

THE EVERGREEN

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

Vol. XV, No. 3 - Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF PINE GROVE, PA

AUGUST 2023

State of the Borough ... 2024 Budget Talks Are Getting Started

Continuing to Improve Pine Grove Borough Every Day

It was a very enjoyable summer for those frequenting the Pine Grove Community Pool. Unfortunately, due to our lifeguards returning to their schools and the early first day of



TOM FICKINGER
Council President

classes at Pine Grove Area School District, the pool will be closed as of Wednesday, Aug. 23.

The Borough would consider keeping it open on weekends if alternative staffing could be secured. It was great to see so many enjoying our community pool.



Flood control updates

You may have noticed that the flood control project behind BG's Value Market has been temporarily stopped. The environmental agency has interrupted the project during the mating season of certain endangered species.



- Continued on Page 2

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 23 – First day of school for students of Pine Grove Area School District. The Pine Grove Community Pool is scheduled to be closed for the season.

Monday, Sept. 11 – Patriot Day will be marked with a Remembrance Service to be held in the area of the Main Battle Tank memorial along Veterans Memorial Drive.

Saturday, Oct. 21 – 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. 21 – 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 best parade of the season.

Tuesday, 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 Wed., Nov. 1.



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2023 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..... One Atlas
Floodplain Admin. Light-Heigel & Assoc.
EMA Coordinator..... Dave Sattizahn
Code Enforcement..... Light-Heigel & Assoc.
Health Officer Lew Moyer

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Thomas Fickinger • Wade Gettle
Elaine Holley • Devin Lymaster

POLICE

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

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Earl Kreiser, Streets Crew Leader
Jacob Dinger • Robert Kolb
Zach Peters

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 • Wade Gettle

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 • Elaine Holley • Wade Gettle

STORM WATER COMMITTEE

Leroy Bates • Len Clark • Tom Fickinger

State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1 -

This work consists of widening the Little Swatara Creek to reduce flooding during heavy rains. It will control any flow from the High School football stadium area. This extremely successful project will be resumed in early September.

To date the stream banks have been widened and the old railroad bed removed. The rail bed caused the creek to be obstructed, preventing water from freely flowing downstream.

In another area to lessen flooding events, the Borough has been invited to resubmit its grant request for Federal funds enabling the repair of storm drains throughout town.

Demolition and other improvements

If you have driven down Wideawake Street, you will have noticed the collapse and subsequent demolition of the abandoned Manbeck Ford dealership. The roof, followed by the walls, collapsed requiring the demolition and removal. The current owner, Gilford Mills, is developing plans for the cleared property.



The Borough, with the assistance of State Senator David Argall, is investigating several town improvements. In an effort to eliminate parking on the bank side of Tulpehocken Street, I have secured information regarding the removal of any brick underlay in this area.

An ordinance removing the parking meters on this side and a request to PennDOT to relocate the center

- Continued on Page 4

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Hegins, PA 17938

State of the Borough . . . by Tom Fickinger

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stripe is being developed. This will enable vehicles, especially large trucks, to pass in opposite directions without the threat of damage to residents' vehicle mirrors.

The next project is to develop a presentation to improve our traffic light signals by allowing traffic from North Pine Grove to turn left with an advanced green or turn signal. This will improve traffic flow during heavy usage.

Additionally, the Borough is studying the need for a traffic light at the intersection of Rt. 895 and South Tulpehocken. Another study - this one in conjunction with Pine Grove Township - would investigate whether a light at the intersection of Rt. 125 and Sweet Arrow Lake Road (by Speedway gas station) is necessary for safety and traffic flow.

The Borough would like to thank all of the residents who heeded our request to eliminate weeds and grass along the sidewalks. We encourage all property owners to continue this practice.

August marks the start of meetings to craft the Borough operating budget for the coming 2024 year. All residents are invited to witness and enjoy the process.

Events to mark on your calendar

Monday, Sept. 11 - Patriot Day - A memorial service in remembrance of that day in 2001 will take

place in the area of the Main Battle Tank memorial on Veterans Memorial Drive at E. Wood Street (Rt. 895).

