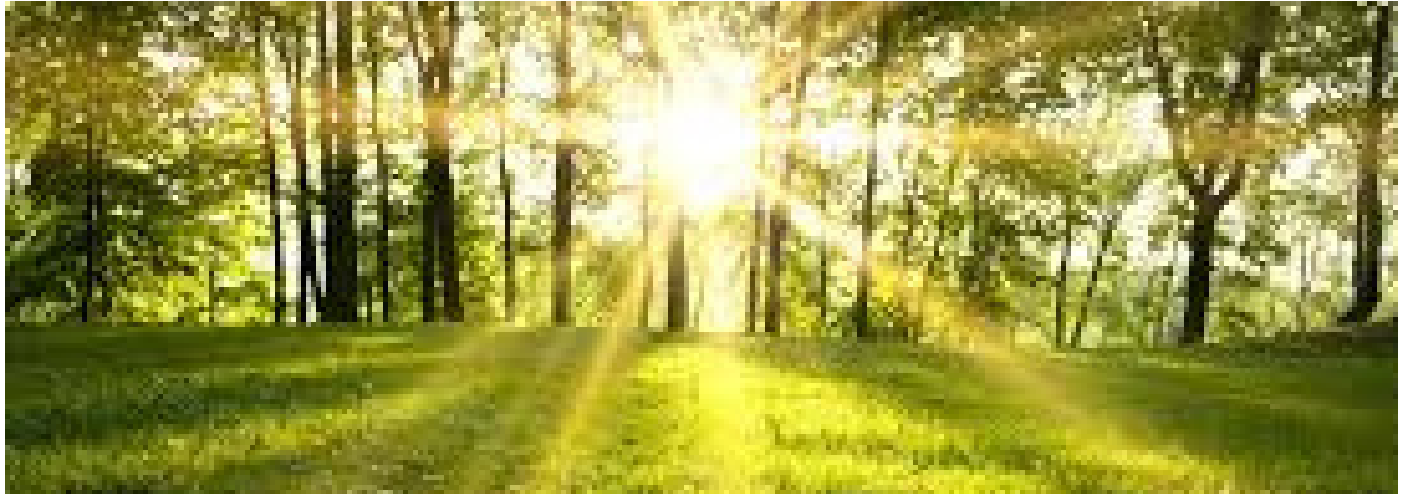


HAINES TOWNSHIP Newsletter

MARCH 2025



Message from the Board Chairman

As we await warmer weather, we're reminded of how quickly seasons come and go. Before you know it, we'll be through Spring and Summer and then comes Autumn and the Haines Township Fall Festival! Several festival planning meetings have already been held with, not only ideas for new activities, but also trying to return to our roots by bringing back more demonstrations of how things used to be done. That was the founding concept of the Fall Festival! Do you or your family have experience doing something that, at one time, was a typical activity in the valley but has disappeared into history? Can you show how it was done? I'm thinking that, with the number of classic tractors in the area, there must also be some belt driven implements setting in sheds somewhere just waiting to be brought to life! Can you demonstrate a craft or recreational activity from yesteryear that you enjoyed or your family was famous for? A secondary goal of the festival is to provide non-profit organizations with an opportunity to generate some revenue.

Do you know of an organization that would like to operate a food booth? Don't be afraid to think outside of the box! This is also a great opportunity to meet your neighbors by volunteering to help with the planning, management, or physical work necessary for a successful festival. Many hands make light work and it is rewarding! Finally, we are also looking for sponsors. The more expenses that are covered by sponsors, the greater the financial benefit to our non-profit organizations. Hey, I don't want to rush Spring and Summer, but Fall will be here before we know it! See the last page of this newsletter for more information and how to contact us with your ideas, and how to get involved. Thank you from everyone involved.

Darryl Schafer

In this newsletter you can expect:

Municipal (Water) Authority Highlights
Ordinance Spotlight
Community News
Tax Time
Dutch Fall Festival
Contact Info

Municipal (Water) Authority Highlights

Haines-Aaronsburg Municipal Authority (HAMA).

Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 337 E. Aaron Square, Aaronsburg @ 6:30pm.

Our office hours are Monday - Friday 7:30am - 3:30pm unless otherwise noted on website or bulletin board.

Water Emergencies Call: Jodi Muthler — 570-660-7879

Board Members

Derek Hart - Chairman

Russel Burkholder: Vice Chairman

Tina Lamey - Secy./Treas.

Ian Smith - Asst. Secy./Treas.

Kody Orndorf - Member

Kimberly Claar: Office Admin — 814-349-8193

From Office Administrator – Kimberly Claar

- The upgrade to our billing software provides new billing and payment options to our customers. This will include the ability to view your bill online and to pay by Credit Card or ACH. Autopay will also be available. You should have received additional information with your last bill. If you have any issues contact the office at 814-349-8193.

HAMA Spring Update

We are approximately halfway through the Water System Improvement Project and continue to work towards final completion. We completed the new water and service line installation everywhere on and above Vine St. last year, and as the spring weather arrives, we expect construction work at the Plant to start back up at full speed. Starting in May, HAMA will be using a Mobile Treatment Facility to produce clean water for the duration of the water plants' installation of new equipment. The Temporary Facility will be the same type of system that was piloted a few years back. The pilot study was a success and produced good, quality water. Customers can expect little difference between the current quality of water and what will be produced by the Mobile Treatment Facility. The transition between the two systems will not require a plant shutdown and will continually feed the distribution system throughout the switch-over. Work on the new generators for our two wells and the Plant will continue this spring and will be ready to use once the new plant is ready to be put online. HAMA did receive additional CDBG funds to help cover the higher-than-expected costs of this project. Overall, the project is in good standing, and we appreciate the support and faith in our efforts. We continue to pursue grants such as the Susquehanna River Basin Commission: Consumptive Mitigation Grant opportunity that was applied for this January (Automated Water Meter and Infrastructure Project), and the Pennsylvania Small Water/Sewer Grant opportunity that will be applied for this April (Plum Street Water Main Replacement Project). Our goal continues to bring Aaronsburg's water system up to State requirements and deliver clean, quality drinking water in the most affordable fashion possible.

Haines-Woodward Municipal Authority (HWMA).

Monthly meetings are held the second Monday every Month at the United Trinity Church in Woodward @ 7pm

Board Members

Tonia Witmer: Chair — 570-428-5986

Jeremy Witmer: Maintenance — 570-939-0224

Julie Shaffer: Vice Chair — 814-574-1455

Peggy Huey: Treasurer — 814-349-8930

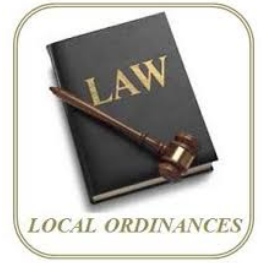
Jen Krout: Secretary

Water Emergencies Call: Rick Witmer - 814-777-2527

Haines Township Ordinance Spotlight

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1 Haines Township Nuisance Ordinance

Full Ordinance on Website & at Township Office



Purpose.

