

THE PINEKNOTTER NEWS

Borough of Northumberland, Pennsylvania

Winter 2008

LOOKING AT OUR TOWN'S TREES

Now that it is winter and the leaves are off the trees, it is a good time to walk around Northumberland and get a good look at just what a tree looks like without its leaves. Leaves are like the tree's "clothes" and they tend to hide the tree's basic structure just like our clothes do for our bodies.

One of the most harmful pruning practices that can now be fully observed is that of topping. When you top a tree, you treat it as if it were an ornamental bush that you can shape into some arbitrary, ornamental form. What happens when you treat a tree like a bush and arbitrarily cut a tree back to the small branches that are not large enough to sustain the tree is -- you kill it. If you want a good example of what extreme topping does to a tree, look at the one across from the Borough Office. Without any of its upper branches and with gaping holes in its trunk, this tree is open to decay, to sunburn, and to extreme stress.

Therefore, it is imperative that all the leaf-bearing branches are not arbitrarily removed from the tree in order to make the tree "look good." Obviously, if there is no food, the tree does not have enough energy to produce new growth for the next year. Your tree will eventually die.

So what do you do if your tree is getting too unwieldy? First, you should consider what a blessed treasure you have on your property if you have a large, healthy tree. This tree should not be considered a nuisance because it drops leaves. That is its nature and the price you pay for beauty and shade. Second, have someone trim it that knows what he is doing, rather than someone who is just cheap or handy with a chain saw. Third, consult with an arborist, a professional who has been trained to trim trees and maintain their health. Fourth, trim prudently, leaving enough limbs and branches to maintain the health and beauty of the tree.

If you think the process I described above is too much trouble, just look at the tree across from the Borough Office. This is what topping produces. Is that how you want your property to look?

~Margaret Weirick, Shade Tree Commission

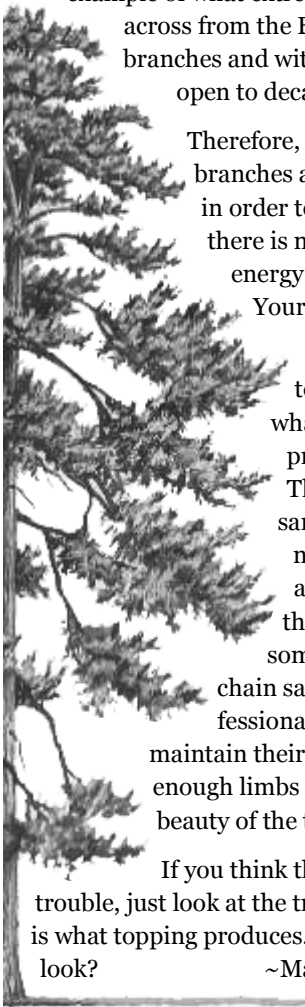
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008 FROM MAYOR BROSIUS.

As we say goodbye to 2007 we remember the blessings that were sent our way by the many who donated and volunteered to make the Second Street Playground a reality. The final brick work and remaining fencing along with the landscaping will hopefully be completed this spring. Brick orders will be accepted until March 1, 2008. Thanks to all of you who contributed in any way to this project.

We say goodbye to Noelle Long who has been a Council woman for the last 4 years. Noelle spearheaded many events in her tenure on council. She started the Second Street Yard Sale, the Fall Festival and the Lemonade Day Celebration. She reorganized the Santa in the Park festivities and was the chairperson of the Norry Playground Project. We thank her for the many hours she has put into this community not only in her position on council but also on the Revitalization Committee. We are grateful that she will be still serving on several committees in the borough. She will be missed on council. Thank you, Noelle, for all you have done and will continue to do.

Finally, let me send up prayers for this community: Our Great Provider, thank you for the blessings of 2007. In the upcoming year please protect those who work, serve and volunteer in Northumberland. I especially think of our firemen and women, our police officers, our fire police and any first responders. Cleanse and protect our neighborhoods and citizens. May prayer warriors rise up in each block. Give wisdom and encouragement to those who serve on council and help them in their planning for 2008. May God bless you all. Amen.

