

## *Serving Your Borough*

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Lee Shaffer,  
*Health Officer*

### *Borough Office*

Phone: 473-3414  
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THE BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND  
<http://www.northumberlandborough.com>

## Second Street Community Center: Yes or No? by Mayor Gretchen Brosius

Dear Friends,  
Neighbors, and NHS  
Alumni,

In the year 2000 the Second Street School was purchased with grant money to develop a community center. The proposed community center would include a gym for recreation and community gatherings, a place for the senior action center if it chose to relocate, and a wonderful location to display many of the memorabilia of the community and the NHS alumni, meeting rooms for organizations and for fitness groups, area theater opportunities, both child and adult day care, etc. A municipal police office is also part of the plan.

A Committee was formed and a plan was approved. The first phase of the project included replacing the roofs and installing a heating system. There

were sufficient funds in the initial grant to install a roof over the gymnasium and the newer part along Park Avenue, but not for the heating. It was estimated that an additional \$750,000.00 would be needed to provide heating, install the additional roofing and complete the other work needed to transform the building into a community center. Another grant in that amount was sought, and through the efforts of Representative Merle Phillips it was placed in the State's Capital Budget for the fiscal year 2002-2003. We waited until the end of the fiscal year in July 2003 for word about the grant and were disappointed to learn that it had not been funded. The estimated cost to heat the building is \$80,000 to \$100,000. It is felt that if the gymnasium is heated, it could be utilized for activities and fundraisers to help

toward funding the project.

The Committee must now decide whether it should recommend moving forward with a capital fund drive or abandon the project. It is imperative that this decision be made promptly. Vandals have begun breaking windows in the building, have gained entry into the building and caused some damage recently by starting a fire that burned a small hole in the gymnasium stage and caused considerable smoke damage.

A capital fund drive requires a lot of work and effort by a lot of people. If such a drive is to be successful the Committee will need the support of the community. There are some who believe that our town's sense of community has been diminished by the fact that we no longer

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**Volunteer Second Street Community Web Developer Needed**

The Borough is looking for someone to develop and maintain our web site for the Second Street Community Center. If you have web development experience and would like to volunteer your talents, please email Bryan Wolfe at president@northumberlandborough.com or contact the Borough office for more information. Our site is located at

www.secondstreetcommunitycenter.com

**Congratulations to the Northumberland Housing Authority.**

The Northumberland Borough Council and the Mayor Brosius congratulate the Northumberland Housing Corporation on the completion of The Pines, the new mid-rise building on the corner of Orange and Sixth Streets. It is a well constructed and designed building that fills a need in our community and adds beauty to the corner.

It is a job well done.

**Second Street Community Center: Yes or No?**

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have our own school system, and that a community center would re-create it by bringing

people of all ages together. Do you share this vision? If so, are you willing to help bring it about? If you feel otherwise it is important for us to know that too.

Please contact the Borough Office at 473-3414 or send in or drop off the following response to the Borough Office.

**Second Street Community Center—Community Questionnaire**

**I want to see the Second Street Community Center open. I will support your efforts by: (check all that apply)**

**Joining the Committee**

**Helping with fund raisers**

**Making a donation**

**I support the project, but I am unable to help at this time.**

**I do not support the project for the following reasons.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(You may submit form anonymously )

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## From the President of Borough Council

It's hard to believe, but the summer months are behind us, and now the leaves are falling with winter on the horizon. Before our focus shifts to those events that are winter, however, it is important for me to discuss with you events that Council has worked on the past few months and give you a sense of where we are going in 2004.

### Changes to the Code

For safety and practical reasons, the Borough is enacting changes to our Borough Code which will limit the conversion of single family homes to **multi-family units**. The Borough has determined that the districts best suited for inclusion of multi-family residential units are in the Highway Commercial (HC) and High Density Residential (R3) areas of the Borough. These new regulations will only affect the conversion or building of new multi-family units...

Also enacted this year are new regulations with regards to the **use of bicycles and the like in King Street**

**Park and the downtown areas of the Borough.** The new regulations prohibit the use of skateboards, roller blades, scooters or bicycles in these areas.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact the Borough Office.

### Sidewalk Project

Our Sidewalk Beatification project continues in 2004, after a very successful 2003. A special "thank you" goes out to everyone in the 2nd Ward and to members of our Code Enforcement team for working together to make this project a success. Next year we will be concentrating on repairing, replacing, or installing sidewalks in the 3rd and 1st Wards of the Borough. Contact the Code Office for more information.

### Street Repair

Continued street and curbing work was or is about to be completed in the Borough, with more projects scheduled to start in 2004. Residents living on Fifth Street and in the other areas

affected this year should be commended for their patience while we try to make their "corner" of the Borough better for everyone.

In 2004, expect work to commence on Orange Street, as well as in other areas yet to be announced.

### Revitalization at the Park

I once again want to thank everyone that was involved in revitalizing King Street Park this past spring and summer. The new gardens and pond have many admirers, and will bring continued joy to everyone in the years ahead. Thanks to everyone. You know who you are!

