

THE PINEKNOTTER NEWS

WINTER 2005

FEBRUARY—APRIL 2005

Visit NorthumberlandBorough.com, your online connection to the Borough of Northumberland

2005 BUDGET REQUIRES NO NEW TAXES

On December 21st, the Northumberland Borough Council passed its 2005 budget without the need for a tax increase. The \$1.12 million budget keeps real estate mills set at an adjusted rate of 19.225 mills, the same as in 2004.

Real Estate taxes and the Earned Income Tax generate 60 percent of the income needed for this budget. Generous contributions made by the Northumberland Sewer Authority and the Northumberland Housing Corporation are also included in this year's budget. Specific-use taxes and fees collected make up the remaining revenue.

Among the items included

in the budget is \$312,306 for police protection (which includes everything from police salaries to vehicle maintenance) and \$354,337 to cover our street and utilities expenses.

One mill of tax in the Borough generates just under \$28,000 in revenue.

Total Expenses

Administrative, \$142,155

Police, \$312,306

Fire Co., \$24,606

Code Officer, \$20,742

EMA, \$500

Property, \$1,050

Health Depart., \$1,050

Recycling, \$11,850*

Streets/Utilities, \$354,337

Debt Service, \$69,782

Parks/Recreation, \$15,652

Second Street

Community Center, \$5,506

Insurances, \$112,126

Contributions/Donations,
\$7,750

***including monies for grant requests**

Total Expenses

\$ 1,044,958

Total Income

Our income for the new year includes the following:

Real Estate: \$368,369

OPT Tax: \$12,050

(Continued on page 2)

SERVING YOUR BOROUGHS

*Gretchen H. Brosius,
Mayor*

Borough Council
*Bryan M. Wolfe,
President*

*Charles "Bud" Ditton,
Vice President*

*Donald Troxell,
Chairman Pro Tem*

*Judith H. Groninger
Noelle Long
Jonathan Rees
Darvin Straub*

*Nate Fisher,
Street Supervisor*

*Tim Fink
Police Chief*

*Brian Krebs,
Fire Chief*

*Paul J. Ruane,
Code Enforcement
Officer*

*Lee Shaffer,
Health Officer*

Borough Office

Phone: 473-3414
Fax: 473-3986

MUNICIPAL PRIMARY OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES

The 2005 primary election season offers residents a unique opportunity to serve your community. Seats up for election in the Borough this year include five of the seven Council seats, the mayors' seat, and the position of tax collector. Interested candidates may begin

circulating and filing nomination petitions on February 15. The deadline to file such positions is March 8. This year's Municipal Primary is scheduled for May 17. The Municipal Election is November 8.

Four of the five available

Council seats carry a term of four-years; the other seat is 2-years in length. Both the position of mayor, and tax collector serve for four years.

If you have any questions about the election process, contact the Borough office.

Liberty Splashland

Summer is just around the corner! Now is the time to save money by purchasing a Season Pass to Liberty Splashland. Family Passes are now available for just \$135.00. Individual Passes are now selling for \$67.50. After April 15th, the prices will be \$150 for the Family Pass and \$75 for an Individual Pass. Call the Borough Office at 473-3414 or stop by to purchase your pass.

Watch for the article in our Spring newsletter, with information on the new activities planned for this summer at the pool.

Parks and Recreation

Help wanted: Several volunteers to serve on the Parks and Recreation Committee. Anyone over the age of 18 may apply. No experience necessary, just a willingness to improve the Parks and Recreation in the Borough. Call the Borough Office at 473-3414.

Northumberland Pt./Township Revitalization

In the fall of 2004 the Northumberland Pt./Township Revitalization began a new program that honors those who are improving the community. Homes and businesses have been improved, new businesses have begun and the committee wants to recognize those who have made the effort to improve our communities. Those homes that were honored include: the Boyer home at 500 Orange Street, and the Roger home at 255 Fourth St. The businesses honored are the Cadillac Car Wash at Duke and Fourth Streets and Haubert homes on Route 11. We plan to continue this program and hope that the citizens of our two communities will let the committee know of any places you believe should be recognized.

