

THE EVERGREEN

Historic Pine Grove . . . Early Settlers Noted the Area's "Fine Stand of Pines"

Vol. XIV, No. 3 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF PINE GROVE, PA

AUGUST 2022

State of the Borough ... Challenges Face 2023 Budget Preparation

Municipal Hall Gets Security/Safety Improvements

As summer comes to an end, Borough Council's Budget and Finance Committee members and team leaders will begin meeting to discuss and structure the upcoming year's operating budget for 2023.



TOM FICKINGER
Council President

The usual time schedule is to present the proposed budget for Council approval at the November 10 regular meeting. Afterward it will be made available for public review and comment. Final approval is expected at the December 8 Borough Council meeting.

We have held the line on taxes for the last eight years. Our best efforts will try to continue this for the coming year. This is becoming increasingly difficult given the current rate of inflation, and the cost of every item and service increasing. There are also potential impacts - for instance, a new Teamsters contract - that must be addressed in this budget.

Another matter to be renegotiated is the Comcast contract that provides Pine Grove Borough with cable television service. One particular matter to be discussed is the selection of local channels offered. Comcast has recently deleted Channel 8 - WGAL (Lancaster), broadcasting from only 30 miles away.

We are much closer to channels based in Harrisburg, Lancaster, and Allentown than we are to places 82 miles to our North.

Added security recently installed

New changes are now in effect for persons visiting Borough Hall. Upon the recommendations of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, we have instituted several safeguarding features.



The first you will notice is the entrance door to Borough Hall. As with most other government buildings, schools and courthouses, the entrance process begins with you pressing the buzzer button, then identifying yourself and your business with the Borough staff before getting authorized entry.

- Continued on Page 2

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 15 – Autumn Stroll along Veterans Memorial Drive at Union Canal Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Celebrate the season with family, friends, and join community organizations to enjoy food, crafts, and entertainment in a beautiful setting.

Saturday, Oct. 15 – Pine Grove Holiday Classic Parade, sponsored and coordinated by the Pine Grove Lions Club, steps off from American Legion Boulevard at 7 p.m. in the region's first and best parade of the season.

Monday, Oct. 31 – Trick-or-Treat night from 6 to 8 p.m. for youngsters, 12 years of age and younger. Turn your porch light on to indicate youngsters are welcome to get a treat. Rain date is Tues., Nov. 1.



On the inside . . .

Police Chief's Seasonal Tips.....Pg.	4
Borough Services & Events	Pg. 6
Neighbors Don't Throw Stones ..Pg.	6
October-Fire Prevention Month..Pg.	13
Education Returns to Stanhope..Pg.	14

2022 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Regular Council Meeting:
2nd Thursday of Each Month – 6 p.m.
Municipal Building – 1 Snyder Ave.

OFFICIALS

Mayor Willard Shiffer
Chief of Police..... Thomas J. Trotter, IV
President of Council..... Tom Fickinger
Vice President of Council..... Leroy Bates
Pro Tem..... Len Clark
Secretary/Treasurer..... Melissa A. Dyer
Tax Collector..... Sally Burke
Solicitor Shane Hobbs, Esquire
Engineer..... Cardno BCM Engineers
Floodplain Admin. Light-Heigel & Assoc.
EMA Coordinator..... Dave Sattizahn
Code Enforcement..... Light-Heigel & Assoc.
Health Officer Lew Moyer

COUNCIL

Leroy Bates • Skip Butler • Leonard Clark
Thomas Fickinger • Rodney Hiester
Elaine Holley • Devin Lymaster

POLICE

Thomas J. Trotter, IV – Chief
Mike Dissinger • William Gelgot
Pete Mozurkevich • Gino Ricigliano
Mark Vandermartin • Beau Yarmush

STREETS & WATER DEPARTMENT

Len Clark, Streets & Water Supervisor
Jacob Dinger • Robert Kolb
Earl Kreiser

BOROUGH OFFICE

Melissa A. Dyer
Amanda Lutz • Mandy Miller

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE

Thomas Fickinger • Leroy Bates
Elaine Holley

PERSONNEL

Leroy Bates • Thomas Fickinger
Elaine Holley

PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Fickinger • Len Clark • Rodney Hiester

PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Leroy Bates • Skip Butler • Elaine Holley

FLOOD MITIGATION

Len Clark • Thomas Fickinger • Skip Butler

COMMUNITY DEV. • PARKS & RECREATION

Len Clark • Leroy Bates • Devin Lymaster

PUBLIC SAFETY

Skip Butler • Rodney Hiester • Elaine Holley

STORM WATER COMMITTEE

Leroy Bates • Len Clark • Tom Fickinger

State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1 -

Additionally, security cameras have now been installed in all areas of the building, providing increased security and safety to staff and the public.