~Mayor Gretchen Brosius



NORTHUMBERLAND AND POINT TOWNSHIP SENIOR ACTION CENTER

The center will be having a soup sale on Friday, February 22. We will be making chicken corn and beef vegetable soup. The cost is \$4 a quart. Orders may be placed by calling 473-9373 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and must be in by Friday, February 15.

A Healthy Steps Program to prevent falls will be held at the center. The classes will be on Thursdays, April 17th and April 24th. Each session will be from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. You must attend both sessions. To participate in the class you must be at least 50 years of age. You do not need to belong to the center. There is very little physical exercise with the course. The Area Agency On Aging has received grant money to offer this course and the center will receive some money for each person attending. We are in need of at least 25 people. Please call the center at 473-9373 to sign up.

In May, the center will be holding a rummage sale. We are accepting items that are not damaged, torn, or outdated. Items may be dropped off at the center Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only. Please do not leave items at the door.

PARTY RENTALS

The Northumberland/Point Township Kiwanis Club Community Center is available to rent for parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, birthdays, and reunions. Please contact Jane Ressler (473-8343), Michael McWilliams (473-9802), or the Borough office for available dates and additional information.

REVITALIZATION ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

The Revitalization Elves sure did have a fun time driving around town checking out all the lights and decorations. The committee thanks everyone who braved the elements to decorate their homes and businesses. When everyone chips in a little to beautify their own property, it makes our whole town that much more festive!

The nominations are in, votes have been calculated, and the winners are...

Most Original
390 Prince Street
Harry and Joy Wynn

Prettiest
387 Riverview Drive
John and Maureen Startzel

Funniest
246 Third Street
Lloyd Beane

Honorable Mention
114 Third Street
Robin and Ona Bolig

The winners received a gift card to a local restaurant and a certificate of accomplishment.

Congratulations to all the winners!



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MANY THANKS AND ONE WELCOME

A new member was welcomed onto Borough Council at the January 7th Council Reorganization meeting. Cindy Lark was installed as Council's newest member, having won her seat in November's municipal election. Lark replaces Noelle Long, who did not run for re-election. Lark, who works at the Northumberland Sewer Authority, will serve on the Borough's Public Safety and Streets Committee, as well as Chair its Rules Committee.

Long, who had served on Council since 2005, served as the Recreation Chairperson and was instrumental in starting the annual Lemonade Day in the Borough, among other events. The Borough thanks Long for terrific service to the Borough and welcomes Lark to the table.

FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION

Last year the Federal Emergency Management Agency published modifications to the Base Flood Elevations for Northumberland Borough. Any landowner or lessee of real property in the Borough who felt that his/her rights were adversely affected by the proposed modified BFE determinations had until March 13, 2007 to appeal the modifications if they believed that the proposed BFE determinations were scientifically or technically incorrect. The Borough did not receive any appeals that challenged the modifications.

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.

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Preschool – 12th Grade



Northumberland Christian School

473.9786

www.norrychristian.net

351 5th Street, Northumberland

PLAN A VISIT TO JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

The Joseph Priestley House, 472 Priestley Avenue in Northumberland, will re-open for the 2008 visitation season on Sunday, March 9, 2008. From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the historic site will present the free program "Commonwealth Charter Day" honoring William Penn's receipt of the official charter for Pennsylvania from King Charles II of England.

On Charter Day, visitors can tour the Priestley House at their own pace, interact with costumed volunteers and site staff who portray Joseph Priestley and members of the Priestley family, and see chemistry demonstrations at 1, 2 and 3 o'clock in the laboratory room of the house. Seating for the demonstrations is limited and available to visitors on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Stop by the visitor center at the Priestley House on Charter Day to see an introductory exhibit and 10 minute video about Joseph Priestley's life in Northumberland, browse the gift shop, and get your free Charter Day admission ticket.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

As Council began its new term on January 7, Council President Bryan Wolfe announced the creation of a new entity in the Borough – the Community Development Committee.