Saturday, Oct. 21 - The annual **Autumn Stroll** will be held along Veterans Memorial Drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 21 - Pine Grove's **Holiday Classic Parade** will kick-off the Halloween season, beginning at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - **Trick-or-Treat** will be held throughout the Borough from 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 25 - A new event - "**Christmas at the Canal**" - is being planned. Times are TBD; more information to come in the November issue of *The Evergreen*.

Pine Grove Police

Motorists, for the well-being of all of our citizens, 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 2023-24 school year is Wednesday, Aug. 23. 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. Motorists must stop when approaching a school bus that is loading or unloading students.

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

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Country Christmas Concert – Three Shows Planned

New Venue at PG Theater; Reserved Seating Offered

Mended Heart and the Pine Grove Theater have scheduled three performances of a Country Christmas Concert & Celebration 2023. Choose among Saturday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. or two shows on Sunday, Dec. 3 ... a matinee at 2 p.m. or an evening show at 6 p.m.

Admission to these concert performances is free to the public with a free-will offering gladly appreciated. Previous Christmas concerts reached capacity well in advance. Because of this, reserved seats are offered with a \$10 donation per seat by mailing a check payable to "PG Christmas Concert Board of Directors" along with the number of seats to be reserved. Indicate the performance date and time on your reservation.

Mail reservation donations and a self-addressed stamped envelope to PG Christmas Concert Board of Directors, 83 Harris Ave., Pine Grove, PA 17963. For additional information, call 570-691-6673.

The country-style Christmas concert features a variety of professional musicians and vocalists that have joined together in past years, bringing this con-



cert to the community. In its first year, the attendance - a one-night performance - drew 350 people. Last year the attendance was over 750 people in two nightly shows.

Due to the growth of the audience and the overwhelming response, the concert venue this year has moved to the Pine Grove Theater, 213 South Tulpehocken St. Parking will be available at School Yard Square, just one block from the theater, with free shuttle service to the front door of the theater (and return) provided by Newhurst Bus Company.

Several new attractions have been added to the lineup this year. There will be some laughs, some memories from the community, lots of country Christmas music and a visit from Santa Claus! If you enjoy country-style Christmas music, you don't want to miss this exciting concert with a Nashville sound.

Featured special guests

Just take a look at these popular local and regional professionals - Mended Heart from Pine Grove; The Seger Family, Shamokin; Kirk & Krissy Wolfe Family, Pine Grove; Harold Talor; Butch Flory from Lebanon; Doug Tretter of Ephrata; Eileen Hoffman and Daphnie Pinto, Evandale; Dale Cresswell, Schuylkill Haven; and Carol Metzler of Gettysburg.

Do you want more? Also part of the troupe - Emily High, Cheryl Haas, and Tom & Katrina Hartman, all of Pine Grove; Randie Rineer (fiddle) from Lititz; and Jared Wehry (pedal steel guitar) of Northumberland.

Mail-in your reservation request now

Refer to the half page advertisement on Page 9 for more information and a mail-in coupon to reserve the seats for your party on the day and time of your choice. Don't be disappointed without a reserved seat. Make plans today and send your payment to ensure this performance for you and your friends.



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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. 21 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. 21

Pine Grove will again welcome the Halloween sea-

son in Schuylkill County when the Pine Grove Lions Club coordinates and hosts the 76th annual Holiday Classic Parade on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Billed as 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, Tuesday, 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 Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Schuylkill County Firefighters Convention

The Liberty Fire Company No. 4 of Schuylkill Haven and the Good Will Hose of Cressona will co-host the 69th Schuylkill County Volunteer Firefighters' Association (SCVFA) Convention August 20 thru 26.

Event highlights include the annual SCVFA
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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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Memorial Service, Delegates Night, a High Stakes Super Bingo, and a Mug Night with live entertainment. As always, convention week will climax with a gigantic parade on Sat., August 26.

Saturday's parade entries - fire trucks, apparatus, miscellaneous vehicles, bands, and marching groups - will stage in the Hill Farm section of Schuylkill Haven, near the First United Methodist Church on Saylor Street. The parade is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. traveling through the streets of Cressona and ending at Hydro Extrusions. This will be the first time the SCVFA convention parade has been in Cressona since 1985.

Earlier on parade day, registration will be conducted from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the Liberty Fire Company on West Columbia Street in Schuylkill Haven, with apparatus judging held from 8 a.m. to noon at the Grace Evangelical Congregational Church on Earl Stoyer Road and the streets in that area - Washington, Jefferson and Roosevelt.

