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Right-of-Way Excavation (utility work) January, 2026

In May 2025, Liberty Township implemented a Right-of-Way (ROW) Excavation Permit process. Any contractor performing work within the Township ROW must submit an application and project plans before work begins. This typically applies to utility work such as fiber-optic, gas, electric, or cable installation or maintenance.

Applications must include the exact location and dimensions of the excavation, details of any bore holes, equipment to be used or left on-site, and a list of all contractors with contact information. Permits are valid for one year.

Liberty Township requires a bond from each utility or contractor, which may be used to cover repairs if the ROW is damaged.

All applications and plans are reviewed by the Township's engineering firm. The engineer works with utilities and contractors to ensure work is limited to what is necessary and that equipment is placed in the least invasive manner possible. In most cases, ROW projects require minimal permanent equipment, such as a manhole or utility box.

The Township's authority is limited to work within the public ROW. It cannot regulate or review work within utility easements or on private property, nor can it prohibit or restrict permitted utility work within the ROW.

Township officials recognize the challenges residents face, including flagged or disturbed yards, equipment placed on properties, and difficulty contacting contractors about damage. While this permit process does not resolve all concerns related to utility work, it is the maximum level of oversight the Township is legally permitted to provide.

For more information, please contact:

Cathy Buehrer
Township Administrator
Liberty Township
740.938.2004