

Amity imposes burning ban

Published: Tuesday, July 26, 2011

http://www.berksmontnews.com/articles/2011/07/26/southern_berks_news/news/doc4e2f2d4d92d03482833399.txt

By Denise Larive
News Writer

Amity Fire Marshal and Amity Fire & Rescue Captain James Munda, Sr., has imposed a burning ban in the township that is in effect until further notice from Amity Township officials.

No open burning is allowed nor fireworks of any kind.

Amity Fire & Rescue Chief Michael Zomolsky told the Amity Township Board of Supervisors July 20 that a brush fire on the 428-acre Monocacy Hill Recreation Area, Geiger Road, would result in the fire department creating roads on the Hill to extinguish the fire.

Monarch Fire Company officials agreed that the five miles of forest trails on Monocacy Hill are still not wide enough to accommodate their Kubota utility vehicle.

Monarch officials purchased the vehicle last year with grant money.

Monocacy Hill is a protected area purchased by Amity Township purchased in 1967 for open space recreation purposes.

The Monocacy Hill Conservation Association works with the township to maintain the trails and facilities.

“Liability is with the township,” said Robert Kline, assistant chief of the Monarch Fire Company, Pennsylvania Avenue. “You can’t go anywhere on the Hill. There are rocks on the trail. Union Township made a path [at their 44-acre recreation area] and flattened it out for rescue.”

Board Chairman Robert R. Yanos recommended a committee meeting on the Hill to mark trees for removal in order to accommodate the Kubota and other emergency vehicles.

That meeting will occur on the Hill the middle of August.

“If there is a brush fire up there, we’ll make roads,” said Zomolsky.

“The safety aspect has to be accounted for as much as the [environmental],” said Yanos.

In other business:

The Monarch Fire Company will hold its 75th Anniversary Parade and Housing on Aug. 6 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Amity Intermediate Center, Boone Drive.

The parade of Monarch Fire Company trucks and fire trucks from neighboring municipalities will

The parade of Monarch Fire Company trucks and fire trucks from neighboring municipalities will proceed through the Rosecliffe, Greenbriar, and Westridge subdivisions to the Monarch Fire Company on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Once at the fire company, Monarch personnel will “house” or dedicate its 2000 New Lexington Rescue/Pumper, 2003 E-One Quint, and 2010 Kubota, followed by hot dogs, hamburgers, and other refreshments.

Kline said t-shirts and mugs can be purchased that day to commemorate the 75th anniversary.

Amity Fire & Rescue will hold its 4th Annual Firemen’s Carnival, presented by “Tons of Fun,” on Aug. 2-6 at the fire company on Pine Forge Road.

Fireworks are scheduled for Aug. 5. The rain date is Aug. 6.

In other business:

Township Manager Charles E. Lyon said Blair Gilbert, Oddvar Norheim, Matthew Ferdock, and Majid Alsayegh have resigned from the township’s Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC).

The EDAC has two remaining members, which aren’t enough for a quorum.

The board didn’t discuss the EDAC status and took no action.