



Town Hall – 301 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1999 • Roger F. Van Loan, Chief of Police  
Phone 570-784-6779 • Fax 570-784-4821 • www.bloomspd.com

## Summer 2016

### Dear Bloomsburg University Student, Parents, Family & Friends:

On behalf of Mayor, Sandy Davis and the Bloomsburg Code Enforcement Office, I would like to welcome you to the Town of Bloomsburg. Your decision to further your education at Bloomsburg University provides an opportunity for you to become a member of our community and accept a role in helping to make your stay in Bloomsburg a satisfying and memorable experience.

Most Bloomsburg university students are responsible neighbors who contribute to the community. History has shown, however, that some students engage in inappropriate behavior that would certainly not be acceptable in their hometown, and likewise is not appropriate in Bloomsburg. Alcohol consumption and binge drinking can seriously affect your academic pursuits and may be a serious threat to the health and safety of university students.

If your conduct or the conduct of your guests does not conform to the values of your own hometown, your conduct will likely not be acceptable in Bloomsburg. Should you decide to host or participate in a party at an off-campus residence, be aware that the responsibility and consequences are significant. You must keep noise levels down in residential areas and as the party host, you are liable for those attending your parties.

Large parties generate noise. Police responding to these types of disruptive conduct complaints may generate a “**disruptive conduct report**” that is forwarded to Bloomsburg University officials, town Code Enforcement officials, the property owner and your parents. Repeated complaints of disruptive conduct could result in the loss of your landlord's rental license. The loss of a Landlord's rental license will result in the immediate eviction of the residents living at the affected property and possible civil action against the tenants for financial recovery. Likewise, excessive calls for police services could result in a billing to the person or persons responsible for creating a disturbance. Compliance with all aspects of your lease is your responsibility.

In Pennsylvania, those under 21 years of age are **not** permitted to drink alcoholic beverages. Bloomsburg Police follow a zero tolerance policy on alcohol violations and aggressively enforce laws regulating open containers of alcohol, DUI, public drunkenness, fake IDs and underage alcohol violations. Police officers will not plea negotiate any alcohol related offenses to a lesser offense. Persons 21 and older who choose to consume alcohol must do so responsibly. The town has an Open Container Ordinance; Permits for Large Outdoor Social Gatherings where alcohol is present are also required.

Annually for many years, an unsanctioned – outdoor event called “**Block Party**” has taken place in April. The event attracts students from across Pennsylvania. This event has been problematic for the town. Significant arrests, injuries, damage, and litter occurs during the event creating a great deal of tension between students and town residents. Please talk to your son or daughter before they decide to attend this type of event. Poor decisions enhanced by excessive alcohol consumption are often captured on video and could be career ending, not to mention embarrassing for a lifetime.

Parking is strictly enforced. Unpaid parking tickets can accumulate fines and fees, resulting in the impounding of your vehicle. Arrest warrants are issued by the District Justice for unpaid parking fines. Street sweeping, fall leaf collections and snow removal require vehicles to be moved during the week. Parking permits and their fee schedules can be obtained at the police department and on both the town and university's websites. Parking tickets can be paid online via the police department's website as well: [www.bloommpd.com](http://www.bloommpd.com).

The town's code enforcement staff conducts inspections, announced and unannounced, and issues licenses for all dwellings in which two or more unrelated students reside. Inspection reports and licenses are issued to the property owner and must be posted within the dwelling. If you break something or if something is not working properly, contact the landlord in writing. If your landlord does not respond, call the code office at (570) 784-7123 ext. 115. Code staff can assist in having the landlord fix the problem.

Property owners are required to install smoke detectors and the tenant must be sure the smoke detectors are working at all times. Disabling or tampering with a smoke detector is a violation of the town's smoke detector ordinance and could result in \$1,000 fine that may be imposed upon all tenants. Code enforcement officials will file citations against all tenants living in a dwelling unit which has a smoke detector that has been tampered with. The town has an ordinance **requiring** persons to evacuate upon activation of a smoke, heat or fire alarm; failure to do so can endanger your life or, at the very least result in a citation being issued for failure to evacuate the premises.

Bloomsburg has a solid waste ordinance, which states that all solid waste and recycling must be placed into containers to be recycled or hauled to a sanitary landfill. Part of the ordinance requires landlords to provide containers for trash and recycling; another part requires the residents of the house to place the trash and recyclables into containers with tight fitting lids. It is necessary for students to discuss with their landlord who will be responsible to arrange for trash removal as this is not a service provided by the town. Placing garbage, trash, rubbish, etc. into other containers without authorization is a crime – you can be prosecuted. A good rule of thumb is to pick up trash and recyclables as soon as the party is over or first thing in the morning, before the code officers start work at 8 a.m.

**Parents** – discuss the information contained in this letter with your son or daughter prior to their arrival in Bloomsburg. Parental involvement and concern can be a significant factor in helping avoid many problems, which may be encountered without proper guidance. Conduct and behavior that is respectful and considerate of neighbors can lead to new friends and relationships that may last a lifetime.

Lastly, should you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, you are welcome to contact Bloomsburg Police or Code Enforcement located in Town Hall, 301E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Your membership into a new community is most welcomed and your cooperation will help make your learning experience both pleasant and gratifying.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Van Loan  
Chief of Police