

The Borough of Northumberland, Pennsylvania



The Pineknoller News

WINTER 2003

The Heart of the Pennsylvania Susquehanna Valley

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Serving The Borough

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Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor

Lawrence E. Redington, Police Chief

Josh Newbury, Fire Chief

Paul J. Ruane, Code Enforcement
Officer

James E. Tamecki, Assistant Code
Enforcement Officer

Lee Shaffer, Health Officer

Borough Office—473-3414

Police Department—473-8446

Fax Machine—473-3986

Web site—

northumberlandborough.com



Second Street Committee Looks to '03

The Northumberland Borough Council has appointed a standing committee to plan and provide guidance to the Borough for the development of the former Second Street School into a Community Center. The Committee meets the first and third Monday of the month at the Borough Building, 221 Second Street at 7:00 PM.

A grant was obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Some of the funds went towards the purchase of the property from the Shikellamy School District. Funds from this grant were also combined with Borough revenues and went towards replacement of sections of the building's roof which were in critical condition.

The Borough has engaged the services of the Sunbury architectural firm Wolfe & Associates to develop conceptual drawings and blue prints for the building. The Second Street Community Center Committee and the Borough of Northumberland has applied for a critically needed second grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for construction funds. The grant request appears in the state budget, however, the release of the funds has not yet been authorized.

The Second Street Community Center Committee urges all Borough residents to contact our local Pennsylvania Legislators and request that the Legislators sup-

port the releasing of this grant money to the Community Center project. They are:

State Senator 27th District

Edward W. Helfrick

Shamokin Dam

Municipal Building

PO Box 456

Shamokin Dam, PA 17876

(570) 743-1918

State Representative 108th District

Merle H. Phillips

106 Arch Street

Sunbury, PA 17801

(570) 286-5885

The Committee also reports that a Capital Campaign is in the planning stage for the purpose of further raising funds towards making the Second Street Community Center a reality.

Upcoming Curbside Recycling Dates

February 3, 4, 5

March 3, 4, 5

April 7, 8, 9

Borough Meeting Schedule

FEBRUARY

3—Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m. (Monday)
18-Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

MARCH

4—Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
18-Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

APRIL

1—Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
15-Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

BOROUGH BUILDING CLOSED

The borough building will be closed on February 17th for the President’s Day holiday. In addition, we will be closed on April 19th for Good Friday.

Note:

All meetings are held in the borough office at 221 2nd Street unless otherwise noted. These dates are correct at time of publication. Any changes to these dates will be announced via an announcement in The Daily Item and on our web site.

Sidewalk Beautification Plan Update

While snow has been center-most on our minds recently, it isn’t too early to begin thinking about the upcoming summer months and continued Sidewalk Beautification Plan going on in the Borough.

Property owners that require repaired, replacement or new sidewalks in the 2nd Voting Ward (those voting at the Girl Scout house) have until October 31st to complete this work, or face fines as passed by Borough Council. Last fall, the Borough’s Code Enforcement Office issued a blanket extension for all properties in the 2nd Voting Ward, through the October date.

For properties located in the 3rd Voting Ward (those voting at the Kiwanis Building), October 31st is also the deadline. However, for these property owners requests for exemptions and one-year extensions are now being accepted through July 1st. After extensions, the 3rd Voting Ward deadline is October 31, 2004.

Finally, for properties located in the 1st Voting Ward (those voting at the Borough Building), October 31, 2004 is your deadline, with exemption and one-year extension requests being taken through July 1, 2004. After extensions, the 1st Voting Ward deadline is October 31, 2005.

Please refer any questions to the Borough Office concerning this ongoing project.

Those property owners that fail to comply with the beautification requirements will face penalties up-to and including the Borough’s cost of repairing, replacing or installing sidewalks in front of ones property, plus any administrative costs associated with this act.

Technical requirements and sidewalk replacement standards are available in the Borough Office for your review. Quotes and estimates solicited from area contractors are also available in the office.