TAKE THE FOOD QUIZ BY LEE SHAFFER

Can Your Kitchen Pass the Food Safety Test?

In the home, food safety concerns revolve around three main functions: food storage, food handling, and cooking. To see how well you're doing in each, take this quiz and compare your answers and descriptions provided

Quiz

Choose the answer that best describes the practice in your household, whether or not

you are the primary food handler.

1. The temperature of the refrigerator in my home is:

- a. 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius)
- b. 41 F (5C)
- c. I don't know: I've never measured it.

2. The last time we had leftover cooked stew or other food with meat,

chicken or fish, it was:

- a. Cooled to room temperature, then put in the refrigerator
- b. Put in the refrigerator immediately after the food was served
- c. Left at room temperature overnight or longer

3. The last time the kitchen sink drain, disposal and connecting pipe in my home were

NEW LAWS BECOME REALITY IN BOROUGH IN 2005

In December, the Borough of Northumberland implemented new laws that might affect you. Beginning in 2005, the use of "Jake brakes" or similar devices used by trucks are no longer permitted within the Borough limits. Fire and Emergency-type vehicles are exempt from this new law, which has been implemented to cut-down on the noise that such brake-

retarders/"jake-brakes" make.

Also passed is a law limiting the use of commercial vehicles in the Borough. Vehicles over 10,000 pounds are forbidden from entering the Borough except in certain cases and by certain entities. Various areas of the Borough are exempt from this new law, such as those vehicles making deliveries, or picking

up goods. Fire prevention apparatus, garbage removal equipment, snow removal equipment, emergency equipment, or other vehicles destined to make repairs are also excluded.

Please contact the Borough Office for specific questions on these and all laws enforced in the Borough of Northumberland.

2005 BUDGET REQUIRES NO NEW TAXES

(Continued from page 1)

Per Capita: \$11,300

Transfer Taxes: \$30,000

Earned Income Taxes: \$305,000

Road Fund: \$65,217

Debt Service: \$69,782

Recreation: \$15,652

Fees Collected: \$48,210

Miscellaneous Revenues: \$134,632

Sewer Authority: \$50,000

Housing Authority: \$10,000.

Total Income \$1,044,958

The complete budget is available in the Borough office or on our website for your re-

view.

Drafting of each year's budget is done via the Borough finance committee which begins its work in the fall of each year. Following open committee meetings, the full Council votes on the budget at two consecutive open Council meetings.

FROM THE POLICE CHIEF

The Northumberland Borough Police Department will be starting a program to identify and assess the needs of the Borough's elderly population who reside alone. The program is called "Community Action to Reach the Elderly" or "CARE". Officers will be assigned to make visits with elderly residents who reside alone and/or make phone calls to these residents while on their regular patrol routes. Officers can then assess the needs of the resident and then make efforts to contact senior citizen programs and agencies to assist them. Emergency contact forms will be used by

the officers in case of an emergency. Officers will also contact the residents' neighbors to recruit them into the program and get them involved in watching out for their elderly neighbors.

The Department needs to know who these elderly residents are so that we can get them into the program. Please contact the Northumberland Police Department at 473-8446 with information on residents in need of this service.

The Department is also seeking residents interested in being involved in a Crime

Watch Program for the Borough of Northumberland. If interested, please call the Department at 473-8446.

Winter Months Reminder of Borough Ordinances

- 50-18, 50-19 Snow and Ice Removal

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 properties for a longer period than twenty-four (24) hours after snow has fallen or ice has accumulated.

The Penalty is a fine not to exceed \$100.00 for each sixty (60) feet of ground together with all costs and expenses created in collecting the said fine and penalty.

- 50-20 Removal by Borough; lien for costs

If the said owners or occupants of the several premises shall fail to remove the said snow or ice as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Borough to remove the said snow and ice or to have removed the snow and ice, and the cost shall be charged against the owner of the premises and the same shall be collected as debts are now by law collected.