Led by Council member Darvin Straub, this new committee will oversee the Borough's properties and parks development, and merges the Property and Recreation committees. Borough Council is committed to overseeing the completion of our Second Street Community Center project and as such, it believes very strongly that this requires a hand-on approach to accomplish its goals. Thus, one of the main focuses of the Community Development Committee will be the management of the day-to-day operations of this project.

Joining Straub in this endeavor will be Council members Judy Groninger and Frank Wetzel. The Committee will meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. The Committee – and Council as a whole – desperately needs your input as to what uses will be available at Second Street. As such we strongly encourage members of the public to attend these meetings.

OTHER 2008/09 COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

- Finance – Bryan M. Wolfe, Chair, Charles "Bud" Ditton and Jonathan Rees.
- Personnel – Judith H. Groninger, Chair, Charles "Bud" Ditton and Bryan M. Wolfe.
- Public Safety – Frank Wetzel, Chair, Jonathan Rees and Cindy Lark.
- Streets – Jonathan Rees, Chair, Judith H. Groninger and Cindy Lark.



NEW FACES AT THE RECYCLING CENTER

Please welcome the Sunbury Lions Club members who have decided to volunteer at the recycling center beginning this month. As with the other groups, the members do not receive anything for their time but their club's treasury receives a portion of the money earned in the sale of the recycled materials.

DEP 902 grant

The Pa DEP has awarded Northumberland a \$7200 grant to refund the money spent on a scale to weigh our materials before shipment and the balance for a commercial shredder we hope to have in operation by the end of the year.

We now recycle batteries

Thanks to an agreement with the local supplier of Interstate Batteries, you can now bring your used batteries (watch size to car size) to the recycling center.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD VACANCY

Consider serving as a representative on the Borough's Emergency Services Board. The term for this representative runs to December 31, 2011. The candidate should not be affiliated with either

fire company since this is one of three at-large positions appointed by Borough Council. In addition to the three at-large positions, each fire company appoints one representative to the Board.

The main purpose of the Board is to interpret the rules and regulations pertaining to the Fire Department and to promote the harmonious operation of the Fire Department. The Board also considers budgetary and funding concerns related to the Fire Department. The Board meets on the first Monday of each month. Please contact the Borough Office at 473-3414 for additional information.

Celebrating
30 YEARS!

A Senior Living Community in Northumberland
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Nottingham Village

1000 Strawbridge Rd, Northumberland PA 17857
www.NottinghamVillage.org



Burr... mighty cold out there but spring will be here before we know it.

Spring brings

warmer days and a look to the next summer for a fun time at Liberty Splashland. Costs are going up everywhere so consider spending more time right here in Northumberland for fun in the sun and getting wet. Northumberland remains as the only community pool in the area that has such a variety of water features for a mere \$4 to enjoy all day.

Liberty Splashland offers the main pool which is clearly the largest of them all, the Spray Zone water sprayground, the area's only drop slides, the Dump Tower, diving well, sand volleyball, pool tubes, many lounge chairs and a wide variety of foods at the Liberty Café. Several special events will be held this year.

As usual, swimming lessons will be offered through the American Red Cross. The Norry-Sunbury swim team will be competing here. Whether you are an individual or a family, the season pass is the most economical way to spend your summer getting cooled off, sun tanning and getting exercise. Season passes are available at the borough office until the pool opens and at a discounted rate of 10% off until May 1st. Hope to see you there as summer is approaching.

~Greg Carl, Liberty Splashland Operations

STORM DRAIN ALERT!

Please help us to keep our storm drains free of debris. Our borough code states:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, dump, or place in any manner whatsoever any refuse upon streets or alleys in the Borough of Northumberland, or for any person to permit or allow his agent or anyone under his control or supervision to do the same."

This ordinance pertains to LEAVES and GRASS CLIPPINGS in addition to other refuse. *Leaves must be kept on the curb for pick-up!* This prevents piles of leaves from being washed into the storm drains. Also, please do not place grass clippings out with the leaves. The grass causes the leaf-picker to become clogged.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Northumberland the clean & attractive town it is.

Oh, the weather outside is frightful...
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WE'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER!

