

# The PINEKNOTTER NEWS

## *Serving Your Borough*

Gretchen H. Brosius,  
*Mayor*

### *Borough Council*

Bryan M. Wolfe,  
*President*

Charles "Bud" Ditton,  
*Vice President*

Greg Carl,  
*Chairman Pro Tem*

Judith H. Groninger

Gregory S. Shaffer

Darvin Straub

Donald Troxell

Nate Fisher,  
*Street Supervisor*

Clifford Kriner,  
*Police Sergeant*

Josh Newbury,  
*Fire Chief*

Paul J. Ruane,  
*Code Enforcement  
Officer*

Lee Shaffer,  
*Health Officer*

### *Borough Office*

Phone: 473-3414

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## THE BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND

<http://www.northumberlandborough.com>

# HAPPY 2004!

## New Health Regulations Affect Us All

From the Health Officer...

As we begin this new year, the big news in my department are the new and revised food codes published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. These upgrades and new rules bring the Commonwealth's food safety standards into step with the current national standards for food safety. The rules apply to all public food establishments in Pennsylvania. Any eating and drinking establishment that sells food to the public for one (1) day up to fourteen (14) days is classified as a temporary food facility. Any establishment operating fourteen (14) days or more per year is classified as a permanent food facility.

These facilities are inspected annually and must meet the required

standards to receive an operating permit (eating and drinking license). This license is renewed annually. Many of the requirements and standards have been in the previous codes, but are now more extensive.

The following is a summary of the important changes that are required of food handlers and food handling establishments in Pennsylvania.

The food handlers are required to monitor more closely temperatures on hot and cold foods by using accurate thermometers. They must verify sources of foods, especially meats, poultry, and seafood, and the temperature of the product at delivery to the establishment.

Employees and employers are required to monitor and report any

infectious problems or diseases that are transmittable through food. Food handlers may no longer handle any prepared, ready to eat (RTE) food with bare hands. They must use tongs, spatulas, wrappers or gloved hands when handling RTE foods.

Hand washing sinks must be easily accessible in food preparation areas and hands must be washed before putting on single-use gloves. Hair must be restrained or covered and facial hair must be covered.

The above conditions are to be monitored by the Person in Charge (PIC). The PIC may be the owner, manager, supervisor or someone designated as a PIC. A PIC must be present at all times when the establishment is open for

*(Continued on page 9)*

**New Smoke Alarm Regulations Kickoff New Year**

Do you have enough smoke detectors in your home? The latest International Property Maintenance Code of 2003 requires smoke detectors to be installed in the following locations in homes: one in each bedroom, one in the immediate vicinity of each bedroom, and one on each story of the home, including the basement.

If you have any questions regarding this new regulation, please call the borough office to speak with the code officer, Paul Ruane.

**Second Street Committee Reorganizes**

The Second Street Community Center is planning a reorganization meeting for Feb. 2, 2004 at 7:00 pm. The next step in finishing Phase I of the project will be to clean and winterize the gymnasium. A work party is planned. It is hoped that the gymnasium will be opened for activities by Summer. Please contact the borough office if you are interested in helping in any way.

**Borough Council Reorganizes With Familiar Faces**

On January 5th, the Northumberland Borough Council reorganized for the 2004/05 term. Sworn into office in new four year terms were Charles "Bud" Ditton, Judith H. Groninger and Gregory S. Shaffer. All three members who took their oaths of office from Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius are incumbents. Other action taken at this reorganization was as follows:

**President and Vice President Elected**

Elected president of the Council was Bryan M. Wolfe, the incumbent. Wolfe will serve as

president through the end of 2005. Serving as the board's vice president will be incumbent Ditton, who has served on the Council since 1999. Greg Carl was once again elected the board's Chairman Pro Tem.

**Fees Approved**

Approved at the reorganization meeting was Resolution A-2004, which establishes fees and penalties for the 2004 fiscal year. Copies of these fees are available in the borough office or on our web site.

**New Committees Formed**

President Bryan Wolfe announced that the following Council members will serve as committee chairs during the 2004/05 Council term.

Finance—Bryan M. Wolfe

Personnel—Judith H. Groninger

Property—Darvin Straub

Public Safety—Gregory S. Shaffer

Streets—Don Troxell

Troxell was also appointed as Council Representative on the

**Remax Article**

## From The President

Welcome to 2004! Here at Borough Council we recently reorganized and laid out goals for the New Year.

I am much honored to have once again been elected by my peers to serve as president of the Borough Council. I have enjoyed serving in this capacity for nearly three and one-half years, and look forward to serving for another two. Joining me in this endeavor will be Charles "Bud" Ditton, again elected vice president. Ditton, Judith H. Groninger and Gregory S. Shaffer – have recently been reelected to Council for new four-year terms. Joining us in 2004 and beyond is Darvin Straub who became a member of Council last December following the death of Paul J. Bowersox. Bowersox was a dear friend to this Borough and his ab-

sence is truly felt. Straub – who recently moved back to Northumberland after many years of living in the Camp Hill area – has many interests and ideas for the community, which we are all eager to hear about. All of us on Council – as well as Mayor Brosius are ready to serve and to have a successful 2004 and 2005.