- 50-20.1 Shoveling Snow onto Street Prohibited

A. For purposes of this sec-

ANSWERS TO FOOD QUIZ

1. (b) All cold food should be stored/held at or below 41° F. I recommend that all commercial establishments maintain their refrigerator at 38°F. You should keep a thermometer in your refrigerator, and read it regularly.

2. (b) Left over food (this included take home "doggie bags" be cooled quickly, less than 2 hours to 40°F. Food left at room temperature over 2 hours invites and grow bacteria. "Throw it away!"

3. (a) Sinks and drains should be cleaned and sanitized frequently, especially after rinsing raw meats.

4. (c) All cutting boards should be washed and sanitized before the next use and especially after cutting raw meats, poultry, or fish. Wash with hot soapy water and rinse well with warm water. Note: a very inexpensive sanitizer can be a solution of 1 tbsp. of plain Clorox in a quart of water.

5. (c) Hamburger (ground beef) should be cooked to 160° F. Note: There is irradiated ground beef available in most grocery stores, which is considered to be free of harmful bacteria and may be consumed rare.

6. (c) Eggs may contain salmonella bacteria which can be killed by cooking or baking.

7. (c) The same rule applies as in numbers 3 and 4.







8. (a) or (c) Commercial establishments are required to have a third rinse with a sanitizer and always air-dried. Towel-drying with hands simply spreads bacteria from one dish to another.

9. (c) To properly clean hands you must use hot soapy water scrubbing for 20 seconds and rinsing with warm water and then dry with a single use paper towel.

10. (b) All meats should be defrosted in the refrigerator over night. If you do defrost in a microwave it must be cooked immediately. The microwave defrosting is part of the cooking process.

(Continued on page 7)

**Faces You Know
People You Trust**

		
Bob Kline Realtor ext. 205	Connie Brown Realtor ext. 206	Debbie Brouse Associate Broker GRI, CRS ext. 207
		
Jill Sokalzuk Realtor ext. 208	Mike Diehl Associate Broker ext. 209	Sally Diehl Rentals/ Prop. Mgmt. ext. 210

**800 North Fourth St.
Sunbury, PA 17801
www.squarediehlrealty.com**

286-6344

SQUARE DIEHL REALTY

BOROUGH COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2005

Finance – Meets the Third Wednesday of each month,
6:30 p.m.

- Bryan M. Wolfe, chairperson
- Charles “Bud” Ditton
- Noelle Long

Personnel – Meets in closed-meetings through the year.

- Judith H. Groninger, Chairwoman
- Charles “Bud” Ditton
- Bryan M. Wolfe

Property – Meets the Fourth Tuesday of each month,
7:30 p.m.

- Darwin Straub, chairperson
- Judith H. Groninger
- Noelle Long

Public Safety – Meets the Fourth Tuesday of each month,
6:30 p.m.

- Charles “Bud” Ditton, chairperson
- Jonathan Rees
- Don Troxell

Ordinance Committee - Meets the Fourth
Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

- Jonathan Rees, chairperson
- Darwin Straub
- Bryan M Wolfe

Streets – Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each
month, 7 p.m.