...Well, in some cases we don't. In order to assist with 911 calls, it is necessary for you to have your premises identified.

In fact, it is a requirement under the International Property Maintenance Code, which has been adopted by the borough.

It states that "Buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch."

Please check to make certain that your residence is properly identified.

~Code Enforcement



Code Officer Paul Ruane captured this photo December 31, 2007.

NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH SEWER INSPECTION ORDINANCE SUMMARY

The Council of the Borough of Northumberland has passed a Sewer Inspection Ordinance requiring that any Person Selling Real Property located within the Borough, whose real property is connected to the Sanitary Sewer System, shall have said real property inspected by a Northumberland Sewer Authority (NSA) Inspector and be in compliance with the Sewer Inspection Ordinance. The word "Selling" includes any and all transfers or changes of ownership.

Before the sales transaction is completed, the property owner must contact the NSA [100 Water Street, Northumberland, PA 17857, Phone (570) 473-1992] to obtain an Application (the "Application") for an Evidence of Compliance Certificate ("Certificate"). The property owner must complete the Application and return it to the NSA along with a \$40.00 inspection fee. It will take about seven to ten (7-10) business days for the inspection to be completed.

- If the property passes the inspection, the property owner will receive a Certificate for delivery to the Purchaser.

- If the property fails the inspection, corrective actions must be taken. A Plan of Corrective Action form must be obtained from the NSA, completed, and returned to the NSA for approval along with a \$20.00 re-inspection fee. If, after the corrective actions have been taken, the property passes the re-inspection, the property owner will receive a Certificate for delivery to the Purchaser.

If a Purchaser purchases Real Property located in the Borough (the word "purchase" includes the acquisition of real estate with or without consideration) without obtaining a Certificate from the Seller, the Purchaser must, at the Purchaser's expense, obtain a Certificate using the procedure set forth above.

WHY WAS THE SEWER INSPECTION ORDINANCE ADOPTED?

In order to prevent the overloading of the sanitary sewer system, the Borough has determined that rain or storm/surface/ ground water ("Stormwater") must be removed from the Borough's Sanitary Sewers System (the "Sewer System").

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM IF STORMWATER DRAINS OR DOWNSPOUTS ARE CONNECTED TO THE SEWER SYSTEM?

The Sewer System is designed to accept a rather constant flow of sewage from household water. The sudden, rapid flow of Stormwater from roofs, patios, driveways, etc., can overload the Sewer System causing it to overflow and pollute the Susquehanna River.

WHAT REGULATIONS ARE VIOLATED BY CONNECTING STORMWATER DRAINS, DOWNSPOUTS, ETC. TO THE SEWER SYSTEM?

Regulations enforcing the prohibition of the connection of Stormwater drains, downspouts, etc. to sanitary sewers are promulgated by: the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Northumberland Borough Ordinance.

WHO DOES THIS ORDINANCE IMPACT?

The Ordinance will impact all persons in the Borough Selling or Purchasing real property connected to the Sewer System.

WHAT MUST PROPERTY OWNERS DO BEFORE THEY SELL THEIR PROPERTY IN ORDER TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ORDINANCE?

Before the sale of the property can be completed, the property owner must obtain an Evidence of Compliance Certificate, which involves an inspection of the property. As part of the inspection the Inspector may conduct a dye test or smoke test.

WHAT IS A DYE TEST?

Dye testing involves placing a non-staining water soluble dye tablet in the drain or downspout of your property and flushing it with water. The area is then examined for the appearance of traces of dyed water.

WHAT IS A SMOKE TEST?

Smoke testing involves the introduction of smoke into the sewer lines, drains, etc. on the property and observing where the smoke escapes.

WHAT DO THE DYE TEST AND SMOKE TEST DETERMINE?

Upon the conclusion of the dye test and/or smoke test, the Inspector will determine whether or not Stormwater drains, downspouts, etc. are connected to the Sewer System. If they are connected, corrective action must be taken to have the Stormwater re-routed elsewhere.

IF I AM NOTIFIED THAT I HAVE AN ILLEGAL CONNECTION, WHAT MUST I DO ABOUT IT?

