

# Newsletter



December 2007

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**

The Parks & Recreation Board would like to thank everyone who participated in and supported the **Annual Halloween Parade**. Special thanks go out to **Hatfield Quality Meats and Yocco's** for donating the hot dogs and **A-Treat Soda** (Union Blvd, Allentown) for donating the sodas. **Ethel Peiffer from the Independent Citizens Club (ICC)** donated the hot dog rolls.

The **Senior Spaghetti Supper**, held in September, was an enjoyable evening for all who attended. Many thanks to **Manny B's** for donating the spaghetti, sauce and meatballs for that evening. It was dee-licious!!

Enclosed is a calendar of events to be sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Board for 2008. We look forward to your participation in and support of these exciting events!

**Please join us for our final 2007 activities:**

**December 8<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Party 2 pm** at Borough Hall (pre-registration required)

**December 8<sup>th</sup> - Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** at Main Street Bridge park **6 pm**.

## **FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR**

All Borough 2007 Real Estate Local Real Estate Taxes must be received by the tax collector, Davina Gallich, before December 15, 2007. After that the taxes get sent to Northampton County for collection and / or sheriff's sale. For any Borough Real Estate Tax questions contact Davina Gallich, 211 Juniata Street, at 610-867-9656.

Bethlehem Area School District taxes are no longer being collected by the Borough Tax Collector. For any questions regarding school taxes you must contact the school district directly.

## **2008 SEWER BILLING SCHEDULE**

The fourth quarter 2007 sewer bills are due January 15, 2008. The first quarter 2008 bills will be sent out March 1, 2008. At that time you will be given the option of paying for the entire year, by April 1, 2008, and receive a 10% discount. Otherwise, sewer is billed quarterly:

1<sup>st</sup> qtr – billed: 3/1/08 due: 4/15/08  
2<sup>nd</sup> qtr – billed: 6/1/08 due: 7/16/08  
3<sup>rd</sup> qtr – billed: 9/1/08 due: 10/16/08  
4<sup>th</sup> qtr – billed: 12/1/08 due: 1/15/09

PLEASE NOTE: The Borough Offices will be closed **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, January 1, 2008**. Regular business hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm unless otherwise posted. **Council re-organization will be held Monday, January 7, 2008** with swearing in of newly elected officials at 7:00 pm. Re-organization and a brief meeting will follow.

*Happy Holidays!*



## **SANITATION (GARBAGE) BILL REMINDER**

Please remember the Base Rate for the annual Sanitation (garbage) billing is due by December 5, 2007. After that date a 10% penalty will be assessed on the total amount due. A schedule of the garbage and recycling collection dates for 2008 is enclosed. The billing cycle is from August 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **GARBAGE COLLECTION**

**Reminder: Due to the upcoming holidays, the Borough's garbage collection will be Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, instead of Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup> collection will be Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Please remember to break down cardboard boxes and put all loose boards and broken down cardboard in tall buckets. Also, for the safety of the people collecting the garbage, please bend or hammer nails into boards. Also a reminder - the hauler will not take tires. The hauler will pick up bulk items with advance notice. Call JP Mascaro at 1-800-333-4624 for bulk item pickups.

**If you see anyone besides the property resident, putting garbage out for collection, please call the Police Department immediately.**

## **RECYCLING**

Recyclables are collected every other week. You can commingle aluminum cans, #1 and #2 plastics, clear, green, and brown glass bottles. Newspapers must be bundled or in paper bags and can be put next to the recycling bin.

The Borough receives money from DEP each year for the amount of collected curbside recyclables. **If you see anyone besides the hauler, JP Mascaro, taking recyclables that are set out for collection, please call the Police Department immediately.**

**Recycling is good for the Borough and good for the environment!**

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REMEMBER: When supplying your address for any reason, you must emphasize that you live in **Freemansburg (not Bethlehem)**

## **STREETS / PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

We would like to let everyone know our snow plowing plan: In general, we try to keep the hills and the most - traveled routes passable. We will normally have two trucks out during a storm. One truck will concentrate on the busier routes and hills, the second truck will make single passes on the side streets to keep a lane of travel open.

As soon as the snow stops we will again make sure the hills and busier routes are clear, moving on to the other streets, plowing curb to curb where possible, one street at a time. If you can wait until your street is plowed to finish clearing your driveway, please do so. With the weight of the snow we cannot turn the plows to avoid pushing the snow in front of the driveways.

Also, if you put your garbage cans or other debris on the alley side of your property, please make sure it is far enough back to allow passage of the plows. And remember, public roads are done first, with alleys last.

## **ADDITIONAL SNOW REMINDERS**

- If you have off street parking please use it during snow storms. With fewer parked cars to work around, it is easier and safer for the workers.
- Do not pile or throw snow into the street. It is not only a hazard, it's against the law!
- The Borough Hall rear parking lot is available for temporary parking in the event of a storm.
- When snow emergency is in effect, please restrict non-essential travel.
- Snow is a time for fun for your children. For their safety, please instruct them to stay clear of traffic and snow plows.

## **SNOW REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS**

Please be reminded, in accordance with Borough ordinance #150-70, "...the responsibility for removal of snow, ice and other obstructions or hazards from pedestrian walkways..." is "...the owner, occupant, possessor, tenant, caretaker or groundskeeper..." of the property "...within 24 hours after the snow, ice, other obstruction or hazard has fallen, formed or appeared..." This is for everyone's safety, especially the children walking to and from school. Police will be enforcing this ordinance and there are penalties and fines for non-compliance.

## **BUILDING & ZONING PERMITS AND CHANGES IN RESIDENCY**

Permits are required for all building and zoning projects, as well as changes in occupancy, whether it be selling or renting a property. Building permits include any structural, electrical, and/or plumbing improvements to your business or residence.

Zoning permits may also be required for certain decks, patios, retaining walls, fences, pools, and excavation projects. It is best to check with the Borough offices if you are not sure if you need a permit – extension 101 Deb or 102 Lisa. Building Code and occupancy inspections are now being performed by CodeMaster and Zoning services are supplied by Harte Engineering.

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**Membership in the Bethlehem Area Public Library is FREE** to Freemansburg residents. The Book Mobile stops at the Freemansburg Elementary School on Thursdays. For Library hours and Book Mobile times, call 610-867-3761.