- A.** The Township Supervisors deem it to be necessary for the health, general welfare, cleanliness and safety of the Township, its citizens, residents and visitors to the Township to adopt an ordinance relating to certain nuisances and find: (1) That the accumulation of rubbish and/or the accumulation of abandoned or junked motor vehicles and/or the existence of grass in excess of the height herein indicated and harmful vegetation create a hazard and danger to citizens, residents and visitors to the Township because such conditions provide a haven for insects, rodents and vermin and/or otherwise create unhealthful and unsafe conditions;
- (2) That the accumulation of rubbish and/or the accumulation of abandoned or junk motor vehicles and/or grass in excess of the height herein indicated and harmful vegetation creates an attractive nuisance for children who are not aware of the dangers involved;
- (3) That the accumulation of rubbish and/or the accumulation of abandoned or junk motor vehicles and/or existence of grass in excess of the height herein indicated and harmful vegetation creates an unhealthful, unclean and unsafe condition for those citizens, residents and visitors of and to the Township whose real estate abuts the affected real estate and who otherwise come into contact with the abandoned or junk motor vehicles, and/or the accumulation of rubbish and/or the existence of grass in excess of the height herein indicated and harmful vegetation;
- (4) That the infestation of real estate and all types of structures thereon with insects and/or rodents and/or which are a haven and/or a breeding area for insects and/or rodents is unhealthful, unclean and unsafe for those owners or occupants of real estate whose real estate abuts the affected real estate as well as those citizens, residents, visitors and others who otherwise come into contact with the affected real estate and/or the insects and/or rodents which are sheltered or harbored by such real estate and the structures thereon; and
- (5) That the obstructing of a public road or committing of any nuisance thereon by felling trees, making fences, turning the road, diverting water onto or in any other way and who does not, on notice given by the Board of Supervisors, immediately remove the obstruction or nuisance and repair the damages, if any, is a nuisance and that such conditions and activities must be prohibited for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and residents of the Township and visitors to the Township.
- B.** Furthermore, such conditions must otherwise be prohibited for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens, residents and visitors to the Township and for the proper management and good government of the Township.

Section 3. Declaration of public nuisance.

The Supervisors of Haines Township hereby declare the storing and/or accumulating of rubbish and/or the parking, placing or leaving of abandoned motor vehicles or junk motor vehicles on any public or private tract of land and/or the failure to cut grass in excess of the height hereinafter indicated and/or to eliminate harmful vegetation and/or permitting by action or inaction and thereby allowing the infestation of real estate and the structures thereon by insects and/or rodents and/or the obstructing of a public road or committing of any nuisance thereon by felling trees, making fences, turning the road, diverting water onto or in any other way and who does not, on notice given by or on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, immediately remove or correct the nuisance, as aforesaid, and/or the obstruction of a public road and repair the damages, if any, done to the road, as applicable, is a public nuisance.

Section 4. Definitions.

Unless otherwise expressly stated, or unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following terms and conditions when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings next ascribed to them:

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE - A motor vehicle shall be presumed to be abandoned under any of the following circumstances:

- A.** The vehicle is physically inoperable and is left unattended on a highway, street, alley or other public property for more than 48 hours.
- B.** The vehicle has remained illegally on a highway, street, alley or other public property for a period of more than 48 hours.
- C.** The vehicle is left unattended on or along a highway, street, alley or other public property for more than 48 hours and does not bear all of the following: (1) A valid registration plate; (2) A current certificate of inspection; and (3) An ascertainable vehicle identification number.
- D.** The vehicle has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property for more than 24 hours.

BUILDING - A structure, either temporary or permanent, used or occupied as a roofed shelter without walls or a roofed enclosure with walls for persons, animals or property. The word "building" shall be construed as if followed by the words "or any part thereof."

HARMFUL VEGETATION - Any vegetation which emits fumes, odors, pollen, dust or seeds which, if carried or allowed to escape or spread beyond the boundaries or confines of the real estate, could be physically discomforting, harmful or dangerous to animals, crops, lands, soils, property or inhabitants of adjacent real estate or to persons or property in a public place. For example, the term "harmful vegetation" could mean or include "Invasive Species" that grow aggressively, spread, and displace native vegetation. The list that shall be used by this part is the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Invasive Plants list and a "Noxious Weed" a generally invasive plant that once declared noxious becomes illegal to sell, transport, plant or otherwise propagate within the Commonwealth. The list of Pennsylvania Noxious Weeds is periodically updated and is available from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

INFESTATION - The act of infesting; something that infests. "Infest" is defined as to be present persistently or to be present in large numbers or to overrun.