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.

Upcoming Borough Office holidays

The Pine Grove Municipal Building and Borough operations will close in observance of the following upcoming holidays - Monday, Sept. 4 (Labor Day); Monday, Oct. 9 (Columbus Day); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 & 24 (Thanksgiving and the day after).

Selling or building a home?

If you are building a new home and will be a cus-

R&J TOURS - 2023

DAY TOURS

Sept. 6 - Chalk Talk and Tea @ Mt. Hope Estates	\$91
Sept. 7 - Tribute to Celine Dion @ Wind Creek; \$30 FSP ..	\$81
Sept. 8 - Longwood Gardens Illuminated Fountains ...	**\$61
Sept. 16 - Guys and Dolls @ DADT.....	**\$99
Sept. 19 - John Denver Tribute @ Penns Peak	\$88
Sept. 28 - The Spinners @ Tropicana; \$25 FSP	\$101
Sept. 30 - Eastern State Penitentiary & Ghost Walk.....	**\$69
Oct. 3 - Tribute to Rod Stewart @ Penns Peak	\$88
Oct. 4 - Moses @ S & S w/ Bird In Hand lunch.....	**129
Oct. 18 - Jukebox Jive @ Magic and Wonder.....	**99

OVERNIGHT TRIPS (Per Person Based on Double Occupancy)

Oct. 3-6 - Rockin' the Boardwalk, Virginia Beach	\$974
Oct. 6-12 - Coastal Trains of New England.....	\$2,025
Oct. 14-15 - Fall Foliage - PA Grand Canyon.....	\$384
Oct. 22-24 - Tropicana Hotel & Casino.....	\$245
Oct. 23-27 - Smoky Mountain Harvest.....	\$1,377
Nov. 9-12 - Veteran Tour of Honor, Washington DC.....	\$988
Nov. 12-14 - Resorts Casino.....	\$241
Dec. 6-8 - A Capitol Christmas, Washington DC.....	\$925

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Check Our Website for Tour Info & Details



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

tomers of the Pine Grove Water System, please be sure your builder calls the Pine Grove Borough Streets/Water Department (570-345-8722) to have an inspection and water meter installed.

Also, when selling a property served by the Pine Grove Water System, please make sure your settlement company obtains a final water bill one week prior to settlement. In this way, the current bill will be paid in full at settlement and the Borough can service the new owners without interruption. Your settlement company should call the Pine Grove Borough Office at 570-345-8722 with any water billing questions.

2022 Water Quality Report available

The 2022 annual Drinking Water Quality Report is ready for viewing. You may request a free copy be mailed to you by calling the Borough Office at 570-345-3555, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Water Quality Report is always available on the Borough website - www.pinegroveborough.org - under the Pine Grove Water Department tab.

Need a dumpster? Get a permit

A permit is required to place a short-term dumpster or roll-off container, between 10 and 40 cubic yards, within Pine Grove Borough. Smaller refuse containers, commonly located on residential or commercial properties for long periods and emptied periodically, do not require a permit.

At present, the Borough is waiving any fees associ-

ated with obtaining a permit that is required. Permits are only valid for a two-week period when located on Borough streets and for three months if located on private properties. Permits must be obtained from the Pine Grove Borough Office before having the dumpster/roll-off placed onto the street or private property.

Residents or property owners may access the permit and ordinance online at www.pinegroveborough.org or stop in for a copy at the Borough Office.

Permit needed to remove a tree

Borough property owners must check with the Pine Grove Borough Office regarding requirements when making plans to remove a tree. In many cases a Tree Removal Permit may be required at a cost of \$50.

A permit is required when the tree is within 10 feet of a street or sidewalk. The permit will be valid for up to six months and covers an unlimited number of trees. If a street must be shut down in order to remove the tree, contact the Borough Streets Department and Police Department in order to have it done properly.