Quality of life concerns

Commanding the attention of all citizens and the care needed for properties under their control, the photos shown here are but two reminders that “quality of life” here in Pine Grove Borough is an ongoing effort.



These properties are in need of cleaning. The police department will be issuing warnings and then fines for failure to clean these, and similar properties by occupants and/or property owners. Borough residents may purchase a “compost permit” for \$20, giving access to the area at the Borough garage to dispose of vegetative yard waste for composting.

- Continued on Page 4

LEHR'S FEED & FARM SUPPLY

SEE US FOR YOUR GARDENING NEEDS, FROM SOIL TO SEEDS, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. WE CARRY YOUR FAVORITE LEHR'S WILD BIRD MIXES RIGHT THROUGH THE SUMMER & FALL MONTHS.



Frequent Buyer Cards (Get one bag FREE when card is filled) for our **Wildbird Feed** and **Shelled & Cracked Corn**. See store for details.

We have 7 Wildbird mixes – Backyard Blend; Fruit, Nut & Berry; Premium Blend; Cardinal Deluxe; Dove Blend; Finches Delight; and Woodpecker Fiesta – all formulated to not end up on the ground under your feeder.

Our Corn & Wildlife Grains are huge favorites among Wildlife enthusiasts.

10 Snyder Ave., Pine Grove, PA (570) 345-3309



Schuylkill County Walk for Recovery



SCD&A
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570.821.2690 • www.schuylkillreach.org

Schuylkill REACH
Recovery Education Advocacy Community Health



WHEN

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Registration begins at 5:00 PM

Walk Kicks Off at 6:30 PM

WHERE

Island Park

1 Broadway, Schuylkill Haven, PA

WHY

Walk to Support

- Our Neighbors in Recovery
- Community members struggling with Substance Use
- Family and Friends impacted by a loved one's Substance Use
- Family and Friends who are proud to celebrate the recovery of a loved one!

Resource Tables

Free Stuff!

Food Trucks

Games for kids

BONUS: SIGN UP by August 8th to receive a FREE event T-shirt!



REGISTER ONLINE

www.schuylkillreach.org
or scan QR



State of the Borough . . . by Tom Fickinger

- Continued from Page 2 -

New (used) Water Dept. vehicle

While at the Borough garage or around town, you may notice our Water Department's newest addition - this white Chevrolet. For the past eight years, the department has used an old police Durango hand-me-down. Unfortunately, that vehicle reached the end of its useful life and failed to pass inspection.



The Water Department searched and found this used Equinox and was able to purchase it using our state liquid fuels tax dispersal. The water crew uses the vehicle when reading meters, going to water training meetings, and daily trips to the wells and chemical building as required by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).



H. L. Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.

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- Pre-planning services available.
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Dianne M. Snyder Zimmerman, Supervisor

Lisa A Harner, Funeral Director

www.hlsnyderfuneralhome.com

Storm water improvements

The Borough has removed a major storm water-blockage from the middle of South Tulpehocken St. The line has been jetted and allowed to flow into the new 24-inch twin drains leading to the Swatara Creek.

This, however, eliminates only a portion of the flooding in this area. Plans are to re-direct water along the dirt road below the St. Peter's/St. John's cemetery. The road will be pitched toward the cemetery and into a new drain line that will direct the flow in two directions to catch basins on both ends of the road. These basins then direct the storm water into existing drains emptying into the creek. This work will be financed by a grant for "lightly used dirt roads."

- Tom Fickinger, Council President

Pine Grove Police

For the well-being of all our citizens, motorists, please ... **SLOW DOWN!**

The Pine Grove Police Department will continue to enforce the Quality of Life Ordinance within the Borough. The vast majority of residents take pride in keeping our town looking nice. For those who fail to do so, the Police will issue a \$25 ticket.



After the third ticket, non-payment of prior tickets, and/or continued non-compliance with the ordinance will earn a citation that goes to the District Justice Office. That fine could be as much as \$300. Please do your part to keep our town looking nice and ensure Quality of Life for all residents.

Take caution as school begins

Pine Grove Area's first day for the 2022-23 school year is Wednesday, Aug. 24. Many school children will be walking to and from school. Motorists must stop to allow anyone in a designated crosswalk to cross the street. Pedestrians have the right of way and it is state law.