- Don Troxell, chairperson
- Judith H. Groninger
- Jonathan Rees

Sewer Authority Representative

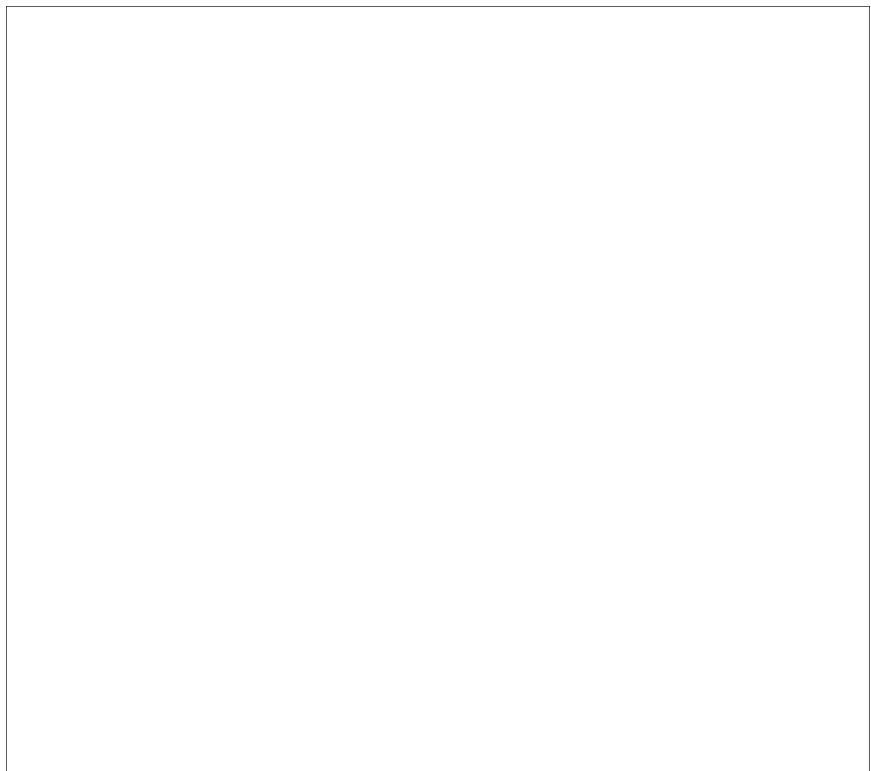
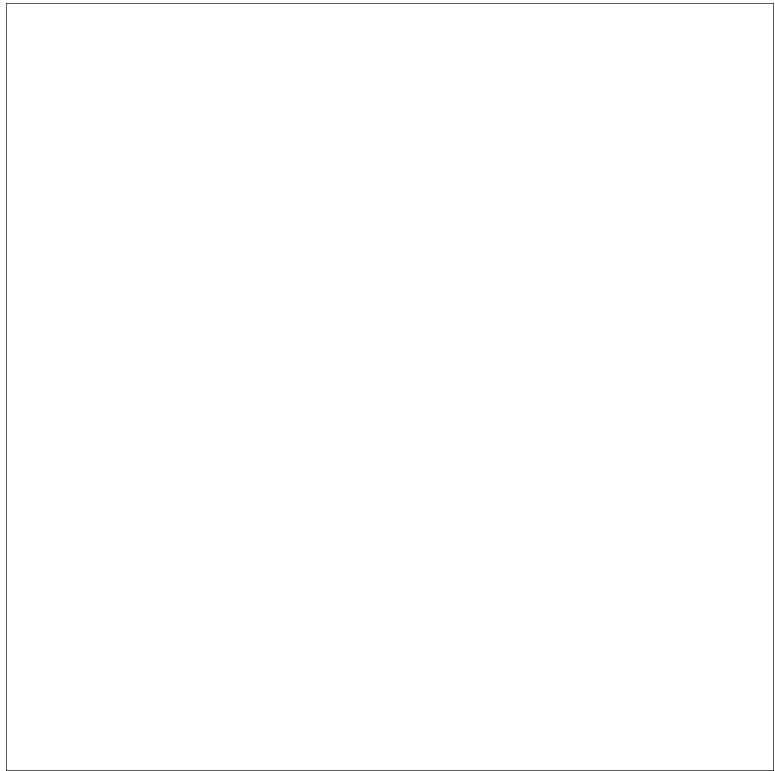
- Don Troxell

Second Street Committee Representative

- Darwin Straub

Emergency Task Force Representative

- Bryan M. Wolfe



Building Available to Rent

Need a place to hold that family gathering, a party, wedding reception, or some other activity? The J. Andrew Myers Kiwanis Community Center is available to rent for such occasions.

