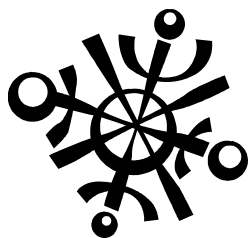


BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND, PENNSYLVANIA

THE PINEKNOTTER NEWS



WINTER 2007 FEBRUARY—APRIL 2007

Northumberland Weather Reports @ <http://NorthumberlandBorough.com/weather.htm>

NEW YEAR'S GREETING FROM MAYOR BROSIUS

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Northumberland;

It has been a year since I shared my dream with you; the dream of having a playground and a renovated building at Second Street by the end of 2007. Well, that dream can be a reality with your help. Please consider helping with the following:

The Second Street Community Center Committee is moving forward with renovations to the building. The \$400,000.00 that Merle Phillips secured for Northumberland through DCED is in the bank. Please consider joining this committee. Planning and work sessions will be held with the Property Committee at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Borough Building. Also fund raisers will be continuing throughout the year. The annual yard sale in June and Bingo at Pineknotted Days in July are two projects that are planned. We will need volunteers to help with these fund raisers. If you can help in any way please

contact the Borough office. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time to this project.

The Playground Committee through Parks and Recreation chair person Noelle Long had a very successful 2006. After coming up with a playground plan for the Second Street School site, and starting out with a generous donation of \$30,000.00 from Pineknotted Gerry Mertz, our Capital Campaign was launched in December. The goal of \$100,000.00 was set and letters were sent to area businesses, clubs and foundations. We are happy to report that by the time you receive this newsletter a minimum of \$84,000.00 has been obtained in funds or goods to meet that goal. With \$20,000.00 to go, we are asking you the citizens and neighbors of Northumberland to consider a donation. Donations of any amount would be appreciated. You may want to consider a donation in memory of someone or in honor of

someone. The Second Street School Site may bring back many fond memories for you and in donating to this fund you will be assuring a local play area for our children for many years to come. You may make your tax deductible donation payable to the Norry Playground Fund and mail it or drop it off at the Borough building or the Northumberland National Bank. Thank you in advance for your consideration to this project.

Finally let me say that due to the hard working Playground Committee and the generous donations of many, the playground should become a reality in 2007 and none of it is possible without you who give of time and finances to make Northumberland a better place for our youngsters. Thank you all and may God bless your 2007. I am richly blessed by you and thank Him for those He sends to help.

Prayers and blessings,
Gretchen Brosius

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Noelle Long
Jonathan Rees
Frank Wetzel

Tom Slodysko,
Street Supervisor

Tim Fink,
Police Chief

Brian Crebs,
Fire Chief

Paul J. Ruane
Al Derr,
Ann Roll
Code Enforcement
Staff

Lee Shaffer,
Health Officer

Borough Office
Phone: 473-3414
Fax: 473-3986

More About the Second Street Playground Project

on Page 12

Did you know???

Inoperable vehicles may not be kept on your property unless they are inside a garage! A vehicle is inoperable if it is in a state of disrepair, does not have a current registration, or does not have a current inspection sticker. Help keep the Borough free of these eyesores!

WANTED: A FEW GOOD CITIZENS

We need a few good citizens! Your Borough is fortunate to have a variety of activities throughout the year. Many times we are in need of some able-bodied helpers to be there for the set-up or the tear-down. This usually involves less than an hour of your time; but it's an hour much appreciated by those who are manning the stands throughout the day. Call the Borough office if you are willing to help. 473-3414.

DO YOU HAVE PERMISSION?

Do you know that all contractors doing business in the Borough must have a contractor's permit? If you hire someone to do work inside or outside of your home, ask to see his/her permit. If you want to find out BEFORE you contact them, call the Borough office (473-3414). This is an added bit of security for you. The Borough has names, addresses, and copies of certificates of insurance for the contractors.

If you are a contractor and have not received an application in the mail, contact the Borough Office. Requirements are to have liability insurance of at least \$300,000 for each occurrence, provide the Borough with a current Certificate of Insurance for the files; and show proof of Workers' Compensation for all employees. The annual fee is \$30.00.

Both homeowners and con-

tractors should be aware of the Borough's requirements for Building Permits. Contact the Borough Code Office before beginning any construction project. New state laws require inspections during various stages of construction.

The Code Officers are here to keep you informed and are available to answer your questions.

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GETTING HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILLS

Prices for natural gas are soaring, just as colder weather has been setting in. If you find that your utility bills are busting your budget, there is help available. Before you decide to skip your payment on your utility bill, and risk having services disconnected, check out these resources.

