunting is allowed only on Monocacy Hill, according to the regulations and stipulations in the Game Laws of Pennsylvania on the discharge of firearms.

The township’s discharge of firearms ordinance says that the action is prohibited within 150 yards of a day-care, preschool, or latch-key facility.

Amity Community Park is located between the Amity Primary Center, the Daniel Boone Middle School, and is adjacent to St. Paul's United Church of Christ and its after-school program "Splash."

In other business:

- Parks & Recreation Board Secretary Risa Marmontello informed the board that she will resign from the position, effective Dec. 31.

She served as secretary for nearly 12 years.

The vacancy will be posted and then filled at the board's reorganization on Jan. 3.

- The board unanimously approved to order new, round recycling bins with lids. The proposed cost for public purchase of the bins is \$16.50 with a lid and \$12 without a lid.

- Amity Police Officer John Coe was removed from probationary status and appointed as a full time permanent officer to serve with the department's 11 officers and Police Chief Kent A. Shuebrook.

- The board has postponed an environmental study of the proposed Amity Township Western Industrial Park area on north Limekiln Road until zoning is changed from low density residential to Planned Business/Office/Industrial District.

Thomas Warman, senior environmental scientist for Spotts, Stevens & McCoy, Reading, said an environmental study of the properties owned by six individuals would establish a base-line and identify problem areas which may be costly to remedy.

"This would be a liability protection," said Warman, adding that the study results would only be good for 180 days, per the standard established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Why do it now if this project is many years off?" asked Boland. "There is nothing coming in for two years."

Boland said the county's review of AWIP would be completed by the end of 2010, re-zoning would occur early in 2011, which would be followed by a market study.