For more information, contact Bill Skumanich at 473-9161 or Tom Propst at 473-3467.



THERE IS AN EPIDEMIC IN NORTHUMBERLAND

Our lovely borough has been hit with an epidemic. It is one that affects the health of the community. No...it isn't an outbreak of the influenza virus! Instead it is an outbreak of code violations.

As we look around we see an increase in homeowner practices that have undermined the beauty and value of our properties. Are you a good neighbor? Do you keep your yard and porches free from trash and discarded items? Do you keep your family sounds and music contained to your home or yard? Do you keep your grass cut and weeds pulled? Do you

train your dog to not bark at every passerby? If so, you are doing a good job!

One problem that is occurring frequently is that of parking vehicles in front yards. We are seeing this on the rise. This is a code violation!! These vehicles should be parked on the street or in driveways, not in the front yard!

Let's all work together to be good neighbors. Well-maintained properties attract others who are interested in the same. Please remedy any problems before citations must be issued. We can then get on the road to recovery.

No Parking Reminder

"No Parking" signs are posted for Monday & Tuesday on opposite sides of the streets from Duke to Prince Streets, and Wednesday in the hill section. Parking is restricted due to street cleaning, snow removal, utility repairs, etc. Tickets are issued all year long for violations. Parking is permitted on days designated as "Borough Holidays".



**YOU ALWAYS
YOUR VERY
OWN HOUSE**

- LOWEST RATES IN YEARS
- LOW CLOSING COST
- LOW APPRAISAL FEES
- QUICK APPROVAL

With help from The Northumberland National Bank we can make dreams come true.



WE'RE STILL

The Northumberland National Bank

Front Street
Drive In on Queen St.
Northumberland, PA 17857
473-3531

Weis Markets
Susquehanna Valley Mall
Selingsgrove, PA 17870
374-5533

Sunbury Office & Drive-In
403 N. 4th St.
Sunbury, PA
286-8856

IMAGINED



Member FDIC

Our Customers Always Come First



Kiwanis Club Looking for New Members

Kiwanis is a world-wide service organization composed of men and women who have joined together because they know as a group they can do more good for the world than they could as individuals.

The Kiwanis Club of Northumberland - Point Township has been a part of this worldwide organization since 1973. The group meets Thursdays in the J. Andrew Myers Kiwanis Community Center, Rear 174 Prince Street.

The regular weekly meetings start at 6:15 PM with a meal that is catered by the Townside Garden Cafe. Following the meal, there is a brief business meeting and a program on various topics of interest to members.

As a service organization - not just a social club - Kiwanis depends on member participation. Although members are encouraged to attend all meetings, we know that is not always possible, but there are also numerous service projects, which members can help with. Some service projects of the Northumberland - Point Township Kiwanis are:

Sponsoring Pineknotters' Days Celebration

Flying American flags on the Barry King & Joseph Priestley Bridges

Providing Christmas food baskets to needy area families

Supporting for Northumberland - Point Township area churches, the Shikellamy and Selinsgrove High School Key Clubs, Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts, the Danville Ronald McDonald House, the Kiwanis Heart Center and

(Continued on page 7)

Minnier Hearing Center

580 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857

Hearing is one of the most important
of your 5 senses

- Do people sound like they're mumbling?
- Do you ask others to repeat themselves?

If so, you'll want to call

Minnier Hearing Center
473-1200

For your **FREE** Hearing Evaluation



Deer-ly want to
work with the best?
Call Sellin' Helen
or Agent Ann!

RE/MAX
473-8888
or
743-2220

RIVER VALLEY REALTY
166 Eighth Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Each office independently owned and operated

FROM THE POLICE CHIEF

(Continued from page 3)

tion, a "street" shall be any public way or public thoroughfare having a right of way in excess of twenty (20) feet.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to shovel or place any snow or cause any snow to be shoveled or placed onto or upon any portion of any street in the Borough of Northumberland except that portion of the street extending four (4) feet center ward from the

curb or from the edge or the paved portion of the street if there is no curb.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person in shoveling, moving, or removing snow or causing any snow to be shoveled, moved or removed from any portion of any street in the Borough of Northumberland to place said snow or to cause said snow to be placed upon any portion of any street in the Borough except that portion of the

street extending four (4) feet center ward from the curb or from the edge or the paved portion of the street if there is no curb.