Advertising
(added at publishers)

2003 Budget At a Glance

The Northumberland Borough Council recently approved a \$1.044 million budget for the 2003 calendar year, which includes a 3-mill real estate tax increase for this year. Among the factors contributing to the increase: an increase in employee health care costs, increased payments to pay-down the Borough's debt service, as well as an overall increase in salaries for union employees.

The budget, which is seven percent higher than that of 2002 is a public document and is available in the Borough office or on our website for your review.



Where Does My Money Go?

Real Estate taxes and the Earned Income Tax generate 64 percent of the income needed to pay for this budget. Among the items included in the budget is \$346,000 for police protection (which includes everything from police salaries to vehicle maintenance) and \$308,000 to cover our street and utilities expenses. *No amount of this budget covers the costs associated with upgrading the Second Street building or the Liberty Splashland project.*

One mill of tax in the Borough generates less than \$14,000 in revenue. The average Northumberland homeowner should expect to pay an additional \$30 in real estate tax this year due to the increase. This number is lower than increases passed by the municipalities of Point Township, Selinsgrove and Lewisburg.

Total Expenses

- Administrative, \$122,711
- Police, \$346,528
- Fire Co. *, \$45,949
- Code Officer, \$15,550
- EMA, \$740
- Property, \$10,660
- Health Depart., \$1,150
- Recycling, \$4,300
- Streets/Utilities, \$308,182
- Debt Service*, \$85,949
- Parks/Recreation, \$20,475
- Second Street Community Center, \$600
- Insurances, \$80,847
- Contributions/Donations, \$1,317

Total Expenses

\$ 1,044,958

* includes 2002 monies

Total Income

- REAL ESTATE, \$374,686
- OPT, \$12,450
- PER CAPITA, \$13,300
- TRANSFER TAX, \$ 22,500
- EARNED INCOME TAX, \$287,015
- SPECIAL ROAD FUND, \$ 71,661
- DEBT SERVICE, \$ 40,949
- RECREATION TAX, \$20,475
- Fees Collected, \$44,973
- Miscellaneous Revenues, \$91,650
- Transfers, \$65,299

Income (includes all 2002 transfers)

\$ 1,044,958

PennDOT Winter Services Guide

Note: The following questions and answers come from PennDOT's web site located at <http://www.dot.state.pa.us>.

Q. What does PennDOT put on slippery roads in the winter?

A. Salt, anti-skid, or a combination of these are applied to roadways during snow and ice removal operations. Anti-skid is a natural or man-made aggregate material such as sand, fine stone or manufacturing by-product. Salt helps to melt the snow or ice and the anti-skid provides for traction. The amount of material on the roadway depends on type of road, type and duration of storm, and temperature. Additional pre-treating and anti-icing materials including magnesium chloride and liquid calcium chloride are currently being evaluated on interstates and a few other high priority roads in the region.

Q. What is a safe distance to follow behind a truck plowing snow?

A. The normal safe following distance between two vehicles (2-second rule) should be doubled during inclement weather. When following a truck, your headlights should be on low beam. Remember every truck has blind spots. This is an area to the side and rear not visible by the driver of the vehicle; it is greater for trucks. In addition, following too closely increases your chances of loose material flying up and damaging your vehicle.

Q. Are there any "rules" for winter driving?

A. Remember this: Drive cautiously. Avoid making any sudden moves or fast turns. Avoid quick acceleration or hard braking. Slow and easy is the rule. Avoid tailgating. Drive defensively, watch the road around you and well ahead for any potential trouble. It's all for good reason~ your safety!

Q. When inclement weather hits, who to do you call concerning road conditions?

A. For current interstate road conditions throughout Pennsylvania, people can call 1-888-783-6783. For those with Internet access, statewide road conditions are available through the PennDOT Home Page (www.dot.state.pa.us/) under the heading of "Roads and Highways".