Among the projects continuing in 2004 is another year of our Sidewalk Beautification project, as well as continued work on the Borough's streets. In addition, Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Greg Carl promises more fun things to do at Liberty Splashland for the upcoming season.

One project that we hope to upstart in the New Year is the Second Street Community Center Pro-

ject. With the budget crisis in Harrisburg over, we hope that 2004 is the year that we receive already approved state funding for this Borough initiative.

Other goals for this year: continued improvements in King Street Park, a even larger History Day celebration (thanks to the Northumberland-Point Township Revitalization Committee) in May, and much more.

I hope everyone has a terrific and healthy New Year and if there is anything that I can do or assist you with, please email me or contact the Borough office today.

Bryan M. Wolfe  
president@  
northumberland  
borough.com

### Remembering Paul Bowersox

Mr. Paul Bowersox, a member of the Northumberland Borough Council, passed away on November 11, 2003, in the Sunbury Community Hospital. Mr. Bowersox had served the Borough as a Councilman for 12 years. A retired Penn DOT employee, Mr. Bowersox had also served as a Code Enforcement Officer and an Inspector for the Sewer Authority. Mr. Bowersox's many years of experience will be greatly missed. Mr. Bowersox is survived by his wife, Eileen, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

**Pfeiffer Naginey Ad**

**Pineknotter Days  
2004 Plans Underway**

Plans are well underway for Pineknotter Days, which will be held July 3 - 10, 2004. The Soapbox Race will get the festivities started on July 3rd. The church service is the only activity planned for July 4th, in addition, of course, to the normal setting up activities that are still occurring that day. The craft show will be held Monday, July 5th. Evening entertainment has been tentatively scheduled as follows: 7/5 Shama Lama; 7/6 Re-Creation; 7/7 Mud Flaps; 7/8 True Heart; and 7/9 Dean McNett Country Band. Keep an eye out for the final schedules, which will be on placemats in local restaurants in June, on the normal schedule cards available at many local establishments also in June, and in the newspaper and on local radio stations the week of June 28th. For additional information or if you're interested in assisting with this year's Pineknotter Days, please contact Jeremy Berry-Propst at 473-1233, Bill Skumanich at 473-9161, or Brenda Apple at 473-3088.

**Straub Appointed to Council**

On December 9, 2003, the Borough Council appointed Darvin Straub to fill the unexpired Council seat made vacant by Paul Bowersox's death.

Darvin and his wife, the former Kay Krohn of Northumberland, have been married 29 years. They have two children who now reside in San Diego, CA. A graduate of Shikellamy High School in 1966, Darvin was a member of the undefeated football team. He graduated from Millersville University in 1971 and has taught Technical Education (formerly Industrial Arts ) and Driver Education for over thirty-two years as well as coached football, wrestling and track.

A member of the Northumberland/ Point Township Kiwanis Club, Darvin volunteers at the Recycling Center. He enjoys building furniture as a hobby.

**Council Committee Meetings Set**

Committees meet when necessary according to the following schedule. If a committee chooses not to meet in a given month, notice will be posted at the Borough Office. All meetings are in the Borough office.

Finance - Third Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. Property - 4th Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.  
Public Safety - 4th Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m. Streets - 2nd Wednesday @ 7 p.m.

**Sun Bank Ad**

**Groninger Insurance Ad**

**2nd Annual History Day is May 8th**

The History Day Committee of the Northumberland/ Pt. Township Revitalization Committee is busy planning the Second Annual History Day for May 8, 2004. Please mark your calendars now. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact the Borough Office or check our web site for meeting dates.

**Police Chief Retires**

Chief of Police Lawrence Redington retired on December 31, 2003. Larry had served the Borough in this capacity since March of 1993. A retirement dinner in his honor was held at the Front Street Station with Larry's family, Borough Council members, and Borough employees present. Mayor and Mr. Brosius hosted the event. We wish Larry well in his future endeavors.

**Snow and Ice Removal Policies**

Borough Ordinance #17 states, "It shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of any property in the Borough of Northumberland to allow snow and ice to remain on the sidewalks abutting or pavements abutting their several premises and property for a longer period than twenty-four (24) hours after snow has fallen or ice has accumulated."

The fine for violating this ordinance is \$100 for each 60 foot section (or less) of sidewalk. Please see that your sidewalks are cleared within the required time-frame.

The Street Department appreciates the residents' con-

sideration during a snow-storm. Residents should park on the designated side of the street (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays) in order to assist the crew as they clear the streets. On other days, it is recommended that vehicles are parked on one side of the street so the crew can clear the other side. If residents voluntarily coordinate the parking throughout the neighborhoods on days that are not posted, the crew will be able to better clear streets.

Whenever the Borough experiences excessive snow and ice, the Mayor or President of Council may declare a Snow Emergency. In con-

junction with the Snow Emergency, the Mayor or President of Council may, among other things, direct that the parking prohibitions shall be in effect on designated days other than Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. When a snow emergency has been declared, it shall be unlawful during the period of the emergency for any person to park a motor vehicle or truck tractor upon any street that is posted as a "Snow Emergency Route". Should a Snow Emergency be declared, information will be provided to the local media.