The police will strictly enforce the pedestrian crosswalk law and cite motorists who exceed the posted speed limit. Those fines are very costly and put points on your driver's license that could impact your insurance rates. School children and motorist safety is a top priority.

Cold weather cautions

I don't mean to rush the seasons; but, colder weather will be approaching in the next couple months. Be a concerned resident and neighbor - please have an observant eye for your elderly or disabled neighbors and those furry little friends. Be sure they are warm and safe.

If you should have any questions, problems or concerns, do not hesitate to stop in at the Police Department or simply call 570-345-8100. In the event of an emergency, call 9-1-1. Have a great school year and a safe up-and-coming fall and winter.

- Thomas Trotter, Chief of Police



Williamson,
Friedberg
& Jones

NEW PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENT



As part of the law firm of Williamson, Friedberg and Jones' continued expansion, the firm is delighted to announce the appointment of a new partner:

Ben Forbes, Esq.



A graduate of Kutztown University, summa cum laude, Attorney Forbes joined the firm in 2019 and has experience in complex real estate matters and is an advocate for businesses.

Attorney Forbes is frequently called upon to analyze complex real estate and commercial transactions, address title issues, assess disputes and complex zoning matters, and is experienced in commercial financing matters. He is an advocate for community development and local business growth, serving as Secretary for the Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association.

Attorney Forbes practices primarily in the areas of transactional real estate, real estate litigation, and business law, including commercial/residential property transactions, zoning, business transactions, subdivision and land development, landlord-tenant law, issues related to title defects and financing, business entity formation, and addressing legal issues during business operation. He also handles issues related to liquor licenses, estate matters, home improvement and commercial contractors, and railroad matters.

A native and current resident of East Brunswick Township, Attorney Forbes formerly served as an assistant coach of Blue Mountain High School and Junior High wrestling programs.

POTTSVILLE

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ORWIGSBURG

205 W Market Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

RAVINE

Route 125
Ravine, PA 17966

HEGINS

905 E Main & Park Lane
Hegins, PA 17938

www.wfjlaw.net 570-622-5933

Borough Services Update . . . And Events!



Autumn Stroll at Union Canal Park

The much anticipated and always enjoyed Autumn Stroll, organized by the Pine Grove Bicentennial Committee, will kick off a day-long celebration on Saturday, Oct. 15 beginning at 10 a.m. along Veterans Memorial Drive at Union Canal Park.

The region's largest marketplace for food, displays, and craft items comes alive once again in celebration of the season through 4 p.m.

Holiday Classic Parade is Oct. 15

Pine Grove will again start the Halloween sea-

son in Schuylkill County when the Pine Grove Lions Club coordinates and hosts the 75th annual Holiday Classic Parade on Saturday, Oct. 15.

- Continued on Page 8

Stones Shatter Glass

We used to say in the Army, "Never throw a stone in a glass house."

You're probably wondering where I'm going with this rabbit trail. What we do, or don't do, in our community affects someone. Pine Grove is that glass house, where you need to be careful to not throw stones.



LEROY BATES
Council Vice President

I see people mowing their grass. But, they shoot the first two rows of grass into the street and just leave it. Others - your friends and neighbors, maybe some on bicycles or motorcycles - must drive through it as they pass by.

I see people shovel their snow purposely into the middle of the road. Motorists must drive over it to get through. This is throwing stones in your glass house.

What happens when the grass gets wet with rain and cars have limited traction going down a hill? What happens to that grass when it ends up in storm drains, slowing the water flow or clogging the pipe? Your grass is your responsibility. It needs to be cleaned up and put somewhere besides in the road. The Borough charges a modest \$20 a year to access its compost pile. You could even compost the grass and leaves yourself and make some hearty garden soil.

When I shovel or blow snow in the winter, I aim it back into my yard. Snow melts, then freezes again and makes for an icy mess when placed on the roadway or in the storm gutter. In your yard, it just melts, is absorbed in the ground, or it flows away.

Let's quit throwing stones in our beautiful glass house. Respect each other's safety. Grass and snow have their place and it's not in the middle of our streets.



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Secure, Private, Dignified Cremations

Affordable doesn't mean low quality. We use our own private crematory. Your loved one will not be transported to a third-party facility and never leaves our care. We use a 10-step identification process to ensure the integrity of your loved one's remains. We maintain consistent standards and follow the strict guidelines set by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA) and the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection. Our technicians are individually trained and certified.