You must submit a plan on the NSA's Plan Of Corrective Action form to the NSA for its approval, and if approved have the plan carried out. It would be best to consult a plumber or general contractor with underground utility experience to help determine the best plan of corrective action.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COSTS OF INSPECTIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS?

The property owner is solely responsible for all costs associated with the inspection and any necessary corrective action.

THINGS TO CONSIDER IN SELECTING A PLUMBER, CONTRACTOR AND/OR COMPANY TO PERFORM THE CORRECTIVE ACTION

Ask friends and neighbors about plumbers, contractors and/or companies they have used and recommend. The best referral is a satisfied customer.

Seek plumbers, contractors and/or companies with a proven track records; that conduct business in a professional manner. Make sure they have a permanent business address and phone number. When you feel that you have several qualified candidates, ask them to give an estimate, then do some background work on each one.

THE PINEKNOTTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter 2008

COMMUNITY EVENTS IN 2008

May 3: History Day
June 7: Community Yard Sale
& Chinese Auction
June 28: Soapbox Race
June 29 to July 5: Pineknotted
Days
August 2: Lemonade Day
August 9: Corn Festival
August 16: Ed Pfeiffer Memorial
Basketball Tournament
October 22: Halloween Parade
October 25: Fall Festival
October 25 & 26: Haunted
Walks at Pineknotted Park

NORTHUMBERLAND LIBERTY GLASS CENTER

Drop Off Hours:

Wednesday — 5:30 to 7:00 pm
Saturday — 7:00 to 11:00 am

The following items are ac-
cepted for drop off:

- Aluminum cans
- Glass bottles & jars (clear,
green, brown; separated by
color; rinsed clean with no
lids)
- Steel food and juice cans
(rinsed clean, with labels
removed)
- Newspapers—bundled and
in a plastic bag
- Magazines, catalogs, and
Glossy Color inserts
- Corrugated cardboard
- Plastics— # 1 & # 2

PUBLIC MEETING DATES

Borough Council

February 5
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3 & 24
July 15
August 5
September 2
October 7
November 3
December 2 & 16

Work Sessions

February 19
March 18
April 15
May 20
August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18

Monthly Committee Meetings (as needed)

Finance — the 3rd Thursday in March, June, Au-
gust, September, October, & November only
at 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety — the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Community Dev. — the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Streets — the 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission — last Thursday at 7:00
p.m.

Zoning Board— the last Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Meetings are held in the Borough Building, 221
Second Street..

The Emergency Services Board will meet at 7:00
pm the 1st Monday of each month at the Borough
Building unless that day is a holiday, when the
meeting will be the first Tuesday at a location to
be determined.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 am to Noon, 1 pm to 5 pm
Wednesday: 9 am. to Noon

Phone: 473-3414 Fax: 473-3986
office@northumberlandborough.com

Office Closed : February 18, March 21

IMPORTANT DATES

March 13: ARC Blood Drive
1 to 6 p.m. @ C. W. Rice
April 22: Primary Election
May 12: ARC Blood Drive
1 to 6 p.m. @ Christ UMC

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Gretchen H. Brosius
Mayor

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bryan Wolfe
Council President

Charles "Bud" Ditton
Vice President

Darvin Straub
Chairman Pro Tem

Judith Groninger
Cynthia Lark
Jonathan Rees
Frank Wetzel

Janice Bowman
Secretary

Tim Fink
Police Chief

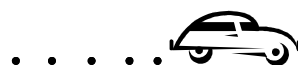
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Street Supervisor

Paul Ruane
Code Enforcement

Lee Shaffer
Health Officer

Jim Troup
Acting Fire Chief

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Do one or all of the following:

- Call the Better Business Bureau to find out if there have been any complaints against the plumber, contractor and/or company;
- Make sure they carry liability and worker's compensation insurance. Ask to see their certificate;
- Make sure they offer a warranty on both materials and workmanship. This warranty should be included in the written contract;
- At the start of the job give only a reasonable percentage (10%, more or less) of the total job cost.