Planning & Zoning requirements

If you are planning to build a new house, add an addition, shed, or additional structure to your property, you must reach out to the Schuylkill County Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Office to ensure you are

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MENDED HEART & THE PINE GROVE THEATER PRESENT



COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
Concert & Celebration

213 SOUTH TULPEHOCKEN STREET, PINE GROVE PA

3 Shows
Saturday, Dec. 2 – 6 p.m. &
Sunday, Dec. 3 – 2 & 6 p.m.

FEATURED PERFORMERS

Mended Heart • Emily High
Kirk & Krissy Wolfe Family
Butch Flory • Doug Tretter
Eileen Hoffman • Daphnie Pinto
Dale Cresswell • Carol Metzler
The Seger Family • Cheryl Haas
Tom & Katrina Hartman
Howard Taylor
Randie Rineer • Jared Wehry

Celebrate the Holidays with a Country Christmas Concert – professional musicians, a Nashville Sound, and a visit by Santa Claus! Sold out the past two years; now with 3 performances and a larger attendance venue at the Pine Grove Theater.

Free admission with a free-will offering; or, you can guarantee seating by reserving in advance.



A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CONCERT & CELEBRATION RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Email: _____

Please Reserve the Following Seats for the Indicated Performance:

12/02/2023 6:00 PM # SEATS _____

12/03/2023 2:00 PM # SEATS _____

12/03/2023 6:00 PM. # SEATS _____

TOTAL X \$10.00 = _____

MAIL CHECK AND RESERVATION FORM TO PG CHRISTMAS CONCERT / 83 HARRIS AVE./PINE GROVE PA./ 17963

Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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in compliance and/or need a zoning permit to do so.

The P&Z Office is located in the Schuylkill County Courthouse, 401 N. Second Street, Pottsville, PA 17901; phone 570-628-1415; fax 570-628-1005; or email zoning@co.schuylkill.pa.us.

Code and floodplain information

If you plan to make upgrades to your home or business within Pine Grove Borough, contact the Borough's Code Official and Floodplain Administrator in advance to review code information, a building permit, and to verify any flood zone requirements.

Contact Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc. at 717-838-1351 (fax 717-838-3820). Forms for Building Permits can be found at www.Light-Heigel.com.

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.

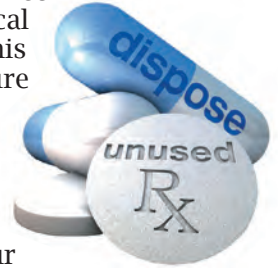
Be aware of the lack of precipitation and the high heat at this time of year. Fast acting nitrogen can burn the lawn under these conditions. Weed Be Gone, however, could be a suitable and effective spot treatment for weeds.

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

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.

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.

Please continue to store unwanted electronics until the next local Pine Grove Borough-hosted Electronic Recycling Event is scheduled.

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

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FOREIGN & DOMESTIC REPAIRS

Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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.

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, take a few minutes to open it with a broom or shovel.

Water bill payments

Quarterly water bill payments were due August 7. If you missed it, a late fee will be assessed. Upcoming bills will be due on November 6 this year and February 5, May 6, and August 5 of 2024. Payments can be made by check or money order by mail or in person at the 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 Assessor by the PCI Security Standards.

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.

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,
- Continued on Page 12

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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 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.

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

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

Borough Services Update

- Continued from Page 11

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.

Suggestion/complaint forms

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.

Gabriel Chamber Ensemble

Our 34th Year – 2023-2024 Season



Simon Maurer



Agnès Maurer



Dana Allaband



Al-Lin Hsieh

Opening Concert – Sun., Oct. 1

Kodaly Violin and Cello Duo Schubert Cello Quintet

With Guest Artist Sara Male

Adult – \$25 • Sr. Citizens – \$20
 Free to Students (under 18)



Concerts held at Jerusalem Lutheran Church
 252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven at 3 p.m.

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

Gabriel Chamber Ensemble

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 pgborough@comcast.net

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Protect Yourself Against Cyber Threats

A Primer to Understanding Online Phishing and Fraud

By Pine Grove Councilor Wade Gettle

In today's interconnected world, technology plays an increasingly significant role in our lives. It is crucial to stay vigilant against cyber threats.

Cybersecurity has become a pressing concern as hackers and fraudsters continue to exploit vulnerabilities in our digital lives. In this newsletter article, I wish to shed light on two common cyber threats – phishing and fraud – and provide you with essential tips to protect yourself from falling victim to these malicious activities.