Budget Billing

Many utilities offer a program to make paying your bill a little easier. Most programs add up your last twelve utility bills, and divide that total by eleven. This number will be the set amount you pay each month. This makes it easier to budget and plan for your utility payments. At the end of each year, your account is settled and the number you pay for the next year is adjusted accordingly. For more information, call your local utility company.

Ask for Discounts or Extensions

Many utilities around the nation have programs for low-income households. If you are currently receiving some sort of public assistance payments, you may automatically qualify. Generally, these programs give discounts based on the amount of the bill, or re-

duce your bills by a set amount each month. You may also be eligible for an extension of the time allowed to pay your bill, if your financial hardship is temporary.

Energy Assistance Payments

Many utilities have programs designed to help families pay some or all of their utility bills. There are also community or city programs that can provide temporary financial assistance with these bills. These programs generally pay a portion of your bill or give you a voucher to use to pay your bill. For more information, call your local utility company, your city offices, or the Department of Health and Social Services.

If you are faced with the threat of disconnection of services, remember that you do have certain rights to protect you.

Your best bet is to first contact the utility directly and find out which programs you qualify for. It is never a good idea to ignore a utility bill or delinquent notices. You will risk disconnection of your services and often, costly reconnection fees. Most utilities are willing to negotiate and assist customers who make good faith efforts to pay their bills.

Borough Offices Closed:

The Borough offices will be closed on February 19th and April 6 in observance of President's Day, and Good Friday, respectively. The offices will open on the following business day.

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Your "Home Team"



The Northumberland Point Township Revitalization Committee would like to recognize our "Beautification" winners for the second half of 2006. We are so fortunate to have so many property owners who add to the "Curb Appeal" of our community. Sometimes it is a renovation, some new landscaping, a fresh coat of paint, a new decorating technique, or a continual effort to keep their properties beautiful. We all benefit from their efforts !! Your community thanks you !

JULY---Doris and Lloyd Reed 104 Third Street

AUGUST---Jeffrey Johnstonbaugh 110 Fourth Street

SEPTEMBER---Jodi and John Bailor 553 King Street

BUSINESS---Mike Daddario's Barber Shop 83 Queen Street

OCTOBER---Rachel and Rick Savidge 620 Prince Street

NOVEMBER---Barbara and Luigi Spaventa 363 King Street

DECEMBER---Lisa and Dale Eister 546 Third Street

BUSINESS---Suncom Industries, INC 128 Water Street

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2007

2007 Corn Festival

The August 2007 Corn Festival plans have yet to be finalized but you won't want to miss this day full of fine music and delicious food. Last year was the first for this event and what a success it was, beyond everyone's expectations! But I guess we should have had an idea of the turn out that we saw. After all, when your theme is Corn and you have the Sweet Corn generously donated

by Bill and Molly Geise of Geise Farms (a true local treat), that alone should have been an indicator of what to expect. Anyhow, more details and info will follow in upcoming newsletters and advertisements. Interested in helping out? Contact the Borough Office at 473-3414.

Soap Box Race

The 8th annual Soap Box Race which has become known as the kick off for the annual Pineknotted

Days here in Northumberland will be held on June 30th this year. It is open for area youth from ages 8 thru 12 to race authentic Soap Box Derby race cars that have been generously purchased by area businesses and organizations. The "practice" runs start at 8:00 AM and the double elimination races follow immediately after. The race is held on beautiful shade lined

(Continued on page 9)

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Winter 2007

HEALTHY REMINDERS FOR COLD AND FLU SEASON

1. This is cold and flu season. Washing your hands properly and often could be the one best way to avoid getting sick and spreading germs.

2. You should wash your hands before you:

Prepare, serve or eat food.

Treat a wound

Tend to someone sick

Insert or remove contact lenses

3. You should wash your hands after you:

Use the restroom

Handle raw meat, poultry or fish

Change a diaper

Blow your nose, or cough or sneeze

Handle garbage

Tend to a sick or injured person or animal

Touch pets (remember their hair is a profuse carrier of bacteria and virus)

4. Our food regulations for public eating and drinking require adequate hand washing sinks in all food preparation areas. It is the law that all food handlers wash their hands when changing from one task to another. It is also the law that food handlers must wear gloves when handling ready to eat food, (making sandwiches, cutting fruit or vegetables, etc.---anything that is not cooked before the customer eats the item.) To prevent food borne illnesses proper food handling is essential. Proper hand washing is always important.

