

Newsletter



September 2007

MAYOR'S CORNER

Summer is drawing to a close, and August 27th marked the opening day of school. Be aware of school zone speed limits and crossings, as well as stopped school busses. Slow down and drive carefully in school zones. Remember – it could be your child crossing the street!

Also, take pride in your property and keep it cleaned up. Cut the grass and weeds; remove the junk (the garbage man will take it away). All cars, trucks, and trailers must have current license plates and inspection stickers. All vehicles with expired licenses and inspection stickers shall be removed from your property. If not, the police will send you a notice and your vehicle could be towed.

To all volunteers – no matter which committee or organization of the Borough you serve – I thank you for all that you do. You truly are assets to our community!

Gerald C. Yob, Mayor



PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

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

September 8 @ 4:30 pm - Senior Spaghetti Dinner (Pre-registration required)

October 6 - Halloween Parade 2pm (Rain date October 7, 2pm)

October 26 - Halloween Trick or Treat 6-8pm with Bonfire to follow, 8pm at Freemansburg Municipal Park

November 13 – Family skate night at Skateaway (pre-registration form enclosed)

December 8 - Children's Christmas Party 2 pm at Borough Hall (pre-registration form enclosed)

December 8 - Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Main Street Bridge park 6pm.

PLEASE NOTE: the Borough Offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 3rd for observance of Labor Day, Thursday, Nov. 22nd and Friday, Nov. 23rd for Thanksgiving. 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.

FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

All Borough 2007 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. 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.

2007 STREETS PROGRAM

The Borough has awarded low bidder, Grace Industries, the 2007 Streets Program project. This year's program will include Market Street from Green Street to Main Street and the expansion of the parking area at the Municipal Park. These projects will be completed in early September. We hope to keep the inconveniences to residents and motorists at a minimum, and appreciate your patience!



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.

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!

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.

POLLUTION PREVENTION: ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping of household and commercial waste has a variety of impacts on water quality. Hazardous chemicals generated from household, commercial and industrial sources can contaminate ground and surface water supplies, affecting drinking water and public health as well as aquatic habitat. Reduced drainage of runoff due to blockage of streams, culverts and drainage basins can result in flooding and channel modification. Open burning associated with some illegal sites can cause forest fires that create severe erosion and cause sediment loading in streams. Economically, property values decrease as a result of illegal dumping and affect the local tax base and the ability to maintain pollution prevention programs.

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 1998. *Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook*. US EPA Region 5, Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division. Chicago, Illinois.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Reminder: Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Borough's garbage collection will be Saturday, September 8th instead of Friday, September 7th. Also, the Friday, November 23rd collection will be Saturday, November 24th.

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.

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

STORMWATER RUNOFF

In 1987, Congress amended the Clean Water Act to address the issue of storm water runoff. Development is a significant cause of water pollution and unsustainable water use. Instead of filtering into the ground to replenish aquifers, storm water runs off impervious surfaces, like parking lots and roads, carrying toxic substances into streams and rivers.

The Borough has adopted the state-wide recommended ordinances for municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) regulating discharges into our streams and rivers. You can help reduce these pollutants by picking up after your pets, eliminating the use of pesticides on your lawn, and not disposing of paints, car oils or other hazardous materials in your yards or in the nearest catch basin. **For more information go to www.dep.state.pa.us**

COUNCIL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Borough Council meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month unless otherwise posted. September's first meeting will be Tuesday the 4th due to the Labor Day holiday. Budget meetings will be held on Mondays, October 29th, November 12th and 26th. These meetings are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Christ Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod at 302 Main Street invites you to 'Rally Day for Sunday School' September 9 at 9:15 am. Worship services begin at 10:30 am. A spaghetti dinner will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.