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 6

Billed as the earliest and one of the biggest/best parades of the season, divisions will be staged on Legion Acres beginning at 6 p.m. and step off promptly at 7.

Trick-or-Treat on Halloween night

Youngsters dressed as princesses, super heroes, movie characters, ghosts and goblins are invited to go door-to-door during Pine Grove's designated Trick-or-Treat on Halloween night, Monday, Oct. 31 between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m.

Girls and boys, up to 12 years of age, are permitted to participate and asked to walk with a friend, parent, or responsible group leader. Residents are asked to turn on their porch light for the children's safety and as an indication the youngsters are welcome to get a treat. Rain date is Tuesday, Nov. 1

Motorists, watch for school students

The summer season is coming to an end, activities on the school campus are revving up, and the start of school is upon us.

To ensure the safety of our children, a few traffic and caution reminders could help save injury or loss of life and avert tragedy for everyone.

Be alert to students walking to and from the school or their bus stop locations and to the reappearance of those bright yellow buses making frequent stops.



- There will be a lot of bus traffic in the early morning and mid-afternoon. Be sure to slow for the flashing yellow lights and stop for the flashing red lights.

- Follow the posted speed limit signs

and be alert for children walking to and from school. Stop for anyone crossing the street at the crosswalks. Pedestrians have the right of way and it is state law.

Lawn woes and what to do

As the end of summer nears its close, many homeowners are seeing an abundance of weeds in their yard. Using a commercial Weed and Feed lawn treatment may not be the best solution at this time. Best to wait until early fall when the temperature cools and the grass is not so stressed.

Be aware of the lack of precipitation and the high heat at this time of year. Fast acting nitrogen can burn the lawn under these conditions. Weed Be Gone, however, could be a suitable and effective spot treatment for weeds.

Following four or five months of mowing, now might be a good time to have a look under your mower deck to inspect the blades. Dull or damaged blades might be ripping the grass instead of cutting.

Blades can be sharpened at most places that sell mowers. Secondly, remember to not cut more than one-third the height of your grass at one time. And

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Additional cost on parts & labor may be required. See store for details. Not valid with any other offers. Exp. 10/31/22

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Cannot be combined w/any other offers. Plus Tax. Certain Restriction Apply. Exp 10/31/22

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

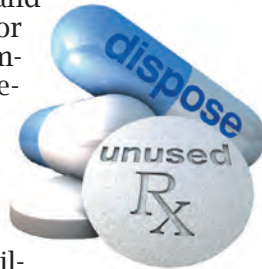
try to cut later in the evening when the grass is not as stressed and will have a whole cool night to recover.

Upcoming Borough Office holidays

The Pine Grove Municipal Building and Borough operations will close in observance of the following upcoming holidays - Monday, Sept. 5 (Labor Day); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 & 25 (Thanksgiving and the day after).

Dispose of unused/outdated drugs

Each year the Pine Grove Police Department coordinates the local DEA Drug Take-Back Program. This provides for the safe and secure disposal of expired and/or unused prescription drugs commonly found stored in households. To protect our landfills and waterways, drugs should not be thrown away with your household trash nor by toilet flushing.



This drop-off service is available on a continual basis. A safe and secure Red Box depository is available in the lobby of the Pine Grove Municipal Hall for this purpose.

The drugs will be properly disposed of during the Drug Take-Back Program. Contact the Pine Grove Police Department at the non-emergency number of 570-345-8100 with any questions or concerns.

Gather at the Garden

Family fun and education will abound at the Master Gardeners of Schuylkill County "Garden Gathering." Tour the Demo Garden of Flowers; buy a bouquet to take home; taste baked/prepared foods made from locally grown produce (blueberry, rhubarb, pawpaw) and plants like lavender; and, find a bargain at the gardener tool bargain table.

Learn about "top or bottom" vegetables, how to grow, harvest and prepare them, and even basic bee-keeping from the Honey for Veterans program.

Stop in from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, on Saturday, Aug. 27, at 110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven, at the Vietnam Memorial lot.

Recycling electronics

The Covered Device Recycling Act prohibits the disposal of desktop computers, laptop computers, monitors, peripherals, televisions, and hand-held electronic devices. Do not place with your household trash as your refuse collector and landfills will not accept these items.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) urges you to do your part for the environment by recycling all unused electronic devices.

Unfortunately, the Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste & Resource Management decided not to include these electronics in its annual Fall Cleanup.