Big changes for switch this year to Daylight Savings Time (DST)

The United States has planned a change to its DST observance beginning in 2007. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 mandates that DST will start on the second Sunday in March and end on the first Sunday in November. In 2007, the start and stop dates will be March 11 and November 4, respectively. These dates are different from previous DST start and stop dates. In 2006, the dates were the first Sunday in April (April 2, 2006) and the last Sunday in October (October 29, 2006).

Please note the new times, effective this year.



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are all things. To Him be the glory forever!
Amen." Romans 11:36

Get your Pool Pass!

Discounted season pool passes for Liberty Splashland are now on sale at the Borough Office. Save 10% by purchasing your pass before May 1, 2007. A family pass is now \$135.00 (regular rate of \$150) and an individual pass is now \$67.50 (regular rate of \$75.00).

got homeowners?



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Kiwanis Club Rentals

Northumberland/ Point Twp. Kiwanis Club Community Center is available to rent for parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, birthdays, reunions. Please contact Jane Ressler (473-8343), Michael McWilliams (473-9802) or the Borough Office (473-3414) for available dates. The rental fee is \$125. A deposit fee of \$25 is required.

Kiwanis is a service club and we welcome new members to serve in our club who are community minded and interested in serving our community. Please contact the above persons.

Your Elected Government Officials, 2007

National Leaders (click for web sites)

George W. Bush, President (R), 202-456-1414
Arlen Specter, Senator (R), 202-224-4254
Robert P. Casey, Jr. Senator (D), 202-224-6324
Christopher Carney, Representative, 10th District (D), 202-225-3731

State Leaders

Edward G. Rendell, Governor (D), 717-787-2500
John R. Gordner, State Senator, 27th District (R), 717-787-8928
Merle H. Phillips, State Representative, 108th District (R), 570-286-5885

County Commissioners

Samuel S. Deitrick, Chairman (R), 570-988-4564 (County Office)
Kurt A. Musser, (R)
Frank J. Sawicki, (D)

Borough Officials

Gretchen H. Brosius, Mayor (R), 570-473-1990 (Borough Office)
Bryan Wolfe, Council President, (R)
Charles "Bud" Dutton, Council Vice President, (R)
Darvin Straub, Chairman Pro Tem, (R)
Judith H. Groninger, (R)
Noelle Long, (D)
Jonathan Rees, (R)
Frank Wetzel, (R)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Continued from page 4)

King Street between 4th & 5th Streets with a gentle but challenging grade to ensure the kids experience the true thrill of a real race. As in the past, custom designed T-Shirts will be given to all of the racers with a limited number of shirts from this year and past years available for purchase (sure to become a

collectors item of local memorabilia).

Cash prizes, generously donated by Dale Walters of Walters Automotive, will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of each age group.

Reminders will be passed out at school near the end of the school year and registration will be held at the Borough office during normal business hours. A com-

mon misconception is that child must have their own car to race. This is not the case as the cars are provided. All they need to bring is their enthusiasm for gravity powered excitement.

So if you have never heard of, or saw this event, or if you are an annual racer or spectator, come to King Street on Race Day and enjoy this fun filled event.



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Recipe Box ~

Forgotten Kisses

To sweeten up your Valentine's Day, try making these tasty treats to share with your loved ones. And don't forget the card!

Forgotten Kisses

2 egg whites, room temperature

1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar

1/8 teaspoon salt

2/3 cup sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

2-3 drops red food coloring
Hershey's Kisses (6 oz. package, 36 count, unwrapped)

Beat egg whites with cream of tartar and salt in small mixer bowl until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar; continue beating until stiff peaks form. Add vanilla and food coloring. Drop meringue mixture by half teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets; top each with a Hershey's Kiss. Cover kiss completely with a small teaspoonful of meringue. Place in a preheated 375 degree F oven. Immediately turn off oven and let cookies remain in oven overnight or until cookies are completely dry and oven is cold. Don't peek during this time, or your cookies will turn soggy. Makes about 2 1/2 dozen cookies.

**Attention
Northumberland-based
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Owners:**

Now you can list your Northumberland-based business listing directly on our Borough website.