### Look Ahead

The 2004-05 Council term begins January 5 with a reorganization meeting scheduled for that night. Then and now, let us know how we are doing and let us know often!

Until 2004, Bryan

### Budget Meetings Conclude November 12

The Borough's budget committee concludes its work on drafting the 2004 budget on November 12. On that day, the committee is expected to pass a tentative budget, which will then go to the full Borough Council for approval.

Your comments, suggestions and ideas concerning the budget are gladly welcomed.

The meeting on November 12th is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in Borough Hall.

The meetings needed to discuss and approve the Budget by full council are scheduled for November 18th and December 2.

Council meetings begin at 7 p.m.

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**Revitalization Committee**

The Northumberland – Point Township Revitalization Committee has a busy autumn schedule and need your help. So please consider helping with all or some of the planned events. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial Garden will be dedicated at King Street Park. Following the music from 12:30 to 1:00, the Joint Veterans will conduct the rededication of the Gettysburg Address Monument. The dedication of the Memorial Garden will follow. Refreshments will be served.

The committee will also be leading the Christmas decorating this year so please volunteer to check lights on Nov. 1 at the Borough garage at 10:30. On November 15, at 9:00, please meet at King Street Park to help decorate the park and downtown. We will also be making plans for Santa’s big arrival on Dec. 1 at 7:00.

Revitalization will also be supporting History Day 2004 which is scheduled for May 8. Watch for future meeting dates or call the Borough office at 473-3414 to help with any of these projects.

**Why Food Regulations? By Lee Shaffer, Health Officer**

Why do we have food regulations? For the same reasons we have highway and driving regulations – TO SAVE LIVES and to prevent people from getting sick from bad and improperly handled food. More than 200 known diseases are transmitted through food. In the United States, food borne diseases have been estimated to cause 6 million to 8.1 million illnesses a year. This can be prevented through safe food handling practices and common sense.

Food stands and street

vendors need to know safe food handling methods and follow safe practices such as obtaining food from an approved source, proper cooking and holding, and proper handling of ready-to-eat food.

Ready-to-eat food is not to be handled with bare hands. Items such as hot dogs should be picked up with tongs and put into the bun, which is held with a gloved, or otherwise covered, hand.

Vendors need to have some means of washing or sanitizing hands after

handling unclean items, even money.

Bake sale items should be limited to items, which are considered not readily perishable and not normally associated with food poisoning outbreaks. Suggested “safe” foods for bake sales are cakes, cookies, brownies, popcorn, breads, rolls, confections, and fruit pies.

Items that should not be offered because of their potential to cause food borne illness are cream-filled pies, custard-type pies, egg and salad

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## Why Food Regulations?

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dishes, and meat dishes. Home-canned foods are a definite No-No.

Potentially hazardous foods include any food that consists in the whole, or in part, of milk or milk products, shell eggs, meats, poultry, baked or boiled potatoes, tofu and other soy-protein products, and raw seed sprouts.

In Pennsylvania, all eating and drinking establishments are inspected and licensed by the local health department or by the PA Department of Agriculture. The people who own or manage licensed places are more knowledgeable of safe food practices and now many have had training

in safe food handling. Pennsylvania also issues temporary food permits to vendors at fairs, carnivals, and any other events where food is sold. A temporary permit is valid for one day, but not to exceed 14 days. The purpose for temporary permits is to ensure that the same safe practices are followed as in permanent establishments. The operators also are expected to be knowledgeable and practice the same safe food handling procedures. Charity vendors are expected to follow the same guidelines as in professional food establishments. Charitable organizations that have more than 12 occasions per year are expected to be licensed as a permanent opera-

tion.

Some people consider food regulations to be an interference to their endeavor; consider the fact that you can get just as sick at a fund-raising event. Our goal is to try to prevent food borne illness by monitoring the food handling and the handler.

**HALLOWEEN:** Take time to check your trick-or-treaters' goodies. Know where they go. Candy, popcorn, etc. should be wrapped or packaged, preferably by the manufacturer. Be sure to check for foreign objects in fruit. Also check for holes in prepackaged candy, etc.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

## A Little Early But...

### Some Strong Holiday Elves Are Requested

Hard to believe, but the 2003 Holiday season is just around the corner. To 'spruce up' the Borough for the holiday season, we are asking for your assistance. Members of the Northumberland/Point Township Revitalization Committee are looking for volunteers to help decorate the downtown. If you are interested in giving some of your time, please contact the Borough office. Volunteers will be needed on November 1st to decorate the downtown and on November 15th to decorate King Street Park.

### Christmas Tree Pick-up

Northumberland Borough will have Christmas tree pick-up from Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> thru Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004. **The final dates for pick-up will be January 12, 13, and 14 following the street-sweeping schedule.** On these final days, the trees must be placed between the curb and sidewalk by 8:00 a.m. The crew will drive down each street once and will not go back for trees that are put out after they have completed that street.

**Trees will not be picked up if they are covered with bags or have any type of ornaments or trimmings, including tinsel, on them.**

The Borough employees appreciate the residents' co-operation.

