

A PUBLICATION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND

The Pineknottter News

Remember Being A Kid?

Have you recently traveled back through the sometimes cob web filled confines of your memory and thought about what it was like when you grew up? In this hectic life we live we sometimes forget what it was like to be a kid. We make the things in life seem so important that we don't really take the time and as they say, stop and smell the roses. Take a moment and think back to those days when the most important things in life was who you were going to have to your house for a sleep-over and your only responsibilities were cleaning your room or doing your homework.

When I recently thought about my childhood memories growing up here in the Susquehanna Valley, some 15 to 25 years ago, I recall that there seemed to be very little to do, compared to today. The Susquehanna Valley Mall had just opened and Atari was the thing every kid had to have, including myself. Things that were available to do around here in Northumberland (which, I admit, wasn't a lot)

was provided for by people we didn't even know.

I remember going to the Liberty Pool in the first few years it was opened back in the mid-1970's. It was packed. I mean really packed. Friends, family, everyone from the borough seemed to be there. Of course, this was before 'everyone' had a backyard pool, and before the days of roller-blading and the like.

The pool, it seems, was the 'in' place to be, thanks to a community and group of volunteers that were dedicated in making it a success. That was then.

As time went on, however, fads came and went just as quickly it seems as clothing styles changed and changed again. Wal-Mart has replaced smaller shops in the area and today, you can put your own pool in the backyard for as little as \$200 (or \$200 a month, depending on its size). Bikes have changed too and today, everything seems to have an "X"

(Continued on page 6)

What is Emergency Management?

EMERGENCY is defined as any event which threatens to, or actually does, inflict damage to property or people. Large disasters can range from hurricanes and floods, to explosions and toxic chemical releases.

MANAGEMENT is defined as the coordination of an organized effort to attain specific goals or objectives in emergency management.

MANAGEMENT means an organized effort to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from an emergency.

An emergency can happen at any time.

As the Emergency Management Director of the Borough of Northumberland, I'm responsible for developing and maintaining

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Did You Know? News to Know	Page 2
From The President: Personal Agendas Need Not Apply	Page 3
New Sidewalk Rules and Regulations	Page 4-5
Pineknottter Days 2002— Taking Shape	Back Page

Upcoming Borough Council

Meetings—7 p.m.

May 7, 21

June 4, 18

July 16

(All meetings are in the Borough Office)

Did You Know?

Liberty Pool Association Reborn, Needs Volunteers

The Borough is currently seeking volunteers to serve on the Liberty Pool Association. Created in the mid-1970s to help implement the then-new Liberty Pool, the organization has been dormant in recent years. However, with the proposed pool enhancement plans (see page 1) in the works, community input is desired. Contact the borough office for details on joining this organization!

Pavilions Available for Rent

Pineknotted Park and Liberty Hollow pavilions may be reserved by contacting the Borough Office at 473-3414. The rental for Pineknotted Park pavilion is \$50 per day and requires a \$50 refundable deposit. Liberty Hollow pavilion is rented for \$25 per day with a \$25 refundable deposit. These areas are perfect for family picnics and reunions.

2002 Pool Fees Set

Season passes for the Liberty Pool have been set at \$75 for an individual (adult or child) or \$150 for a family. The daily rates remain \$3.00 for adults, and \$1.50 for children. These daily rates drop by half after 4 p.m. Season passes are available in the Borough Office.

Your Ad Here!

Businesses can purchase ads in this newsletter at a yearly rate (4 issues) of \$100 for a 1/4 page ad. An ad in two issues in any year is \$60 total. Our per issue rate is \$35.

Community Calendar Online

Free listings of your community event can be added to our community calendar online FREE OF CHARGE. Just go to <http://www.northumberlandborough.com> for more details.

What is Emergency Management?

(Continued from page 1)

the emergency management plans and programs, plus know the threats to the community, plan for emergencies, operate effectively, and conduct recovery operations. I'm also responsible for coordinating all the necessary activities to ensure effective operation of the emergency management system.