Advertising
(added at publishers)

Primary Election Set

Those interested in running for Northumberland Borough Council have until March 11th to file their nominating petitions, according to the PA Department of State. Those interested in becoming a candidate will be allowed to pick up nominating petitions at the Northumberland County Board of Elections on Market St., Sunbury after February 18th, which is the first day to circulate and file petitions. In 2003, three of the seven Council seats are up for election. All three seats are for four-year terms, with terms running through December 2007.

The primary election is set for Tuesday, May 20th. The general election is set for Tuesday, November 4th. April 21st is the final day to register to vote for the Primary election.



The Health Report by Lee Shaffer, Health Officer

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has developed a food safety certification course for non-profit organizations like churches etc. This class will offer information and training in all aspects of food safety. Whether you are a large organization or small, the information provided should help enhance your food safety knowledge. Enrollment is open to all non-profit organizations that are tax exempt under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 Public Law 99-514, 26 USC Sec 501 (c) (3).

Each year in the United States, an estimated 76 million persons contract food borne illnesses. An outbreak of food borne illness occurs when a group of people consume the same contaminated food and two or more of them come down with the same illness. It may be a group of people who do not know each other at all, but who happen to buy and eat the same contaminated item. Many outbreaks are local in nature. They are recognized when a

group of people realizes they have become ill after a common meal and someone calls a local health department. This classic outbreak might follow a catered meal or a potluck supper. These are just some of the reasons you need to take this course.

Scheduled training sessions will be set up at different locations across the Commonwealth. Information on the training schedule may be obtained several ways: Through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's website at www.pda.state.pa.us (follow "Bureau listing" to "Food Safety") or our regional office 570-433-2640.

IS YOUR DOGGIE BAG SAFE

Many of us hate to waste food. As a result, when we get more food than we can eat at our favorite restaurant, we ask to take the uneaten food home. This is a nice idea but it can also become a problem if we do not get the "carry out/doggie bag" into a refrigerator within 2 hours. The same rule

applies for all food that is not maintained at refrigerated temperatures (under 41°F). Any food left at room temperature for more than 2 hours becomes a breeding ground and incubator for bacteria. Hot foods should be held at 140°F or above and cold foods at or below 41°F. The temperature danger zone is from 41°F to 140°F. The temperature danger zone is from 41°F to 140°F. This rule applies to all meats, dairy and eggs.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANT?

You can judge how well the food establishment is run. Here are just a few hints:

Judge the general facilities. When you walk in, what are the general conditions of the restaurant environment? Use your nose. IF the place smells funny, don't or-

(Continued on page 7)

From The President of Borough Council

I love this time of year. While Northumberland seems to have been pounded as-of-late with snow and freezing rains, (and who can forget the unexpected Christmas Day snowstorm) I can't help but smile when I see a snowman gracing a property downtown or see a snowmobile drifting by on a property on the Hill Section of the Borough. Never finding the summer an enjoyable time (with its humid morning and nights), I for one enjoy these lazy days that we all call wintertime. Soon, however, the birds will be flying again in our skies, our allergies will get the best of us and that snowman will become just a happy memory. Springtime is coming and with it inevitable moments of change. And speaking of change, there is one change that I am anticipating in the coming year.

As is often the case, I like to use this column to call on my fellow citizens in Northumberland to get involved in our community. This year, three seats on your Borough Council will be available to residents willing to put in the time and energies to make our Borough the best that it can be. If you are interested in making a difference, I urge you to contact the county election office in Sunbury and take the steps necessary to run for one of these seats. If an elected position isn't something that you are interested in pursuing, but you still have time to invest in your community, contact the Borough Office and let us show you other ways of volunteering your time.

Young and old, a great change can occur this year. The change: make this the year that YOU get involved in your community like you've never been before.

Until next time,
Bryan M. Wolfe
president@northumberlandborough.com

Buy 'A Brick in Time'

In 1976 to help raise funds for the then-new Liberty Pool, members of the Liberty Pool Association sold bricks to the public to raise funds for the new bath house. These bricks—still clearly visible after 25 years—show the names of Northumberland residents, passed and present.