- Continued on Page 10

Count on Kathleen Tokonitz for your Next Mortgage

Kathleen has over 30 years of Mortgage Lending experience that she's ready to put to work for you. Whether it's your first home, or your forever home, she'll work hard to turn your loan around in as little as 30 days.

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Kathleen Tokonitz
45 West Main Street
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
kmtokonitz@myfccb.com
(717) 202-3913
MLO# 531735



Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 9

Please continue to store unwanted electronics until the next local Pine Grove Borough-hosted Electronic Recycling Event ... hopefully this September.

Yard and garden cleanup

Days are getting shorter and the cooler days of fall are approaching. This also means those tree leaves that have been providing us shade throughout the summer will soon be falling to the ground.

Property owners will be raking and mowing, cleaning their garden plots, and preparing their grounds for winter's sleep.



The Borough provides pick-up of bagged leaves every Thursday in November. You must bag the leaves and have them at the curb before 8 a.m. Piles of leaves will not be collected.

The Borough maintains a compost site where residents may take leaves, grass clippings, and other yard vegetation. The cost is \$20 per year and is for residents only. The compost site operates from March through fall, and is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Permits are available at the Borough Municipal Building.

Water quality report available

The 2021 annual Drinking Water Quality Report

is ready for online viewing and downloading on the Borough website - PineGroveBorough.org - click on the Water Department tab. You can also request a free copy be mailed to you by calling the Borough Office at 570-345-3555. The Municipal Building office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

No outdoor burning

Borough ordinance prohibits any outdoor burning of trash or yard waste within the borough limits. Over the years, this ordinance has proven its worth by cutting the number of brush fires in Pine Grove to almost zero. Enjoy the summer and fall days ahead and stay safe.

Ash collection

Ash pickup continues once per week on Fridays now through October. Starting November 1, twice per week collection will begin on Tuesdays and Fridays and continue through the heating season. Tubs are to be placed curbside, have handles, and be free of sharp edges.

Please help your neighborhood

Blocked street drains can create a hazard for you and your neighbors during heavy rain events and when winter snows and ice occur. If you see the drain near your house clogged with leaves or litter, please take a few minutes to open it with a broom or shovel.

Water bill payments

Quarterly water bill payments were due August 5. If you missed it, a late fee will be assessed. Upcoming bills will be due on November 7 this year and February 6, May 5, and August 7 of 2023. Payments can be made by check or money order by mail or in person at the Borough Municipal Building.

The Pine Grove Borough office now accepts credit/debit card payments, using MuniPAY, for water service. Customers are able to make payment online or at the Borough Office during regular hours.



Payments accepted through MuniPAY will be Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, or e-check. Payments made in this way will be subject to service fees of 2.65% or \$3, whichever is greater for credit cards, and \$1.50 for e-check.

The Borough does not collect, receive or retain any portion of the service fees. The fees are charged by MuniPAY in order to provide this convenient service to you.

MuniPAY is audited on an annual basis by a company recognized as a Qualified Security

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Assessor by the PCI Security Standards.

Food pantry

The Pine Grove Area Council of Churches Food Pantry serves those in need of nutritious food items on the third Saturday of every month. Located in the lower level of the Weekday Church School building, 200 School Street (directly across the street from the entrance to the Pine Grove Area Elementary School), food distribution takes place from 9 a.m. to noon.

The pantry serves families of Pine Grove Borough, Pine Grove Township and Washington Township. For additional information or for emergency food, call 570-345-3033 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Leave a message if no answer.



Borough website is your info source

Current status and information regarding Borough services, advisories, and procedures can be found online at the Borough's greatly expanded website: www.pinegroveborough.org. Check often.

Suggestion/complaint forms

Do you see a problem in the Borough that needs to be corrected? Or, maybe you have a suggestion to save money, provide better services, or a solution to one of those problems. The Borough has created a "Suggestion/Complaint" form and procedure to make it easier for residents to alert us and for Borough services to receive, review, and implement suggestions.

A form can be downloaded from the Borough website or get one at Borough Hall. Once completed, it will be time-stamped, dated, and passed on to the appropriate committee for consideration or action. In this way we hope to address these concerns and ideas in the most efficient way.

Temporary signage regulations

Any person who places or hangs any type of sign or notice upon utility poles, lamp posts, or other Borough property, including but not limited to yard sale signs, picnic advertising signs, or sports signs, must place that person's or representatives' name, address, and phone number upon the sign.

Any person who places or hangs such signs within the Borough limits must remove the sign within three (3) days following the event.