For more information contact:

Northumberland Sewer Authority
100 Water Street
Northumberland, PA 17857
Phone (570) 473-1992

A NOTE FROM RIVERVIEW CEMETERY

Friends and relatives who have placed memorial items are requested to remove them by March 15th. Items remaining after March 15th will be removed by staff.

2008 EVENTS AT JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

MEET MARY RUSSELL & COMPANY

March 30, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m. During Women's History Month, "Mary Russell", friend of Joseph Priestley and his family, introduces you to other women of note associated with Priestley. Living history presentation & guided tour. Admission \$4.00 adults; \$3.50 seniors; \$2.00 youth 6-17 years

SCIENCE SATURDAY

April 19, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m. Children in 1st – 5th grades and their families explore topics in science based on Joseph Priestley's experiments. Registration required. Call (570) 473-9474 for details and to register. Admission \$4.00 adults; \$3.50 seniors; \$2.00 youth 6-17 years

Hours and programs subject to change. For information about any of our events, please call (570) 473-9474 or visit www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

PROGRESS AT SECOND STREET

The former Second Street Elementary School is undergoing a transformation. Bids were awarded this fall and the contractors have begun to renovate the building.

The General Contractor is Hepco Construction. This contract includes the outside renovations to the structure, windows, doors, etc. The classrooms at both ends of the gymnasiums are being completed with insulation, new outside walls, and new ceilings. A single handicapped-accessible restroom and janitor's closet are being installed in the wide hallway at the Second Street end of the gymnasium. The Park Avenue side of the gymnasium includes the renovations of the two classrooms, new restrooms, and a remodeled office for recreational purposes. The electrical and mechanical bids were awarded to SRS Electric, LLC and Spencer Mechanic, Inc., respectively. Wolfe Associates, Sunbury, is providing the architectural services. The Community Development Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the month to discuss future plans for the community center – plan to attend!



The view through a window at the Second Street Community Center.

Faces You Know. People You Trust.



Bob Kline
Realtor
ext. 205



Debbie Brouse
Associate Broker
GRI, CRS ext. 207



Mary Fatool
Realtor
ext. 214



Mike Diehl
Associate Broker
ext. 209



Sally Diehl
Rentals
ext. 210

800 North Fourth Street
Sunbury, PA 17801
www.squarediehlrealty.com

286-6344





Be Part of the Playground Capital Campaign. Make Your Tax Deductible Donation Today!

Northumberland Playground Fund Brick Order Form*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation: ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other amount:

* Minimum \$100 donation is required to receive a brick
Please make checks payable to "Northumberland Playground
Fund".

Engraved Message on brick:

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

15 characters maximum per line.

Feel free to drop off the form and donation at:

The Northumberland National Bank, 245 Front Street

Or the Borough Building, 221 Second Street

Examples

The Johnson
Family
2007

In Honor of
Bob Smith

In Memory of
John Jones
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A CUP OF JOE @ YOUR LIBRARY

The Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library – bringing the world to the community since 1926

Have you ever been to a Border's or Barnes & Noble bookstore? If you have, you might remember the hip coffee shop right there in the store, so convenient for sipping a mocha latte while browsing the bestseller section.

But did you know that many libraries are also now catching onto the idea that java and books go together? For example, on January 16th, the Bloomsburg University Andruss Library will be celebrating their grand opening of a new Starbucks coffee shop right there in the library!

Northumberland's very own Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library has joined the ranks of libraries that offer coffee service too. This past fall, we conducted a survey of library users asking them what their thoughts were on the notion of offering a coffee bar. The results were overwhelmingly positive with over 70% indicating that they would be very likely to purchase a beverage or baked goodies at the library.

As a result of the survey response, we opened our own version of a library coffee shop this past December, The Cross Keys Coffee Bar. The small "bar" is located right inside the library in the main room. We're offering regular coffee and flavored coffee, not to mention decaf. We also have several different kinds of tea, both caffeinated and decaf, and several different flavors of gourmet hot cocoa. Just this past week, we began offering sweet treats like cookies and muffins as well. A small donation will have you sipping a delightful cup of Caramel Truffle coffee, two sugars, extra cream, and happily munching a banana nut muffin.