As the Borough, in conjunction with the revised Liberty Pool Commission, kicks off fundraising for the new Liberty Splashland, the selling of community bricks is once again in style. Plus, they make great Christmas gifts!

Personalized sidewalk bricks to be used at the new aquatic center are now available to the public. These bricks—which can be ordered in either gray or red—are available in three sizes: 4" x 8", 8" x 8" and 12" x 12".

To buy 'a brick in time' simply fill out the attached form. Mail your form and check or money order today!



Buy a Brick Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____; Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Sizes

(4 x 8 brick) - which includes 3 lines of text, 15 characters per line—\$50

Line 1— _____

Line 2— _____

Line 3— _____

(8 x 8 brick) - which includes 4 lines of text, 15 characters per line—\$100

Line 1— _____

Line 2— _____

Line 3— _____

Line 4— _____

(12 x 12 brick) - which includes 5 lines of text, 15 characters per line—\$250

Line 1— _____

Line 2— _____

Line 3— _____

Line 4— _____

Line 5— _____

Mail form and check or money order payable to: Liberty Pool Commission,
221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857. Refer questions to 570-473-
3414



Meet...Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor

There is a new face among the Borough crew and the Borough would like to welcome him aboard.

Nathan (he likes Nate) Fisher is the new Street Supervisor. Nate is a graduate of Lewisburg High School. He moved to Northumberland in 1999. Nate attended Penn College of Technology in Williamsport for carpentry and recently worked for Hepco Construction as a carpenter.

The snow is no problem for Nate. He really enjoys the outdoors and deer hunting. In his spare time, you will see Nate at the No. 1's working on the equipment or taking care of the building. He is also the First Lieutenant there.

Nate recently married the former Kelly Spigelmeyer who is a Police Officer for the Borough.

Nate is a real go-getter and likes to be involved with Borough activities. When you see Nate, give him a welcome because he is there to help with your recycling, snow plowing, leaf pick-up and maintenance of all Borough property. He's doing a great job. Thanks, Nate.

Northumberland Police Department From The Beat: A Citizen's Guide

Summary of Police Department Activities for 2002

Chief of Police Lawrence E. Redington reported the following summary of activities by the Northumberland Police Department for the 2002. The Department answered 4,547 calls for service in 2002. This number represents a 62.9 percent increase in call for service volume as compared to 1996 figures (2,860). Of the calls for service in 2002, 798 pertained to criminal events reflecting a 17.5 percent total of all the calls received. In 2002, officers of the Northumberland Police Department recorded 446 criminal arrests, 98 criminal warnings, 481 traffic arrests, 241 traffic warnings and issued 2,375 parking tickets. A total of 34,948 patrol miles were re-

corded consuming 3,301.5 gallons of gasoline. For the year 2002, 96.2 percent of the matters brought to the attention of the Police Department were cleared.

Police Department canine (K-9) to retire

The Northumberland Police Department regrettably announces the retirement of the Northumberland Police Department's drug canine Chewbacka ("Chewy"). "Chewy" has served with the Police Department since 1993. Prior to his retirement "Chewy" was the only remaining active service drug detection dog affiliated with the Northumberland / Montour County Drug Task Force. During his years of service, "Chewy" proved to be a valuable asset in the fight against illegal drug trafficking in the Borough of Northumberland and the Central Susquehanna Valley.

Advertising
(added at publishers)

Spaghetti Dinner Planned

The Northumberland/ Point Township Kiwanis Club is sponsoring an All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Second Street Community Center. The dinner will be held at the Kiwanis Club building on Prince Street on Saturday, February 22, 2003 from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 6-12 years old, and free for children under 6 years old. Plan to attend and support this fund-raiser!



Mayor's Voice

Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius

As I look back on 2002, I am so grateful to those of you who gave many hours to volunteer in Northumberland. Without you giving of your time many of the activities we enjoy would not take place. Many heads, hands and hearts have made our community a great place to live and I thank you all.