PHISHING – A term, derived from “fishing,” is an online scam by which criminals attempt to trick individuals into revealing sensitive information, such as passwords, credit card details, or social security numbers. These phishing attempts often occur through seemingly innocuous emails, text messages, or even phone calls that appear to come from reputable sources. These may impersonate banks, government agencies, or well-known companies to gain your trust and deceive you into taking actions that could compromise your personal or financial security.

FRAUD, on the other hand, encompasses a broader range of deceptive activities aimed at stealing money or personal information. It includes financial scams, identity theft, fake job offers, lottery scams, and more. Fraudsters are constantly evolving their tactics, making it essential for all of us to be aware of the warning signs and take preventive measures.

To safeguard yourself against phishing and fraud, here are some key steps you can take:

1) Be cautious with your personal information! Avoid sharing sensitive data like passwords, social security numbers, or credit card details through email or text messages. Legitimate organizations will never ask for such information via these channels.

2) Verify the source! Before clicking on any links or downloading attachments, scrutinize the email sender's address or the phone number calling you. Be skeptical of unsolicited messages or calls requesting personal information, even if they appear to be from trusted sources. When in doubt, contact the organization directly through their official website or customer support channels.

3) Stay updated! Keep your devices, operating systems, and applications up-to-date with the latest security patches. Regular updates often include bug

fixes and security enhancements that can help protect you from emerging threats.

4) Implement strong passwords! Create unique, complex passwords for each of your online accounts. Avoid using common phrases, names, or easily guessable information. A combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters makes your passwords harder to crack.

5) Enable two-factor authentication (2FA)! Wherever possible, enable 2FA for your online accounts. This provides an extra layer of security by requiring a second form of authentication, such as a fingerprint or a code sent to your mobile device, in addition to your password.

6) Educate yourself! Stay informed about the latest phishing and fraud techniques. Cybercriminals are always evolving their methods, so it's vital to stay up-to-date with current trends, potential scams, and best practices for online security. Many organizations and cybersecurity experts regularly publish articles and resources on these topics.

Remember, your online security is a shared responsibility. By being proactive and staying informed, you can protect yourself and contribute to a safer digital environment for everyone. Stay vigilant; together we can combat cyber threats and foster a more secure online world.

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Historical Society Preserves the Past

Last 2023 Program at Stanhope Schoolhouse – Sept. 23

The Stanhope One-Room Schoolhouse, a project of the Pinegrove Historical Society, has sponsored interesting educational programs in May and July this year and has been open to the public once per month, May through August.

If you haven't yet experienced this restored local treasure, you have one more opportunity this year.

The final program of the 2023 season, "Then & Now - From Patchwork to Precuts!" will be held Saturday, Sept. 23 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The schoolhouse "museum" will remain open following the program from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is FREE, but donations are always appreciated

Quilting spotlighted during program

Everything has evolved over time, including quilting. Methods are now streamlined so there's no need to trace paper templates and cut out pieces individually ... unless we want to!



Learn how newer techniques have opened this creative opportunity for everyone! The "Patchwork to Precuts" program will be presented by Cyndi Hershey, quilt education and development director of the Kutztown Folk Festival.

Schedule a private event

Do you have a group of 10 or more looking for a private event at the Stanhope Schoolhouse before September 30? Contact us at pghs-stanhope-school.org/contact-us to

schedule a date and time. Private events in 2024 can be scheduled between May 1 and September 30.

Do you know what a hornbook and iron gall ink are? Attendees at the May and July programs do! Both were part of the early days of education and may have been used at one-room schools. If you were unable to attend these programs or visit the museum, this is some of what you missed.

A recap of our 2023 programs

Our May program, "Education - Past, Present, and Future," was presented by Heath Renninger, superintendent of Pine Grove Area School District.



A "hornbook" was a teaching aid that consisted of a sheet of paper showing the alphabet and vowel combinations, the 10 digits, and the Lord's Prayer. These were mounted on a wooden tablet and protected by a translucent covering of horn. Teachers have gone from the hornbook to small individual slate boards, then to large slate boards, and - most recently - to white boards in the span of time since the Stanhope School opened.

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 South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing
960 E. Main St. • Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725

E-mail: printing@southschuylkill.net

www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com

Publication dates for the next three issues are November 9, 2023; February 22 and May 16, 2024

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.

Pine Grove Borough Info



Find us on Facebook

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

www.pinegroveborough.org



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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.

- Make sure smoke detectors and carbon monox-



ide 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.