PPL owns and maintains the utility poles and forbids the use of nails or staples for the safety of its workers. Fines or other legal action will be levied against the individual and/or organization for violation.

Become a Lions Club member

"We Serve" is the motto of Lions Clubs throughout the world. The mission of the Pine Grove Lions Club is to improve the quality of life for residents of Pine Grove and surrounding communities by providing support for health related issues, youth

programs, emergency relief in disaster situations, cultural growth, and other needs of the local community through giving and service. Sight preservation is the worldwide project of Lions International chapters.

Consider becoming a member of the Pine Grove Lions Club. The Lions Den headquarters building is located at 1 Veterans Memorial Drive. call 570-345-7446 to see how you can be part of building your community and caring for others.

The Pine Grove Lions Club has served the Pine Grove community since 1947.

Joint Treatment Authority

The Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority sewage treatment plant is at 235 Suedberg Road. The Administrative Office is at 115 Mifflin St., Pine Grove.

Customers having questions about rates, billing, and the requirement for metering should contact the Administrative Office in person or call 570-345-6433. Information can also be found online at www.pine-grovejta.com.

Pine Grove Borough Info



Find us on Facebook

[Facebook.com/PineGroveBorough](https://www.facebook.com/PineGroveBorough)

www.pinegroveborough.org

Gabriel Chamber Ensemble

Our 33rd Year – 2022-2023 Season



CONCERT SEASON

*All concerts at Jerusalem Lutheran Church
252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven at 3 p.m.*

Sun., Oct. 2–Shostakovich Piano Quintet, Schubert, Sarasate

Sun., Nov. 6–Works for Chamber Orchestra,

Solo Cello, and Organ

Guest Artists: Andres Sanchez, cello; F. Allen Artz III, organ

Sun., Feb. 26–Beethoven String Quintet and

Mozart Piano Concerto

Sun., April 2–Elgar Piano Quintet and Brahms Sonatas

Gabriel Youth Orchestra – 13th Year

Concerts at D.H.H. Lengel Auditorium (Pottsville Area Middle School)

Holiday Concert – Sun., Dec. 4 • Spring Concert – Sun., April 23

For more information, visit www.gabrielensemble.org;
email gce@gabrielensemble.org; or call 570-943-2558



Gabriel Chamber Ensemble



Gabriel Youth Orchestra

Rave Mobile's Smart911 – Critical Info Fast!

Rave Mobile's "Smart911" is a communication service that allows the Pine Grove Borough to notify residents quickly and efficiently.

Now when a Boil Water Advisory is necessary, or any time the Borough needs to be in contact with its residents such as a declared snow emergency, we can do so in a matter of minutes. This would also include disaster announcements, road closures, parking restrictions, and others as necessary.

We need your help!

In order to make Smart911 work, information

Pine Grove Borough • Water Customer Information System

Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please check the line for your preferred method of notification.

Primary Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return the information sheet to the borough office at
Pine Grove Borough: One Snyder Avenue, Pine Grove

regarding you, including your address, phone number, cell phone number, e-mail address, and your preferred method of notification is necessary. If you were registered previously with Swiftreach, your information has been transferred to the Smart911 system. If you have not sent this to date, complete the form and mail it in, deliver in person, call or e-mail your info today! Or, go to the Borough website and click on the Smart911 tab.

Mail or deliver to Pine Grove Borough; One Snyder Avenue; Pine Grove, PA 17963. You can also call 570-345-3555 with the information or e-mail us at pgborough@comcast.net.

Property owners with apartments should provide information regarding their tenants. Tenants should also complete the form to ensure optimum notification.

Home & Garden Safety

Don't forget about home safety

Make sure your house number is clearly visible on the wall next to your front door. Use at least 3" numbers of a color that contrasts with the background.

Clean-up yard debris and cut back brush to maintain a clear 10-foot fire zone around your house. Remove dried leaves and other combustibles.

Fuel lawn mowers and power equipment outdoors and only when the motor is cool. Store gasoline only in approved safety cans and in a cool location such as a shed or detached garage. Never store or use gasoline indoors.

When using ladders, check for safe, stable placement. Keep ladders well clear of overhead obstructions such as wires.

And when you are grilling ...

Never use any type of grill indoors. It will cause a carbon monoxide hazard.

Before using a gas grill, check the hose from the tank to the grill for any cracks or leaks.

Never use a grill under an awning, roof or covered walkway.

Keep small children away from grills when they are in use.



Lawn mower safety

Small children should not operate push or riding mowers and should not ride as passengers on riding mowers.