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Pete Gallo
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Debbie Brouse
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GRI, CRS
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Jill Sokalzuk
Realtor
ext. 208



Mike Diehl
Associate Broker
ext. 209



Sally Diehl
Rentals/Prop. Mgmt.
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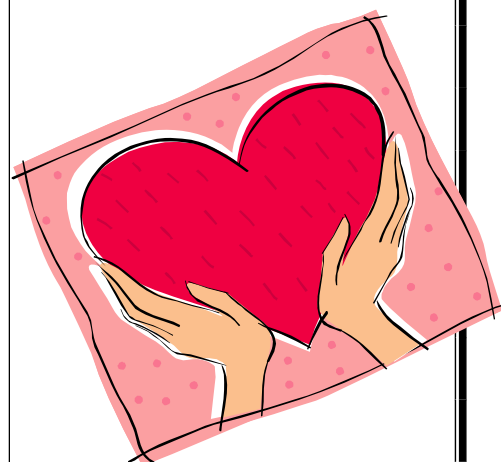
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In Our Next Issue....

History Day 2007 is coming and we will have all of the information you need on this event covered right here in *The Pineknatter News*. Watch for our Spring 2007 issue in early May!

COMMUNITY CENTER...CLOSER THAN EVER!

The Second Street Community Center is closer to becoming a reality! With the \$400,000 grant funding through the Department of Community and Economic Development, we are on our way with plans for renovating the building. Architect Gary Wolfe is working with the Second Street Committee to finalize plans and develop a scope of work. The first phase of construction will focus on the classroom areas and will include:

- Cosmetic changes such as paint, clean up, etc.

- New windows
- Heating units in each room
- Kitchen
- Exhibit space for historical memorabilia
- Restrooms

The gymnasium will be completed in the second phase.

You may be curious as to what the building will be used for. In addition to being a great community space for special events, plays, intramural sports, and gatherings; it will also be the new home to our Police Department. Vari-

ous groups and organizations have also approached us in regards to renting space for educational and recreational purposes.

We are all very excited about the project, as it has been long awaited! What is your vision? This is the fun part when our dreams of a community center have finally arrived. It isn't too late to get involved in this project. If you have any suggestions or wish to become involved in this project, please contact the Borough Office.

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"Not only did Groninger Insurance Agency save our family a lot of money but also their service was friendly, quick, and very helpful." Nicole Varano-Delgado North'd

" I have been with Erie Insurance for over 30 years with my automobile insurance, and they've always been there for me. Now I have my homeowners insurance with them, a company I can trust. Groninger Insurance exemplifies what is good in insurance."
Mary Peterhansel Middleburg

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Give us a call today! 473-8107**

NEW INFORMATION ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT FOR THE BOROUGH

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently published modifications to the Base Flood Elevations (BFE) for Northumberland Borough. The modifications will have an impact on the flood management measures in which the Borough is required to either adopt or show evidence of having in effect in order to remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The modifications may have an effect on insurance premiums. FEMA is utilizing an updated Datum for the modified BFEs. Under the proposed modified BFEs, there may be some landowners who were not previously located in a flood plain, but are now included in the flood plain. Conversely, some landowners who were previously located in the flood plain may no longer be located in the area designated as flood plain. Any landowner or lessee of real property in the Borough who believes that his/her rights are

adversely affected by the proposed modified BFE determinations has a right to appeal the same by March 13, 2007. The basis for the appeal is that the proposed BFE determinations are scientifically or technically incorrect. All appeals are to be submitted to the Borough. The Borough will then review and consolidate any appeal data received, and issue an official opinion as to whether the evidence presented is sufficient to justify an official appeal in the name of the Borough. The Borough would also submit to FEMA any appeal data that it receives from its citizens. If you would like more information on the modifications to the Base Flood Elevations (BFE), please contact the Borough Office.

Elevation Certificates

New construction and substantial improvements to buildings on the floodplain require a FEMA Elevation Certificate, prepared by a registered surveyor.

Flood Insurance

Most homeowners insurance policies do not cover a property for flood damage. The Borough of Northumberland participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Local insurance agents can sell an NFIP policy under rules and rates set by the Federal government. Any house in Northumberland can be covered by a flood insurance policy. There are two types of flood insurance coverage; building coverage and contents coverage. Coverage for sump pump failure or sewer backup might be available as an addition to your homeowner's insurance policy. *Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. There is a 30 day waiting period before National Flood Insurance coverage takes effect.* Additional information is available at the Borough Office, the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library, or online at www.NorthumberlandBorough.com.

LITTLE LEAGUE UPDATE

For many years, the little league organization has played an important part in the community of Northumberland. It has been instrumental in developing our youth as well as encouraging parents and volunteers to work together. For example, this past year, a new concession stand was built at the Pineknotted Park by community volunteers. The building looks great and we are very excited about using it this season.