D. Any person who violates this section shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of thirty dollars (\$30.00).

Chief Timothy A. Fink

(Continued from page 6)

Kiwanis Club Looking for New Members

Haven Ministries.

Membership in Kiwanis is by invitation from a member and is open to area residents who are willing to accept the six Objects of Kiwanis as a guide to living their daily lives. Those objectives are:

To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than the material values of life.

To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.

To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship

To provide, through Kiwanis Clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.

To cooperate in creating and maintaining sound public opinion and high idealism, which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and good will.

To join the Kiwanis Club of Northumberland - Point Township, there is a one-time application fee of \$35.00 and dues are \$30.00 per quarter. Members only pay for meals that they eat. If you are interested in the possibility of joining the local club, contact any Kiwanis member or the club secretary, Tom Propst at 473-3467.

TAKE THE FOOD QUIZ

(Continued from page 2)

sanitized was:

- a. Last night
- b. Several weeks ago
- c. Can't remember

4. If a cutting board is used in my home to cut raw meat, poultry or fish and it is going to be used to chop another food, the board is:

- a. Reused as is
- b. Wiped with a damp cloth
- c. Washed with soap and hot water and sanitized with a mild chlorine bleach solution.

5. The last time we had hamburgers in my home, I ate mine:

- a. Rare
- b. Medium.
- c. Well done

6. The last time there was

cookie dough in my house, the dough was:

- a. Made with raw eggs, and I sampled some of it
- b. Store-bought, and I sampled some of it
- c. Not sampled until baked

7. I clean my kitchen counters and other surfaces that come in contact with food with:

- a. Water
- b. Hot water and soap
- c. Hot water and soap, then bleach solution
- d. Hot water and soap, then commercial sanitizing agent

8. When dishes are washed in my home, they are:

- a. Cleaned by an automatic dishwasher and then air-dried
- b. Left to soak in the sink for several hours and then washed

with soap in the same water

- c. Washed right away with hot water and soap in the sink and then air-dried
- d. Washed right away with hot water and soap in the sink and immediately towel dried

9. The last time I handled raw meat, poultry or fish, I cleaned my hands afterwards by:

- a. Wiping them on a towel
- b. Rinsing them under hot, cold, or warm tap water
- c. Washing with soap and warm water

10. Meat, poultry and fish products are defrosted in my home by:

- a. Setting them on the counter
- b. Placing them in the refrigerator
- c. Microwaving

(See answers on page 3)

Borough of
Northumberland
221 2nd Street
Northumberland, PA 17857

STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 4
NORTHUMBERLAND
17857

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.

IMPORTANT DATES—FEBRUARY—APRIL 2005

The following meetings and events are scheduled in the Borough for February—April of this year. An up-to-date list of activities is available on our website or in the Borough office.

February 1—Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

February 15—Council Work session, 7 p.m.

February 21—President's Day Holiday, Borough offices closed

February 24—Ordinance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

February 28—Emergency Task Force Meeting, 7 p.m.

March 1—Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

March 15—Council Work session, 7 p.m.

March 24—Ordinance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

March 25—Good Friday Holiday, Borough offices closed

March 28—Emergency Task Force Meeting, 7 p.m.

April 5—Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

April 19—Council Work session, 7 p.m.

April 25—Emergency Task Force Meeting, 7 p.m.

April 28—Ordinance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Note: This list is not inclusive.

Next time in

The Pineknotted News

The Borough gets ready for the Third Annual History Day celebration, which will be held on May 14. Our spring issue will be published at the end of April. The deadline for submitting articles and ads is Friday, April 8.