We chose the name, The Cross Keys Coffee Bar, as a way to highlight the historical past of the library. The first use of the location and building at 100 King St., which was constructed around 1825, was a stagecoach stop and tavern known as the Cross Keys Inn. What better way to return a little bit to our roots than to offer coffee and treats to our visitors?

One of the questions that always comes up when choosing to offer beverages in a library is the issue of the possibility of spills and damages to books and other library materials. When planning our coffee bar, we contemplated the pros and cons and thought about this as well, as did some of our patrons who mentioned the concern on their surveys.

What the research says about this perceived problem is somewhat surprising. Bookstores that offer coffee and food items to their customers have noted that damage to items in their stores has been almost non-existent. The same is true for libraries that have chosen to offer coffee shops. A recent article, "Coffee, Tea and/or Literacy: the Public Library's Role in Accommodating Today's 'Average Joe,'" by Julia Browne, quoted one librarian on the subject: "Spills on our carpet? Not a problem. Cups and napkins strewn throughout the library? Have not seen it."

It seems that making sure there are lids on the cups is definitely the key to avoiding damage from spilled beverages. And when you think about it, as a library, we permit library patrons to check out and take home books, tapes, DVD's and other items. Aren't the books and DVDs as likely to have something spilled on them at home as they would be at the library?



There are plans to add more items to the menu in the coming months and plans at some point to offer café type seating in the main room. We're looking forward to further developing the perfect pairing of hot coffee, tea, or cocoa with a good read at your library.

The coffee shop is open 6 days a week, opening an hour after the library opens for the day and closing an hour before the library closes for the day. Library hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10-6, and Tuesday and Thursday, 12-8.

You can call the library at 473-9489, or visit us online to check the library card catalog or use any one of our dozens of reference services or databases at www.priestleyforsyth.org. **BRING THIS ARTICLE WITH YOU TO THE LIBRARY FOR A FREE BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE!** Stop in at the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library and warm up with a good book and a hot cup of Joe.

~ Karen Burd, Director
Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library



PARKING REQUEST

The Streets Department requests those residents living on the hill section, especially Elliott Drive, refrain from parking on the street during a snow storm. When cars are parked along the curbing, it is difficult for the snowplows to get through.

FROM YOUR HEALTH OFFICER!

"Methicillin Staphylococcus Aureus" (MRSA) has become a very serious and potentially deadly bacterial infection. MRSA is dangerous to all but especially young people when in school sharing food and clothing. Their close proximity leads to greater vulnerability.

The bacteria has evolved, learning how to exist around antibiotics and turning into "super bugs" able to resist our most powerful antibiotics.

What can you do to fight back? WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN and practice good personal hygiene. Use HOT water and SOAP, not antibacterial soap. Antibacterial soap actually makes the bugs tougher. A good plain soap and warm to hot water will do the trick. In the food industry, hand washing is essential. Restaurants are required to have separate hand washing sinks in food preparation areas. Do not wash your hands in the same sink as you wash your vegetables and dishes.

~Lee Shaffer, Health Officer

NORTH'D POINT TOWNSHIP SENIORS PRESENT: CAPE COD

A tour of historic Cape Cod is planned for June 9th—13th. All the details have been arranged. Your only responsibility is to relax and enjoy the tour. Contact Beverly Lenker at 570-473-8721.

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JOBS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Borough will again be hiring college students and college-bound high school seniors as part of the Summer Intern Program. To be eligible, the student must receive a P.H.E.A.A. loan or grant. Interested students should contact the Borough Office after February 15th to obtain more information and application forms. In the past, the borough has employed students to work at Liberty Splashland and with the Borough Crew. At Liberty Splashland, the students are employed as lifeguards, concession stand operators, maintenance, and front desk personnel. (Contact the YMCA to learn when lifeguard classes are scheduled.) Students working with the borough street crew help to cut grass, trim, paint crosswalks, and other property maintenance throughout the Borough. Students may earn up to \$2,500 during the summer months through this program.

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