There is much to do in 2003, so I am encouraging you to get involved. Many positive things can happen in Norry if we work together for the good. The Second Street Community Center is in need of committee members to help with the Capital Fund Drive and our Recreation Committee is always looking for more help.

Of course other groups also need volunteers to serve. Among them: the Pineknotted Day Committee, Little League, AYSO, the Girl and Boy Scouts, our volunteer Firemen, veterans, recycling, and our local library.

Two groups in particular are looking for people to serve. The Revitalization Committee has various projects in mind including improvement to King Street Park and the creation of a history group. The Community Improvement Committee has faithfully provided Christmas Decorations and has maintained the gazebo for the past 25 years; in 2003, more people willing to serve are needed. Plus, our local government is always looking for people to fill open positions. Where would you like to help? Call the Borough Office

Finally and most importantly, please join me in praying regularly for our community and our country as we face the challenges of this New Year. My hope is that the Lord brings us safely and peacefully through these difficult times.

Advertising
(added at publishers)

Summer Intern Program Awaiting Applications

College students and college-bound high school seniors who receive P.H.E.A.A. loans or grants are eligible to participate in the Summer Intern Program developed by the Degenstein Foundation and P.H.E.A.A. Students should pick up applications at the Shikellamy Guidance Office, Walnut Street, Sunbury, or Apfelbaum Law Offices, 43 S. 5th Street, Sunbury beginning

March 3rd. (They will not be mailed out.)

The application must be submitted to Apfelbaum Law Offices by April 15, 2003. In the past, the borough has employed students to work at the Liberty Pool and with the borough street crew. These positions and others are available through this Summer Intern Program.

The Health Report

(Continued from page 4)

der food there.

Is the restroom clean? A clean restroom suggests that employees are probably paying attention to details.

Judge the servers. Make sure they have clean hands and fingernails, with no open sores, burns or cuts, which may be infected and be a source of harmful bacterial.

Inspect the food delivered to

you and your family or guests. All cooked food should be served piping hot and cold food should be served cold. Examine your fresh food. The buffet should be really hot. Any



foods that have run low should be replaced, not refilled. Judge the attitude of management. If you have a problem and they don't seem to care about correcting it, then don't patronize the restaurant.

Food Handler Training to Qualify for Certification

The next food handler course for professional/non professional food handlers is scheduled in Sunbury for May 5, 12, 19, and 27, 2003, 9 am to 1

pm. To enroll or obtain information, call the Penn State Extension Office at 570-322-5771.

Borough of Northumberland
221 2nd Street
Northumberland, PA 17857

Community News

New Solicitor Hired

The Borough Council is pleased to announce the hiring of Attorney Robin Martin, Esq. as its new solicitor for 2003. Attorney Martin is a partner at Koch, Foust & Martin in Milton.

Summer Reservations Being Accepted Now

Those groups and individuals interested in utilizing one of the many recreation areas in the Borough during the upcoming season, should contact the Borough Office now to make your reservations. Rentals are available for King Street Park (for weddings, concerts and community events) as well as for Pineknottter Park (for picnics and other gatherings). Liberty Hollow and Liberty Pool party reservations are also being taking at this time.

Friendly Reminder to Landlords

The Code Enforcement staff would like to remind all landlords with properties in the Borough that it is your responsibility to contact the office when one of your properties is being vacated. All residential rental properties MUST be inspected by the Borough each time a tenant moves out and BEFORE a new tenant arrives. Those that fail to comply will be assessed a fine.

Borough Web Site News

New online this year: an online community calendar. See it today at <http://www.northumberlandborough.com/calendar2003/calendar.htm>

The Pineknottter News is a quarterly publication of the Borough of Northumberland. It is printed by Houtz Printing Company in Northumberland. The newsletter can be provided in alternate format upon request. Advertising space is available for purchase on a quarterly or yearly basis. Call the borough office at 473-3414 for more information.