Some of our Board members have changed this year. Our new Vice President is Brian Derr, Angie Derr - Secretary, Paul Bruner - Equipment Manager and I as president. We extend a huge thank you to the previous Board members for their service to the Shikellamy Acorn Little League. Another new and exciting feature for

the Shikellamy Acorn Little League is our new website. We just launched the site in early January and are still working on developing the site to be a useful source of information. Check it out and e-mail us with questions or suggestions – www.shikacornll.com.

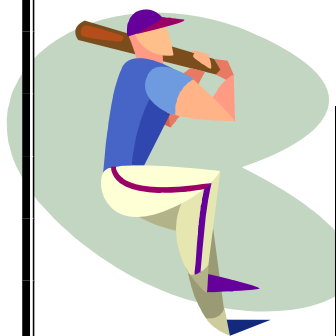
Our 2007 **registration** took place at the end of January but if you missed those dates, you still have time. We will continue to accept registrations up until the end of February. The details/instructions are on the website for late registration.

Shikellamy Acorn Little League's success is built on the support from the community as well as parents and volunteers. We would love to see more of those fun-loving Pineknotters come

out and help with maintaining the fields, fences, buildings and even working in the concession stand. And for those Pineknotters that have been supporting the little league – THANK YOU. We could not have done it without you.

For more information about our program or becoming a volunteer, you can either contact me at 570-473-1917 or better yet – come to a Board meeting. The schedule of our **Board meetings** is posted on the website and they are routinely the second Sunday of every month at the Point Township Building. Everyone is welcome to attend.

JANELLE PATTON - PRESIDENT



Board Members—Little League, 2007

Name	Title	Phone #	Name	Title	Phone #
Brian Derr	Vice-President	473-2295	Angela Derr	Secretary	473-2295
Roy Tuomisto	Treasurer	716-1064	Joe Sayres	Player Agent	863-0296
Paul Bruner	Equip. Mgr.	286-2182	Mike Defeo	Umpire-in-Chief	473-1233
Mike Houghton	Safety Mgr.	473-2261	Chris Swanger	VP – Baseball	473-8784
Lori Swanger	Info Sys. Mgr.	473-8784	Ken Smith	VP – Softball	473-3617

Did you know....

That this issue—and all past issues of *The Pineknotted News*—is available on our Borough website **weeks** before it arrives in your mailbox? Simply go to NorthumberlandBorough.com and go to the Newsletter Link, where you will find copies of all newsletters published since 2001.

TREK-FOR-TREATS A SUCCESS!

Downtown Northumberland has officially been hunted! The 1st ever Trek-for-Treats Treasure Hunt was a great success! Kids, parents, and businesses alike really enjoyed the event. The object of the hunt was to have children visit each of the participating businesses (with an adult) to receive a special treat and a stamp on their map. Completed treasure maps were then turned in for a drawing that was held at the Fall Festival on October 28!

Kyanna Miller of Northumberland was the winner of the hunt. She was very excited to claim her treasure chest full of goodies.

Thank you again to the following businesses that participated in the hunt, treasure hunting just isn't as fun without you!

Daddy McFatty's

Frye's Interiors

Gubin's Clothing & Shoes

Norry Entertainment

Northumberland National Bank

Priestley Forsyth Memorial Library

Sweet Land of Liberty's

Taylor's Meat & Deli

Young's Sporting Goods



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The Pineknotted News is a quarterly publication of the Borough of Northumberland. It is printed by Paper Flow Unlimited in Bloomsburg. 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.

Our Next Issue... The next issue of *The Pineknotted News* will be published in May 2007. For those interested in submitting advertising or sending in articles for publication, kindly do so by Friday, April 13, 2007.

Upcoming Community Notes/Events

President's Day (Borough offices closed)

February 19

Good Friday (Borough offices closed)

April 6

History Day

May 12

Municipal Election

May 15

Dates for all events are listed online at

NorthumberlandBorough.com

Public Meeting Dates 2007

The following meeting dates have been announced by the Borough Council for 2007.

Northumberland Borough Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on: Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1, June 5, July 17, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 5, Dec. 4, & Dec. 18.

Work sessions will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 14, June 19, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16 & Nov. 20.

Monthly Committee Meetings:

Finance - 3rd Thurs. at 6:30 p.m.

Property - 4th Tues. at 7:30 p.m.

Public Safety - 4th Tues. at 6:30 p.m.

Recreation - 4th Wed. at 6:00 p.m.

Streets - 2nd Tues. at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission - last Thurs. at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board - last Tues. at 7:30 p.m.

Meetings are held in the Borough Building, 221 2nd St., Northumberland. The Emergency Services Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at the Borough Building unless that day is a holiday, meeting will be the first Tuesday at a location to be determined.