In order to help protect the residents of Northumberland in an emergency, I'm asking for your assistance. If you know of someone, or you yourself have a special need, such as a loss of hearing, are legally blind, physically disabled, and/or need to use special equipment, such as a lift van, wheelchair, walker, guide dog, or a respirator, please complete the attached form and send it to the Borough Office. This information will be helpful if your area would have to be evacuated. As director, I would know what resources we would need in case of an emergency.

Herbert W. Gottshall, Jr.

Northumberland Borough Emergency Management Director

Special Needs Form

NAME: _____

PHONE NO. _____

ADDRESS: _____

SPECIAL NEED: _____

From The President of Northumberland Borough Council

Some thoughts...

A community center in the making

Hats go off to members of our Second Street Community Center committee. Through continued hard work (and a lot of patience), this borough will, in the not-so-distant future, have itself a community center that citizens of all age groups can use and be proud of. For those that remember what happened to the Steele School, be rest assured that as long as we keep our eyes on the ball, the Second Street project will in fact, become a reality. More specific information regarding this project will be available soon and most likely be published in a future issue of *The Pineknoller News*.

Betterment of the Community over Personal Agendas

Northumberland is in many ways not much different than other small communities in Pennsylvania. Close knit, family-oriented, quaint and struggling with big-city problems such as congestion, crime and cleanliness and the like. Unlike larger areas, however, we aren't able to deal with these problems with a large tax-base or expensive city planners or coordinators. Our borough, like so many others, requires volunteers to run and operate it and think towards its future. And, in thinking about the future, we are always called upon to make tough choices.

I am one of seven volunteers that sit on your council. Along with your mayor (who has elected to forgo her salary at the end of this year to provide for other borough uses), and the countless number of people serving on borough committees, boards and commissions, we are constantly being asked to make choices that will affect our fellow Pineknotters. As with any choice, what one thinks might be different than the person sitting next to you. But that is okay, as long as these choices are made based on the notation of what we feel is best for the borough as a whole. I call it the 'gut' approach. If it feels right 'in the gut', you have to go with it and make that choice, even if that choice comes with criticism or is not unanimous. As long as choices for the borough are made based on what we feel is best for the betterment of the borough, that is all one can ask of its volunteers! Too many times, however, decisions or opinions are made for the wrong reasons, which is unfortunate. No decision, no matter how small, should be based on personal agendas or anything like that. When that occurs, you risk going down a path that benefits no one.

One always needs to remember that volunteering is an act in helping others, and not one to help or advance oneself.

Until next time, Happy Spring!

Bryan M. Wolfe

May Primary Election Set

The General Primary will be held on Tuesday, May 21st from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The last day to register to vote is April 22, 2002.

Northumberland residents can vote at the following locations:

Ward 1—At the Borough Hall

Ward 2—At the Girl Scout House

Ward 3—At the Kiwanis Building

This year's General election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5.



Community Center Donations Asked For

The Second Street Community Center committee, with support from Borough Council, has established a bank account at Northumberland National Bank for the Second Street Community and Municipal Center Renovation Project. The committee is looking to solicit donations from persons and businesses alike to make this project become a reality. Since the borough council is committee to funding this project without the use of taxpayer monies, tax-deductible contributions are vitally needed to make this project a success.

If you are interested in donating your money or time to the project or just have some questions, please contact Larry Redington in the borough office for more information.

Remember to Recycle—It's free for you and good for the community!

The Borough reminds you that members of our street crew collect recyclable materials from borough residents FREE-OF-CHARGE the first Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. Simply place your recyclables outside near the curb on the morning of these pickups.

Upcoming pickup days are:

- May 6, 7, 8
- June 3, 4, 5
- July 1, 2, 3

Unsure if something is recyclable in the borough? Call the office for more information.

New Sidewalk Rules and Regulations Enacted

The Borough of Northumberland recently enacted new sidewalk rules and regulations affecting most areas of the borough. These new rules have been enacted in the hopes of bettering the look and most importantly improving the safety of members of our community. If anyone has any questions about these rules, please do not hesitate in contacting the borough office at 473-3414.

