

Newsletter



March 2007

WINTER SNOW ADVISORIES

The Valentine's Day winter storm was especially difficult for everyone. Please be patient, as the public works / streets crews are working to clear major thoroughfares first, local roads next, and alleys last. It is very helpful if you can move your vehicle off the road until it is plowed. Please do not shovel your driveway and sidewalk snow into the street after it is plowed, as this causes dangerous conditions for everyone.

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.

Borough Officials for 2007

Mayor: Gerald C. Yob
Council President: Donald Lasso
Vice President: Charles Derr
Lisa Bartholomew
Rita Gomes
Francine Heft
Matthew Marr
Catherine (Kitty) Gallagher
Tax Collector: Davina Gallich

EARNED INCOME TAX RE M I N D E R

EIT (Earned Income Tax) forms are now available at the Borough Office. All residents are required to file a form and if applicable, pay a 1% tax on their income. **Although the forms are mailed to the City of Bethlehem, you must indicate on the form your municipality of residence is the Borough of Freemansburg, so that your tax dollars are properly allocated to the Borough.**



HELP KEEP FREEMANSBURG CLEAN

Garbage Collection:

Garbage collection is on Fridays, except in the event of a holiday, when it may be Saturday. Garbage MUST be in bags and the bags MUST be in a garbage can. It is recommended the cans be placed at the curb the night before, however not earlier than 5:00 pm. Recyclables are collected every other week. The hauler will pick up bulk items with advance notice.

If you have problems with your garbage pick up, please call J.P. Mascaro directly at 1-800-333-4624.

If you need a 2007 schedule, extra copies are available at the Borough offices.

Pets:

The Dog Leash Law is a State Law. All dogs must be on a leash when outside. They are not allowed to run unattended throughout the neighborhood! This is a nuisance to your neighbors as well as dangerous for your pet.

Also, please remember to clean up after your pet. Animal feces are a pollutant to our water resources as well as a sanitation hazard.

YARD DEBRIS

Now that winter is over, people will be spending more time outside. Please clean up the debris that has accumulated in your yards over the winter. Do not dump it in the woods behind your house. Most of these materials can be picked up by the trash hauler. If you are having trouble getting rid of something, please call the borough offices and we may be able to assist you with finding an appropriate disposal site.

BOROUGH OFFICE HOLIDAYS

Please note that the Borough Offices will be closed Friday, April 6, 2007 for Good Friday. 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.

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

The Parks & Recreation Board is preparing for its Annual Easter Events!! Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is on **Saturday, March 31st**. Activities will be held at Borough Hall starting at 1:00 pm. The egg hunt starts PROMPTLY at 2:00 pm. The rain date will be Sunday, April 1st. If there is rain on the rain date, all activities will be held inside at Borough Hall. Also, come out and help paint eggs at Borough Hall on Friday night, March 30th at 6:30 pm.

2007 SEWER BILLINGS

You may have noticed there is an increase in your sewer billing rates. The City of Bethlehem has increased its sewer usage fees to the Borough by 57%. However for 2007, Council has tried to control costs, and only a 25% increase has been passed onto you, the Borough customers. Discounts for the entire year will still be available if paid within 30 days of the first billing quarter of the New Year. The schedule for 2007 is as follows:

1st quarter – invoice Mar. 1, 2007
(Jan/Feb/Mar) due April 15, 2007
This first billing will allow a discount rate (if paid within 30 days of billing) for the entire year through December 31, 2007.

2nd quarter – invoice June 1, 2006
(Apr/May/Jun) due July 16, 2007
3rd quarter – invoice Sept. 1, 2007
(Jul/Aug/Sep) due Oct. 16, 2007
4th quarter - invoice Dec. 1, 2007
(Oct/Nov/Dec) due Jan. 15, 2008

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

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers are needed for a variety of committees, including the Freemansburg Beautification and Preservation Committee, the Parks and Recreation Board, the Civil Service Commission, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board. If you are interested in becoming involved in these rewarding committees, please contact any of the Borough Council members or the Borough offices at 610-866-2220 x 101.

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.

YARD SALES

Please be reminded the Borough has adopted a yard sale ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the perpetual selling of goods on residential properties. Residents must obtain a permit from the Borough offices before having a yard sale. The first permit application for the calendar year is free. Permit application forms are available from the Borough office. Parks & Recreation is planning on having a community-wide yard sale again in July. No permit will be required for the community wide yard sale.

