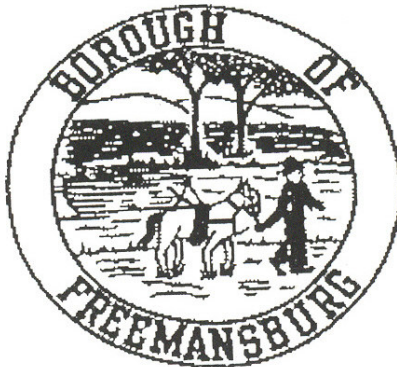


# Newsletter



June 2005

## MAYOR'S CORNER



The sign above means just that – **STOP**. Too many drivers in the Borough are failing to come to a complete stop at the stop signs. Our police have been closely monitoring stop-sign intersections, and the traffic offenses during the past few months are averaging 20 to 30 a month. So play it safe, and STOP at all stop signs.

Our grass ordinance was recently updated. Grass and weeds more than six inches in height are subject to a warning. If the warning is ignored, charges will be filed which can result in a fine of up to \$500. So let's keep our properties clean and neat.

As a property owner and taxpayer, you pay a yearly garbage & recycling fee. Therefore, please put your trash out on pick-up days. All garbage should be in containers, not bags lying on the ground. This practice can draw animals and large birds, which can tear the bags and strew the contents all around.

Have a pleasant and safe summer!

REMEMBER: When supplying your address for any reason, you must emphasize that you live in **FREEMANSBURG 18017**, not Bethlehem.

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

### *New Event – Community Day Picnic!*

The Recreation Committee is planning a Community Day picnic for the residents of the Borough to be held on **Saturday, July 30, 2005 at the Cambria Street Park starting at 3:00 pm (rain date Sunday, July 31)**. Events will include live bands, face painting, games, food, bake sale, dunking booth, and lots of activities for all ages! Join us for a day of fun, food and entertainment!!

## BOROUGH OFFICE HOLIDAYS

The Borough Offices will be closed **Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>** for observance of Independence Day and **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** for observance of Labor Day. Regular business hours are 8:00am to 4:00pm unless otherwise posted.

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### *New phone contact information!*

If you have called the Borough offices lately you may have noticed we have a new phone system. The Borough has applied for a grant through Representative Robert Freeman to cover the cost of the phones and the installation. We hope the initial inconvenience will, in the long run, greatly facilitate your ability to communicate with the Borough offices and officials. The emergency numbers remain the same. You can now reach the administrative and police offices using one main number (610-866-2220) and be prompted for all departments.

**Emergency Services:** 911  
**Non-emergency:** 610-330-2200  
(County dispatch)  
**Borough & Police:** 610-866-2220  
Prompt 1 for police (non-emergency)  
Prompt 2 for administration  
Prompt 3 for code enforcement  
Prompt 4 for the mayor  
Prompt 5 for the fire company – or –  
**Fire Company** 610-691-9559  
(non-emergency)  
**J.P. Mascaro** 800-333-4624  
(garbage / recycling collection)

## **BOROUGH HALL RENTALS**

*Please note new phone number information from the previous newsletter.*

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, please contact the **Freemansburg Fire Co. at 610-691-9559 prompt # 3** or to leave a message, use extension # 104.

## **150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Mark your calendars now for the Borough's 150-year celebration in 2006. Some tentative activities include a block party, parade, Family Fun Festival, DJ, fireworks, car show and resurrection of old favorites from the past such as movie night, bingo, big band music and dancing and Old Market Day. Look for more information soon!

## **BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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.

## **EARNED INCOME TAX REMINDER**

Recently the Borough sent letters to residents regarding the 1% Earned Income Tax, (EIT) which is split 50/50 with the serving Bethlehem Area School District (BASD). This tax is collected on behalf of the Borough by the City of Bethlehem and then distributed to Freemansburg and the BASD.

The EIT is a very important supplement to the property taxes and is utilized toward the general operations of both entities. Normally, your employer should be deducting this tax directly from your paycheck and submitting it to the City of Bethlehem, indicating your Freemansburg residency. As with your federal and state income taxes, you are required to file an EIT form annually to the City of Bethlehem and include a copy of your W-2 statement.

Please note, the EIT is based on residency. If you are a tenant, you are subject to this requirement. Please contact the Borough offices for the appropriate paperwork. If you are a landlord, please advise your tenants of this ordinance, as their compliance helps to reduce the impact on everyone's property taxes.

If you are retired you may still have to file updated information with the City collector. Please contact the City of Bethlehem at 610-865-7022 for specifics.

Please feel free to contact the Borough offices with any questions you may have regarding this issue. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

- ! Borough Council meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month unless otherwise posted.
- ! **Updated!** Due to the Holidays, Council meetings for July and September will be held on Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, respectively. There will be no meeting on the third Mondays in July and August.
- ! **Updated!** The Parks & Recreation Committee now meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.
- ! The American Legion Post 31 meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month (September through June).
- ! The Volunteer Fire Company meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

## **ORDINANCE UPDATE**

Borough Council recently updated the nuisance ordinance (#2005-12) to specify the maximum height of grass and weeds to be 6 inches in residential areas and 8 inches in non-residential areas. Fines and penalties have also been increased for this and other nuisance related violations. The Codes Enforcement Officer(s) enforces these ordinances.