Chapter 50 of the borough code now states as follows:

Technical requirements for sidewalk construction.

1. All sidewalks shall be at least five (5) feet or the width of any abutting sidewalk and at least four (4) inches thick. The thickness where a sidewalk crosses a driveway shall be at least six (6) inches thick.
2. Except as provided in Section 3, all sidewalks shall be constructed of concrete, 3500# type. No design shall be etched into the concrete and all sections shall have a light broomed finish. No sidewalks shall be constructed or replaced with slate or blacktop or other asphalt mixture.
3. Concrete sidewalks must extend through a driveway area at the established grade of the adjoining sidewalks.
4. The surface of the sidewalk shall have the transverse slope of one-quarter inch per foot, with a low side adjacent to the roadway, and shall not exceed a grade slope of one-half inch to the foot and shall contain no steps.
5. All sidewalks shall be placed in an excavation made to the required depth and to a width to permit the installation of bracing of forms. The sub grade shall be shaped and compacted to a firm surface conforming to the established grade. The sub grade shall be filled with four (4) inches of clean $\frac{3}{4}$ inch

stone. All forms shall be of wood or metal and extend for the full depth of the concrete and of sufficient strength to resist the pressure of the concrete without springing.

6. Sidewalks shall have a 5 x 5 w2 1xw2.1 steel mesh located 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top of the concrete for reinforcement.
7. Sidewalks shall have expansion joint fillers $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick at a maximum of every twenty (20) feet and between the walk and any fixed structures.

Sidewalk replacement standards.

1. Any sidewalk section has more than one significant crack.
2. Any sidewalk which has one significant crack and one of the pieces on either side of the crack has risen or fallen one (1) inch or more than any of the adjoining sidewalk sections. Said sidewalk may also be repaired provided the sections in question are within one (1) inch of finished grade of the adjoining sidewalk sections.
3. Any section of sidewalk, which has risen or fallen one (1) inch or more above or below an adjoining sidewalk section or curb. Said sidewalk may also be repaired provided the sections in question are within one (1) inch of finished grade of the adjoining sections.
4. Any section of sidewalk which has spider-webbed cracks such that the crack pieces can be removed.
5. Any section which has surface deterioration enabling pieces to be removed.
6. Any sidewalks made of slate, subject to the right to request an exception under Section F.
7. Any sidewalks made of brick, subject to the right to require an exception under Section F.



8. Any sidewalk which has flush edges but have risen or fallen by one (1) inch or more over a twelve (12) inch span.

Exceptions for unique property conditions, unique design requirements and hardship.

The Council recognizes that some properties may not be appropriate for the application of the uniform sidewalk specifications set forth due to unique topographic conditions, drainage problems, special design and architectural conditions, including but not limited to the desire to install historically correct sidewalks (brick, cobblestone, or slate) or other conditions which would render the application of Section B a severe hardship upon the property owner. If a property owner believes that he or she should be granted an exception from the application of this Code, then he or she shall submit a written application to council with supporting evidence and Council shall upon voice vote grant or deny the request for exception. A negative vote shall be considered a final action of the local government agency and may be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas with thirty (30) days.

Streets On Which Sidewalks Are Required

As passed by Resolution B-2002, the following are the streets on which sidewalks are required.

Water Street from Barry King Memorial Bridge to C Street. Both sides.

Front Street from Duke Street to C Street. Both sides.

Second Street from Duke Street to Prince Street. Both sides.

Third Street from Duke Street to Prince Street. Both sides.

Fourth Street from Duke Street to Hanover Street. Both sides.

Fifth Street from Duke Street to Strawbridge Road. Both sides. Exception: Prince Street to Strawbridge Road even numbered side.

Sixth Street from Duke Street to Prince Street. Both sides.

Seventh Street from Duke Street to Prince Street. Both sides.

Eighth Street from Duke

Street to Orange Street. Exception: Along the curve going from the stop sign at Eighth Street and Orange Street to Jolly Hollow.

Duke Street from Seventh Street to Water Street. Both sides.

Queen Street from Eighth Street to Priestley Avenue. Both sides.