JUNK MOTOR VEHICLE - A vehicle shown to be junk under any one or more of the following circumstances:

- A.** A vehicle for which a certificate of junk, a certificate of salvage or other like certificate has been issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation or for which a certificate of junk, a certificate of salvage or other like certificate has been issued by an appropriate official designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or by any other applicable state.
- B.** A vehicle where the engine or parts of which have been removed for more than 15 days.
- C.** A vehicle where one or more of the tires have been deflated or the wheels removed for more than 15 days.
- D.** A vehicle where one or more of the windows thereof shall be cracked, smashed, missing or otherwise broken for more than 15 days.
- E.** A vehicle bearing no official inspection sticker or a sticker not currently valid, or not bearing a current registration plate or an ascertainable vehicle identification number.
- F.** A vehicle not capable of being moved under its own power.
- G.** A vehicle otherwise so derelict, discarded, rusted, disabled, scrapped, or substantially worthless as a motor vehicle to be deemed "junk" in the common definition and accepted meaning of the word "junk."
- H.** Excluded from the definition of "junk motor vehicle" shall be:

(1) Vehicles or machinery housed in a garage or barn or where said machinery is not normally visible in any part from a public road;

(2) Vehicles or machinery either originally intended or subsequently modified for use in agricultural or forestry pursuits; provided, said machinery is demonstrably operable and owned by a person engaged in agricultural or forestry pursuits;

MOTOR VEHICLE - A vehicle which is self-propelled except one which is propelled solely by human or animal power or by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated on rails.

OCCUPANT - That person leasing or otherwise occupying real estate.

OWNER - That person who is the actual legal title holder or the custodian of the motor vehicle or motor vehicles or that person owning or in charge of any real estate, including the personal representative of an estate, the trustee of trust, an attorney-in-fact, an agent, or a guardian of the person in whom legal title is vested.

RUBBISH - Useless waste or rejected matter, including, but not limited to, parts of vehicles, appliances or parts thereof, discarded or deteriorated childrens' toys, rags, rubber, plastic, wire or the like; combustible trash, including paper, cardboard, cartons, boxes, barrels, wood, excelsior, wood furniture, bedding; noncombustible trash, including glass, metals, scrap metals, tin cans, metal furniture, crockery; junk material such as, but not limited to, unused or abandoned machinery, equipment, rusted, deteriorated machinery or equipment or parts thereof; and all forms of waste and refuse of any type of material; provided that "rubbish" shall not include earth from building operations, nor shall it include leaves, tree or bush trimmings, or brush, nor shall it include cornstalks, stubble or other vegetable material generated in the course of harvesting agricultural crops.

Section 5. Nuisances declared unlawful.

Nuisances, including, but not limited to, the following, are hereby declared to be unlawful: **A.** The accumulation of "rubbish" upon private or public property, specifically including, but not limited to: useless waste or rejected matter, including, but not limited to, parts of vehicles, appliances or parts thereof, discarded or deteriorated children's toys, rags, rubber, plastic, wire or the like; combustible trash, including paper, cardboard, cartons, boxes, barrels, wood, excelsior, wood furniture, bedding; noncombustible trash, including glass, metals, scrap metals, tin cans, metal furniture, crockery; junk material such as, but not limited to, unused or abandoned machinery, equipment, rusted, deteriorated machinery or equipment or parts thereof; and all forms of waste and refuse of any type of material; provided that "rubbish" shall not include earth and wastes from building operations, nor shall it include leaves, tree or bush trimmings, or brush, nor shall it include cornstalks, stubble or other vegetable material generated in the course of harvesting agricultural crops.

B. A person, owner or occupant (including a tenant or lessee):

(1) parking, placing or leaving an abandoned or junk motor vehicle on any public highway, street, alley or other public property within the Township for a period longer than 72 consecutive hours; or

(2) parking, placing or leaving an abandoned motor vehicle or junk motor vehicle on any private tract of land within the Township for a period longer than 30 consecutive days unless such abandoned motor vehicle or junk motor vehicle is stored in an enclosed building.

C. A person who owns or occupies, or who has charge, care, or control of, any real estate in the Township:

(1) Failing to keep the grass on real estate cut so that it at no time exceeds eight inches in height.