## Priestley Anniversary Events Set

February 6, 2004 marks the bicentennial of the death of Joseph Priestley who moved to Northumberland in 1794. The Unitarian Universal Church of the Susquehanna Valley (UUCSV), 80 King Street, Northumberland has planned a year-long commemoration with many events in many places. This Bicentennial Commemoration of the life of Joseph Priestley is also being recognized in Birstall, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom. The city officials of Birstall have extended an invitation to the Northumberland Borough officials and the Joseph Priestley House Museum to attend their commemoration events in February. Andrea Bashore of the Priestley House Museum will be traveling to England as our representative from Northumberland.

### Schedule of Activities for the Bicentennial Commemoration of the life of Joseph Priestley

**February 6, 2004 through rest of 2004 - Joseph Priestley House Museum, Northumberland, Pa**  
An exhibit of new additions to collection

**February 1,2004 - Priestley Memorial Chapel, Northumberland, PA**  
Publication of updated version of History of the Chapel originally written by Bill Weston and updated by Richard Nellis

**February 6, 2004 Gomersal Park Hotel, Birstall, West Yorkshire, UK**  
Priestley Society Bicentennial Civic Reception and Banquet

**February 6,2004 Leeds Library, Leeds, UK**  
An exhibition of Books and documents

**February 6, 2004 Unitarian Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, UK**  
An Exhibition of Books and Documents

**February 7,2004 Oakwell Hall, Birstall, West Yorkshire, UK**  
Priestley Society - Open Forum from 9:30 AM to 4 PM

**February 8, 2004 Priestley Memorial Chapel, Northumberland, PA – UUCSV**  
Service Commemorating Life of Joseph Priestley

**February 8, 2004 Oakwell Hall, Birstall, West Yorkshire, UK**  
"OXY-GENIUS" by Kirklees Museum Community History Education Service – a program of family activities

**February 28, 2004 - Priestley-Forsyth Library, Northumberland, PA**  
Saturday afternoon program for adults on Life and Legacy of Joseph Priestley (speaker to be identified) Priestley-Forsyth Library, Northumberland, PA - Display of Priestley Family materials

### Without You...

Thank you to those of you from the Northumberland Improvement Committee, the Northumberland/ Pt. Township Revitalization Committee and the borough crew for decorating Northumberland for the holiday season. Without these volunteers, Santa in the Park would not have been possible. The Improvement Committee will be closing their books after 25 years of serving Northumberland well. They have been responsible for the purchase and erection of the decorations, the building and maintenance of the gazebo, and the Santa in the Park event. Their years of hard work are greatly appreciated.



**Borough Budget Available**

The 2004 Borough of Northumberland budget is available for public viewing in the Borough Office or on our website.

**Borough Offices Closed**

The Borough offices will be closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of President's Day.

**From The Beat**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! From your guys in blue!!

It is with envy and sadness that we say goodbye and good luck to Chief Larry Redington. The Chief retired on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003. GOOD LUCK CHIEF!

I would like to take this time to remind all residents of the Borough ordinances as they pertain to snow and ice: 1. It is unlawful to permit snow and/or ice to remain on

sidewalks or pavements beyond 24 hours after the storm has ended. 2. It is illegal to shovel or place,



snow and/or ice upon any street for a distance beyond 4 feet from the curb or the edge of the road.

The police department has secured a grant from the Department of Justice. Project Child Safe is a program which provides free gun locks to gun owners. Residents wishing to obtain gun locks are asked to contact the Police Department 473-8446 or via e-mail at norrypd@ptd.net.

C.L. Kriner, Sergeant

**Northumberland National Bank Ad**



## Food Regulations For All

(Continued from page 1)

business.

Consumers can help to protect themselves and at the same time ensure safer food handling practices by reporting improper food handling to the PIC. If they do not get a satisfactory reaction, then the matter should be reported to the local health department. Borough residents should contact the Borough Office at 473-3414 with any concerns.

In closing, I wish to compliment the *Daily Item* for the fine front page news article on food safety related to these new food codes. (Tues., Dec. 16, 2003) This column and the *Daily Item* article are a condensation of 100 pages of revised food regulations.

Some of these changes are going to be difficult for some food handlers. Old habits and routines are hard to change; but change is necessary in order to safeguard and provide safer food for

the consumer.

Again, I remind people to be observant and speak up when bad/poor food handling is observed. With your help we can all feel more secure about the food we get at our restaurants, delis, and taverns.

Lee Shaffer, Health Officer

### Primary Election Scheduled

This year's primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2004.

### Advertising Still Available

Space is still available for ads for the upcoming 2004 newsletter publications. For more information, contact Janice Bowman at the Borough office.

## Flower Basket Ad

## Important Dates—February—April 2004

February 3—Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

February 17—Council Work Session, 7 p.m.

March 2—Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

March 16—Council Work Session, 7 p.m.

April 6—Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

April 20—Council Work Session, 7 p.m.

April 27—Primary Election

Note: Please check the Borough office or the Borough's web site for Committee meeting times.

Borough of Northumberland  
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