King Street from Eighth Street to Priestley Avenue. Both sides.

Orange Street from Seventh Street to Priestley Avenue. Both sides.

Hanover Street from Seventh Street to Priestley Avenue. Both sides.

Prince Street from Seventh Street to Front Street. Both sides. Exception: Washington Avenue to Front Street (east side). Second Street to Front Street (west side).

Wheatley Avenue from Seventh Street to Sixth Street. Both sides.

Wallace Street from Seventh

Street to Pond Avenue.

North Avenue from Seventh Street to Pond Avenue.

Priestley Avenue from Queen Street to Hanover Street.

Property owners may obtain exclusions by petitioning Borough Council on the basis of impracticality due to building placement or where the contour of the land so inhibits the installation of a sidewalk.

This code applies to all existing sidewalks in the Borough. No existing sidewalk may be removed even if not included in the required sidewalks list.

Note: Citizens who feel that they deserve an exemption of these rules may solicit the borough accordingly. Exemption forms are available in the borough office.



Remember Being A Kid?

(Continued from page 1)

attached as in "x" for extreme.

You know times change and so do things, but the one thing that hasn't changed is the feeling kids have about the things there are to do ...or the lack thereof. I think the most common thing said in my house is 'What is there to do?' I'm sure it is a question in your house too, right?

Unfortunately all of these changes have worn away the vitality of our community pool, which most would say is neither extreme or in style any longer. Today's attendance is scant versus what it was twenty years ago. What has happened to Liberty Pool isn't any different that what is happening all over the country: the typical community pool concept just isn't working anymore.

Having done some research about community pools and their continual demise I found out what other communities are doing to turn around a pools' lack of use and expense. What has changed since the 1970s is the entertainment value. Years ago, people couldn't put up a pool in their yard for a few hundred dollars. They can now. People want to be entertained, and they aren't getting that currently at the pool.

The exciting thing I found out about community swimming pools and where they are going is that we have potential to once again have a property which can serve the people. Not only serve us in the borough, but also the communities surrounding us. To achieve this, of course, will require a lot of time and investment, which Borough Council is fully supportive, having recently approved having a market-

ing and economics feasibility study done by one of the leading firms in the country. That study concluded that the Liberty Pool property is conducive for the establishment of a family aquatic center .

A family aquatic center is basically a mini water park with waterslides (the really big ones), possibly a lazy river, and a children's aquatic playground. I'm not talking about a Dorney park, Wildwater Kingdom or an Oppenheimer playground. An aquatic center is something completely different.

The Borough council has approved a water park developer to formulate the conceptual design for the park. This is not an architect but an actual Water park Engineering Firm with great credentials. This will tell us how the existing property should best be modified into an aquatic park. This study will be completed soon and will be revealed to the entire surrounding area at a big party at the pool on Thursday, June 6.

This idea is not revolutionary and has been established in many communities. However, to the best of my knowledge there is not one family aquatic center in Pennsylvania, so we would be the first. This is a very exciting prospect and would put Northumberland on the map. The great thing is this can actually become a revenue producer for the Borough and it is hoped that excess monies from the wa-

ter park would help to pave streets and such. It is a great thing to imagine people coming from 25 miles away to enjoy our water park, see our borough, and increase patronage to our local businesses. Ultimately, this would help to improve our community. While the specifics of our aquatic center will not be fully implemented for a number of years, modest changes are already scheduled to be finished for this year.

Among the changes for this year: the inclusion of Aquatic exercise classes to our list of programs, a renovated concessions area, a sand volleyball court and a new children's water feature called The Dump Tower!

To achieve these goals (like with everything else), we need volunteers to help out and we are looking for sponsors for the purchase of equipment and furniture. We currently have \$3,000 committed from the borough for equipment upgrades and approximately \$2,400 in material donations for the Dump Tower.

Just as 25 years ago, this project will only succeed with the help of volunteers and corporate sponsorship. As such, the Borough has reinstated the long-dormant Liberty Pool Association and is looking for people to once again serve to give the kids of all ages a great place to be entertained. So if you have some time to give, please call the Borough office for more information.