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**Veteran's Day Service Planned**

Veteran's Day will be commemorated by a ceremony at the Riverview Cemetery on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Plan to attend and honor our Veterans.

**Bazaar Planned**

The Trinity U.M. Church will have their annual bazaar on November 7 and 8 at the church located on the corner of King and Sixth Streets. The schedule is as follows:

Fri., Nov. 7 - 8:30 am to 7:30 pm

Lunch is served from 11:00 to 1:00.

Turkey Dinner served from 5:00 to 7:00.

Sat., Nov. 8 - 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Lunch served from 11:00 to 1:00.

**Council Reorganization**

The 2004-05 Borough Council term will begin with a special reorganization meeting on Monday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m.

**A Mayor's Message by Gretchen Brosius**

The beauty of autumn is upon us and before you know it the holidays will be here too. As we approach Thanksgiving I have already made up my Northumberland list of thankfulness. I thank God for the opportunity of living in and growing up in this small town and in this great nation. I am thankful for dedicated councilmen and women, diligent Borough employees, brave fire fighters, brave po-

lice officers, and dedicated volunteers, all of whom donate many hours on the job and in the community to make Norry the fine place it is.

There is, however, much work to do to keep us moving forward. Won't you consider volunteering for one of the following committees: Second Street Community Center, Revitalization, Recreation, History, Halloween Parade, Christmas Decorating, Recy-

cling, Pineknotted Park, helping with landscaping, and anywhere else where you think your talents and interests lead you.

Remember to keep all of those who pledge to protect us in your prayers. Those here in Northumberland and those serving around the globe. And please count the many blessings that God has bestowed and be thankful.

Blessings and prayers,  
Gretchen

**Haunted House Canceled due to Arson Fire**

Due to the July arson fire at the Second Street building, there will be no 'Nightmare on 2nd Street' benefit this year.

'Nightmare' - which began in 2000 benefited the Borough's Liberty Splashland project., and was sponsored by the Northum-

berland Parks and Rec-



reation Commission and by Northumberland's Police Depart-

ment. This year's event would have been the fourth year of this event.

Both organization sponsors, as well as the Borough regret the decision to change this event.

**Remaining Council Dates for 2003 Set**

The final regularly scheduled meetings of the 2002-03 Borough Council term will be as follows:

- Tuesday, October 21
- Monday, November 3
- Tuesday, November 18
- Tuesday, December 2

Tuesday, December 16. All meetings are held in Borough Hall at 7 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.



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## Holiday House Tours Scheduled

Mark your calendar for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday House Tour, Sunday, December 14, 2003. The Sunbury Area Chapter of Red Cross, an Agency of the United Way, sponsors the tour which will be held from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

The seven homes vary in style from older to contemporary. All are beautifully decorated for the holidays.

Tickets will be \$6.00 per person and advance tickets may be purchased at the Red Cross Office, 30 N. 5th Street,

Medical Center Pharmacy, First Susquehanna Bank and Trust, Market Street, and 1104 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street locations, all in Sunbury. Gubins, Northumberland National Bank, and Townside Garden Café, all on Front Street in Northumberland, also have advance tickets for sale.

Tickets will be on sale the day of the tour, from 12:30 – 4:00, in the King Street Park near the gazebo. With each ticket, you will receive a booklet and map to help direct you to each home on the tour. All homes will be in the

Point Township and Northumberland area.

Donations from the ticket sale will benefit the Sunbury Area Chapter of Red Cross, in providing food, shelter and clothing to local families following a disaster; a communication link for members of our Armed Forces and their families; and also to provide educational health and safety classes.

At the end of the tour, free refreshments will be served at the Townside Garden Café, on Front Street in Northumberland.

### Borough Offices Closed

The Borough offices will be closed on November 27-28 in observance of the Thanksgiving holidays. In addition, the offices will be closed on December 25-26 for the Christmas Holiday. On December 24, Christmas Eve, the office will be open only in the morning. For New Year's, January 1st, the offices will also be closed.

### Community Service Planned

The Northumberland Ministerium will conduct a community Thanksgiving Service on November 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church at Front and King Streets.

*Our Next Issue:*

### Winter 2004

The next issue of *The Pineknott News* will be published in late January.

Those wishing to send articles for submission or wish to have ads published in this issue, please do so by Friday, January 9, 2004.

**Picture (added at printing)**

## Important Dates—October 2003–January 2004

10/18 Dedication of Memorial Garden,  
King St. Park, 12:30 p.m.

10/29 Halloween Parade, 7:00 p.m.

10/31 Trick or Treating, 6—9 p.m.

11/1 Christmas Decorating -  
Help Needed- Borough Garage, 10:00 a.m.

11/4 Election Day

11/9 Veterans Day Commemoration  
Riverview Cemetery, 1:00 p.m.

11/15 King Street Park - Christmas Decorating -  
Help Needed, 9:00 a.m.

11/26 Last Day for leaf pick-up

12/1 Santa Arrives at King St. Park at 7:00 p.m.

1/14 Last day for Christmas Tree  
pick-up in the Borough

Borough of  
Northumberland  
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*The Pineknotted 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.