

Newsletter



August 2009

MAYOR'S CORNER

August will soon be here, and with the end of August comes the opening of school. Be aware of school zone speed limits and crossings, as well as stopped school buses.

BE VERY AWARE! Hopefully by the start of school, we will have 15-mile-an-hour school lights in the school zones on Cambria and Monroe Streets. Slow down and give the kids a 'BRAKE'!

Committees and organizations in the Borough are always looking for new members and volunteers. If you are interested, come to the Borough Fire Company on Monday evenings around 6:30 p.m. If you are a veteran, *Freemansburg American Legion Post 31* is always open for new members. Those meetings are held at 7:00 pm the first Thursday of each month from September through June. If you are interested in joining any other organizations, check them out. Help your Borough.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

Gerald C. Yob, Mayor

PARKS & RECREATION FALL EVENTS

The Parks & Recreation Board has the following exciting activities planned for the coming months:

Senior Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, September 12th
4:30 to 6:30 pm

Skate Night at SkateAway
Tuesday, November 10th
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Registration forms for each of these events have been enclosed for your convenience. Additional copies are available at Borough Hall during regular business hours.

Annual Halloween Parade
Saturday, October 3rd 2:00 pm
(rain date Sunday October 4th)

Trick or Treat & Bonfire
Friday, October 30th
(Rain date Saturday, October 31st)
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
(Bonfire after Trick or Treat approximately 8 pm)

Don't forget to vote for the best decorated house!

In case of inclement weather check for Parks & Rec event updates at the 'information kiosk' located at the Cambria Street park entrance.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **Borough Council:** 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm.
- **Parks and Recreation Board:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.
- **Planning Commission:** 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.
- **Zoning Hearing Board:** last Tuesday of each month at 7 pm as required
- **American Legion Post 31:** 1st Thursday of each month (September through June).
- **Volunteer Fire Company:** Last Thursday of each month.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Pets: While Fido's barking may be music to your ears, it may be disruptive to your neighbors. Please be considerate and don't leave your pet unattended outside for long periods of time. Walking your pet is healthy exercise for both you and your dog. However, not everyone appreciates the "presents" your pet may leave behind. Please clean up after your pets and dispose of the debris properly. Do not allow your dog to run unattended through the neighborhood.

Garbage: Please remember your garbage must be in bags and cans when placing at the street for pick up. Items for collection must not be set out prior to 5:00 pm the day before collection.

PLEASE NOTE: the Borough Offices will be closed Monday, September 7th for holiday observances. Regular business hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm unless otherwise posted. There is a drop box next to the rear entrance for your convenience.

**E-CYCLING AND
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE DISPOSAL EVENTS**

Electronic wastes produce toxics in our landfills. Be environmentally conscious and properly dispose of all your e-wastes! This includes computers, monitors, televisions, cell phones, etc. An 'e-cycle' event is being held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Nazareth Middle School Parking lot on Tatamy Road.

Hazardous Household Wastes include certain paint products, automotive products, cleaners, pesticides, adhesives and items containing mercury. These substances may pollute soil, air, surface water or underground water if improperly disposed of. Northampton County is sponsoring a Hazardous Household Waste Collection Event on October 10, 2009 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Northampton Community College Main Campus Parking Area, Bethlehem Township.

More information on this event, a complete list of the items to be accepted and the cost for each of those items is posted at Borough Hall.

**CONTRACTOR
REGISTRATION**

Effective July 1, 2009 the State Attorney General's office is requiring certain home improvement contractors to be registered with the State under the "Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act". If you are a homeowner and are interviewing contractors for work at your property, please check their state registration status. Visit www.attorneygeneral.gov or call the Bureau of Consumer Protection at 717-772-2425 for more information. Flyers are also available at the Borough office.

**From the Zoning Officer /
Building Codes Official:**

**Swimming Pool, Spas
and Hot Tubs**

In April of 2004, Pennsylvania adopted the PA Uniform Construction Code (PAUCC) which sets the minimum standards for all construction related activities on residential and commercial projects.

ALL new swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas, including the portable, storable and inflatable pools require permits and inspections. The only exception is pools where the water level is less than 24 inches AND there are no electrical devices (such as pumps or filters) connected to the unit.

Drowning and electrical shock are two of the most serious safety issues with these types of uses if installed improperly. Minimum standards are required for barriers including fences and ladders, as well as for electrical devices including the connection and operation of filters and pumps. These regulations are for the safety of your family and the residents of this community.

If you have a pool, hot tub or spa that has been installed since April of 2004 and does not have a permit under the current PAUCC, you must obtain the appropriate permits from the Borough. If you are not sure, please call the Borough office for clarification.

In the interest of public safety, the Borough will temporarily waive penalties for illegally or unauthorized pool, spa or hot tub installations provided the resident obtains the required permits, completes the work to bring the structure up to current codes, and has a final inspection and approval by the building inspector. It is strongly recommended that pools, hot tubs and spas installed prior to April of 2004 also be brought up to current code standards and inspected by the building inspector.

In addition to building code requirements, there are separate zoning regulations for setbacks and location that depend on your individual lot.

Don't wait for a tragedy to happen to realize it could have been easily prevented.

**FREEMANSBURG
VOLUNTEER
FIRE COMPANY**

Please check out the newly launched Freemansburg Fire Company website at www.freemansburgfire.org

Also remember to contact your homeowner's insurance company about the Borough's upgraded ISO rating. This may save you a few dollars with your homeowner's insurance premium. If you need written documentation to submit to your insurance company, a copy of the rating letter is available at Borough Hall.

The Borough Hall is available for rental by you or your group. All rentals are handled through the Fire Company. The Hall is approximately 40' x 40' with a maximum occupancy of 100 people. There is a kitchen for light food preparation as well as tables and chairs. For additional information and a rate schedule see the fire company's web site listed above.

**2009 SEWER &
GARBAGE INVOICES**

Just a reminder about the change of billing dates for the 2009 sewer and garbage service. This year we are billing sewer in 3 four-month intervals (\$100 / period) rather than four three-month intervals. **THIS IS NOT A RATE INCREASE!** Your next sewer bill will be sent in November and will be for September through December. The enclosed bill is for Sanitation (garbage) for the August through December billing period (five months). The sanitation (garbage) billing will then be aligned with the fiscal period of January through December.

Remember – your water bill is paid to the City of Bethlehem