Thanks for your support, Greg Carl

Pool Work Sessions Announced

There will be work sessions at the Liberty Pool on Saturday, April 6th from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 7th from 1 to 5 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

Pineknotted Park Update

Work continues on the rehabilitation of Pineknotted Park's athletic field and adjacent facilities. Borough residents may recall that the Borough was required to address issues involving the former landfill which required that the former baseball field be disturbed to complete that work.

The Borough received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to assist with the rehabilitation and improvements to the Park. This grant proposal was recently featured in the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs Grant newsletter.

This project has the support of many volunteers who are working very hard to rehabilitate the Park. It our goal to make the athletic field one of the premier baseball facilities in the region. The plans include the addition of lights so that the facility may be used even more and would include tournament play.

Police Accreditation Sought

The Northumberland Police Department is currently involved with the in-depth and exhaustive project of Police Department accreditation. Accreditation would signify that the Northumberland Police Department adheres to the highest standards set forth for law enforcement agencies.

The accreditation process was started under former Mayor Wendell Wetzel and embraced by newly elected Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius as a means for the Police Department to better serve the residents of Northumberland. The Northumberland Police Department would be one of the first municipal police agencies in central Pennsylvania to achieve accredited status.

Work Progresses on Second Street Community Center Project

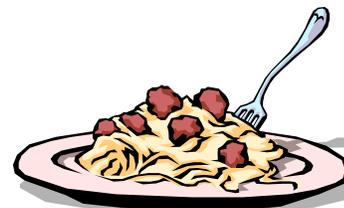
The Second Street Community Center committee continues to do its task of strategic planning for the conversion of the former Second Street Elementary School to a community center / municipal complex. The Committee's market research indicate that there is a strong desire for a community center in the Borough. Final plans for the building have not yet been finalized. The committee, chaired by Northumberland Police Chief Larry Redington, has been occupied with seeking funding for the project.

The Committee, on behalf of the Borough, has applied for grant funding to assist in the project. The Committee also is planning a capital campaign as part of the fund raising effort. Borough residents are asked to watch for the capital campaign when announced and to support the development of the Second Street Community Center.

Borough residents may have noticed that a portion of the building was fitted with a new roof. It was found that the roof over that part of the building was beyond repair and a new roof system was required to stabilize the building. A new roof over the remaining part of the building is another priority challenging the Committee. A new heating system for the building is at the top of the list of things to be addressed as well.

Spaghetti Dinner

To benefit the Second Street Community and Municipal Center Renovation Project



The Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner with the proceeds going to benefit the Second Street Community and Municipal Center Renovation Project.

Time: April 6, 4:00 to 7:00;
Place: Kiwanis Building, Prince St.;
Price: Adults - \$5.00, Children 6-12 - \$3.00, Under age 6 free.

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News From and For Your Community

Serving the Borough Gretchen H. Brosius, Mayor
Northumberland Borough Council Bryan M. Wolfe, President Charles "Bud" Ditton, Vice President Greg Carl, Chairman Pro-Tem Paul J. Bowersox Judith H. Groninger Gregory S. Shaffer Donald Troxell
Lawrence E. Redington, Police Chief Josh Newbury, Fire Chief Paul J. Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer James L. Best, Solicitor Lee Shaffer, Health Officer

Pineknotters' Days '02 Information Released

Plans are underway for Pineknotters' Days 2002. The annual event will run from June 29 to July 6, 2002. At this time, the nightly entertainment schedule is:

Monday, July 1 – Re-Creation;

Tuesday, July 2 – (not yet determined);

Wednesday, July 3 – The Lucky Afternoon Band;

Thursday, July 4 – True Heart;

Friday, July 5 – The Mudflaps.

The Craft Show will be held on July 4. A Soccer Tournament, sponsored by the AYSO and the Harrisburg Heat is scheduled for July 6th. The Soapbox Derby, sponsored by Northumberland Parks & Recreation Committee and the Northumberland Police Department, will also be held, date to be announced.