Keep children and pets indoors or at a safe distance while you are mowing.

Turn the mower off and allow the engine to cool before refueling.

Turn off the mower and wait until the blades come to a complete stop before trying to unclog the mower.

Newsletter Particulars

"The Evergreen" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Pine Grove distributed to 1500 households within the Borough.

The newsletter is designed and printed by
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960 E. Main St. • Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
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www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com

Publication dates for the next three issues are
November 17, 2022; February 16 and May 18, 2023

News Submittals

Non-profit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Melissa Dyer in the Borough offices, pgborough@comcast.net or call 570-345-3555 for info, three weeks prior to the publication date.

Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Pine Grove are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Pine Grove.

October Is Fire Prevention Month

It's time for us all to take the precautionary steps to prevent dangerous and life-threatening fires. Fire Prevention Month in October is a great reminder every year before the winter's heating season is upon us.

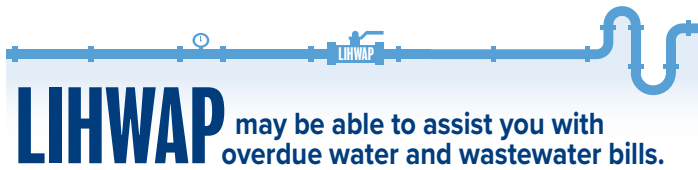


The winter months see an increase in home fires, deaths and injuries. These are the months when we turn on the heat to keep our homes warm. While we need to keep our homes warm, there are steps we should take to prevent a fire.

- Make sure your heating source is well maintained. Check the equipment before using or have them serviced.
- Don't store items near your heating source. Boxes, clothes, and other fuels may ignite if they are close.
- Make sure draperies and furniture and other combustible items are kept far enough away from a heating source.

When it comes to keeping families and homes safe, there are many other steps to prevent fires.

Help for Water Bills



The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary emergency program to help low income families pay overdue water bills. LIHWAP is a crisis grant. You may be eligible to receive one crisis grant for your drinking water service and one crisis grant for your wastewater service up to \$2500. You do not have to repay it.

Crisis situations include past due water bills, termination of utility service, or if you have received notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days.

Apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us starting Jan. 4, 2022. Applicants can be either renters or homeowners. Request an application by calling 877-395-8930 or obtain one at your local county assistance office.

The application asks the name, date of birth, Social Security number, proof of income for each household member, and your current water and/or sewer bill.

Maximum annual income for the entire household starts at \$19,320 for a single person and allows for \$6,810 for every other person in the apartment or home.

After your application is processed, you will receive written notice if you qualify, if eligible and the amount of the grant.

- Make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working. Place detectors on every level of the home and test them monthly. Replace batteries annually.

- Get a fire extinguisher and make sure it's not outdated. Most fire extinguishers have an expiration date. Place one on each floor of the house and in the garage.

- Have an escape plan. Practice fire drills with your family and make sure everyone knows where to go. Have at least two ways to leave the house.

- Do not try to salvage items before leaving the house. Personal effects can be replaced, but lives cannot. Instead, keep valuable documents in a fireproof box for recovery later.

What is that chirping?

When a smoke detector "chirps" it is telling you that the battery is low and needs to be replaced. Keep a spare battery or two on hand so that you can replace the battery immediately when it starts to chirp. Removing the battery with the best intentions of replacing it later, often results in your family not being protected when the battery is forgotten.

There are special smoke detectors available for the deaf or hard of hearing. These devices use strobe lights and vibration when activated.



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Historical Society Preserves the Past

Stanhope School – Education Is Back After 70 Years!

The Stanhope one room schoolhouse – a project of the Pinegrove Historical Society – celebrated its grand re-opening on August 13, bringing education back after 70 years! It was 1952 when the schoolhouse closed, following the consolidation of schools in the Pine Grove area.

Program on Sept. 17

“Stories From the Stanhope Schoolhouse” will be the inaugural educational program at the schoolhouse on Saturday, Sept. 17 beginning at 1:30 p.m. The program will feature former Stanhope School students who will share reminiscences of their early school days, life during that time, and how education in a one-room schoolhouse has impacted their life.



This is a FREE program, but donations are graciously accepted to help with the ongoing upkeep of the school. The public is encouraged to be a part of this special program.

The schoolhouse is located at 122 Camp Road, Pine Grove (at the intersection of Mexico, Camp, and Stanhope Roads). Please carpool with family and friends, if possible, since parking is limited. There are no restrooms available and the schoolhouse is not handicap accessible.