(2) Failing to keep the grounds or premises of the real estate at all times free of harmful vegetation; or

(3) Failing to keep hedges, bushes or vines inside the property line of the real estate and not permit them to extend onto the sidewalk or the public road. For purposes of this subsection (C), the term "Grass" shall not be deemed to mean or to include that kind of herbage which is grown for a proper or lawful agricultural use of the real estate. For example, the word "grass" does not mean herbage grown for feed or browse for grazing livestock or herbage grown for hay or silage on real estate where agricultural use is lawful.

D. A person who owns or occupies, or who has charge, care, or control of any real estate and any structures thereon in the Township to permit either by action, or by inaction, the infestation of the real estate and the structures thereon, or any part thereof, by insects and/or rodents.

All such persons shall have a duty of pest elimination to control and eliminate any infestation by insects or rodents of the real estate and the structures thereon, or any part thereof.

E. A person to obstruct any public road or commit any nuisance thereon by felling trees, making fences, turning the road, diverting water onto or in any other way and who does not, on notice given by the Board of Supervisors, immediately remove the obstruction or nuisance and repair the damages, if any, done to the road. It shall specifically be a violation of this provision to permit trees on or along real estate to have untrimmed branches within the public right-of-way, including sidewalks, to endanger pedestrians as well as motorists and/or to extend lower than seven feet above the surface of the ground, or to obstruct the view of motorists or to obstruct street or traffic lights.



Community News



Don't forget to sign up for the Township Notification System. This call and/or text notification system is a quick way to keep residents informed of Township Wide Urgent News.

Call or Email the Township Office to get registered.

Phone: (814) 349-8193 or Email: hainestownship@verizon.net

***Indicate how you would like to be notified:**

Phone Call, Text, or Both.

News from ACC - AARONSBURG CIVIC CLUB



Greetings from your friends at ACC! Thanks to all of our past and present members and volunteers! Your dedication and contributions make a difference in our community!

Thursdays March 27 - May 29 from 3:30-5:30PM is our Free Adventures in Art with Abby Spring Session! Check out aaronsburgcc.org for more information, and our Spring 2025 Member Flyer, and information about reserving the building for your next family party or reunion.

Thank you for your support! Andrea Vonada, President ACC



Real Estate Tax Collector: Andrea L. Vonada
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 101, Aaronsburg, PA 16820
Street Address: 129 N Rachels Way, Aaronsburg, PA 16820
Phone: 814-531-8085
Email: a.vonada@hotmail.com

Spring has arrived, and it's time to check your County/Municipal real estate tax bills!

The bills were mailed Feb. 28th. Did you notice they look different? They are printed on a cardstock-weight paper and have perforations on three sides for you to tear open. Each bill is mailed separately. If you did not receive your bill(s), please call me at the number on the bill, and also noted below.

While they look different, the same information is included on the bills as in prior years. REMINDER: You will receive a 2% discount if your payment is received by April 30th! Make sure to pay the correct amount based on the date you pay the bill. We appreciate your prompt payments! Questions? Visit the Township website Tax Collectors page at <https://hainestwp.org/township-government/tax-collector/> for more information or call 814-531-8085. Wishing you a wonderful spring!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS - OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2025

SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM & SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM

To become a Festival Volunteer, Sponsor, or register as a Vendor/Youth Vendor.

Contact: Kimberly Claar at 814-349-8193 or kclaar.hainestwp@gmail.com

or go to our website: <https://hainestwp.org/dutch-fall-festival/>

As we approach the 50th year of the Dutch Fall Festival in 2026, this milestone would not be possible without the generosity of our family of supporters. We invite you to partner with us by becoming a sponsor of this year's festival.

You are investing in our renewed commitment to grow and improve the festival and to create memorable experiences.

Together, we'll continue to celebrate the rich heritage that unites us, honor its original history with more demonstrations of PA Dutch traditions, and showcase the beauty of our community and our valley. All sponsors will be added to a leaf on our "NEW" Festival Family Recognition Tree! Individuals and Businesses can scan the QR code to give securely online.

Thank you for reading!



HAINES TOWNSHIP OFFICE	814-349-8193
Email: hainestownship@verizon.net Facebook: Haines Township Website: hainestwp.org	337 E. Aaron Square PO Box 244, Aaronsburg, PA 16820

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