Additional public programs are being planned for 2023. On request, programs of varying length can be arranged to meet the specific needs of your group.

From the newspaper archives

Volunteers have been searching old newspapers to learn more about the schoolhouse – opening in 1876 and operated through 1952 – and of the town of Stanhope. Some of the tidbits they discovered include:

- **Pinegrove Herald** – May 15, 1885 – Stanhope furnace has been idle for the last ten years, and it appears as if it would never resume. When it was in full operation it gave employment to many



men and the place presented a scene of activity. The machinery has either been removed or let go down. The tenement houses are also out of repair and left to decay while half of them have no occupants. A store and other enterprises were started, but these are gone “where the woodbine twineth,” and the place resembles a Pennsylvania oil

village that flourished in the balmy days of oil excitement, finally decaying when the source of its prosperity had vanished.

- **Pinegrove Herald** – January 6, 1905 – The following is the report of Stanhope school, No. 8, taught by J.A. Schropt: Number of scholars on roll – males, 27; females, 27. Those who attended every day during the third month are as follows: Amos Barr, Willie Loy, John Schnoke, Jeremiah Barr, Gordon Schnoke, Irvin Schwartz, Nora Uhler, Ellen Zimmerman, Leah Barr, Lillie Yocum, Leah Zerbe, Viola Fisher, Sallie Derfler and Mary Loy.
- **Pinegrove Herald** – October 20, 1911 – The following is the report of the Stanhope public school. Those who attended every day the first month were: John Ferrebe, Charles Fisher, Adam Heberling, George Hoffman, Frank Hoffman, Louis Ziegler, Milton Zimmerman, Andrew and William Zimmerman, Francis Heberling, Eve Heberling, Ellen Zimmerman, Verna Aungst, Flora Heberling, Mary Hoffman, Mary Loy. F.L. Zimmerman, teacher.
- **Pinegrove Herald** – December 10, 1915 – The library which was placed in the Stanhope public



Historical Society Preserves the Past



school last week is very much appreciated by the scholars.

- **The West Schuylkill Press and Pine Grove Herald** in 1952 listed these Stanhope residents in the Happy Birthday column during the first half of the year: Saturday, Feb. 2 - Francis Miller; Sunday, Feb. 10 - Mrs. Sadie Ferree; Friday, Feb. 15 - Joseph Heinbach and George Ziegler; Sunday, Feb. 17 - Harrison Miller; Thurs., March 6 - Raymond Miller; Sun., March 23 - William Miller, Wilbur Schneck; Sun., March 30 - Mrs. Sarah Derfler; Tues., April 8 - Martha Miller; Fri., April 11 - Mildred Zimmerman; Sun., May 11 - Anna Stupp; Thursday, May 15 - Monroe Miller, Richard

Hoffman; Sat., May 24 - Melvin Stupp; Wed., May 26 - Edwin Heinbach Sr.; Thurs., May 29 - Mrs. George Hoffman; Sat., June 7 - John Zerbe; Sat., June 14 - Lewis Miller; and Sat., June 21 - Elvin Schneck.

If any of these individuals are relatives, please contact us at info@pghs-stanhopeschool.org to provide additional information.

As with any property and project, there is still work to be completed. Current opportunities for volunteers and needs are listed at www.PGHS-StanhopeSchool.org.

The next fundraising event will be a dine-in/dine-out event on Wed., September 21. Details and the required coupon are available at [facebook.com/StanhopeSchoolhouse](https://www.facebook.com/StanhopeSchoolhouse) or on the events page of the website.

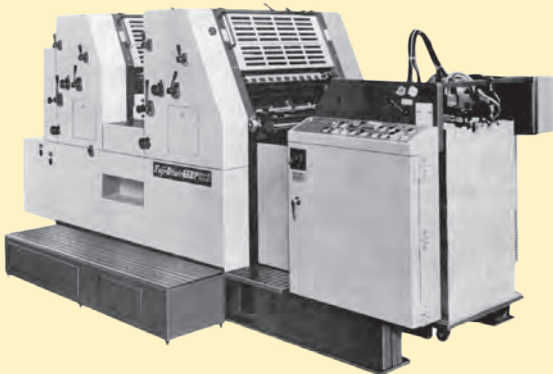
SPREAD THE WORD

Interested in submitting an article for next quarter's issue of *The Evergreen*? We welcome community service and nonprofit organization information. Please contact Borough Secretary, Melissa Dyer at 570-345-3555 or pghborough@comcast.net



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