

THE EVERGREEN

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

Vol. XVI, No. 2 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF PINE GROVE, PA

MAY 2024

Pine Grove Borough Council News

Disc Golf Course Planned at Pleasant Valley Rec Park

On behalf of the Pine Grove Borough Community, Parks, and Recreation Committee, I am excited to share one of our visions for recreational development in our community.



AIMMEE L. REILLY
PG Borough Councilor

Approximately ten years ago, a tract of land adjacent to the Swatara Creek in the area of Pleasant Valley was earmarked for development as the Pleasant Valley Recreational Park. The park project was set aside in response to the dire need for

flood mitigation efforts that, after many recent rain events, have proven successful as the town has not succumbed to the devastation it had in the past.



PLEASANT VALLEY RECREATIONAL PARK SITE

In February, Mike Culbert and Justin Lyons approached the Pine Grove Area Business & Community Association (PGABCA) and Pine Grove Borough Council with the idea to develop a disc golf course on the site of the proposed Pleasant Valley Park.

With the unanimous approval of Council, a collaboration has begun with the PGABCA to develop the disc golf course as a first step in the development of the Pleasant Valley Park. Discussions with residents, business owners, and neighboring municipality officials have shown many others share in this vision and are willing to lend their support in this, and other ventures, to improve upon and create outdoor recreational opportunities for the community.

The 18-hole disc golf layout will sprawl throughout the property, offering varied terrain with tight woods, open spaces, views of the Upper Little Swatara

- Continued on Page 4

Make A Splash!

It's soon time to enjoy lazy days lounging poolside and swimming at the Pine Grove Area Community Swimming Pool.

The last day of school at PGA is Thursday, May 30. Weather permitting, the Community Pool will be open Memorial Day weekend (Saturday thru Monday, May 25-27 - 3 to 7 p.m.) and daily starting Friday, May 31.

Summer kick-off event

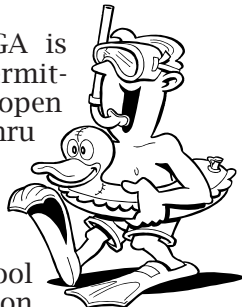
The Pine Grove Community Pool will host a Summer Kickoff event on Friday, May 31. Pool admission will be discounted.

Veterans Memorial Drive will be closed to local traffic from noon to 7 p.m. to allow for a safe recreational area for residents. The roadway will be safe for bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, etc. The Union Canal lake and Swatara Creek are accessible for a fun day of fishing and enjoying nature.

Food trucks and vendors of all kinds are asked to call the Pine Grove Borough Office at 570-345-3555 and leave a message to register for this event.

Up-to-date information can be found at pine-groveborough.org under the Pine Grove Pool tab and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thePGpool.

A similar "Back to School Bash" is scheduled for Fri., August 23 from noon to 7 p.m. More information on this event will be published in the August issue of *The Evergreen*.



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2024 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..... Wade Gettle
Vice President of Council..... Leroy Bates
Pro Tem..... Elaine Holley
Secretary/Treasurer..... Melissa A. Dyer
Tax Collector..... Katie 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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Wade Gettle • Elaine Holley
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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

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Elaine Holley

PERSONNEL

Leroy Bates • Wade Gettle
Elaine Holley

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PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES

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FLOOD MITIGATION

Wade Gettle • Elaine Holly • Devin Lymaster

COMMUNITY DEV. • PARKS & RECREATION

Kyler Burke • Wade Gettle • Aimmee Reilly

PUBLIC SAFETY

Skip Butler • Elaine Holley • Aimmee Reilly

STORM WATER COMMITTEE

Leroy Bates • Kyler Burke • Devin Lymaster

Everyone In The Pool!

- Continued from Page 1 -



Season pool passes available now

Season passes allow access to the pool for the entire season for one low price - \$200 for a family, \$175 military family, \$100 individual adult, \$55 individual military, \$80 student, \$55 senior citizen (65 years old and above), and \$100 senior citizen couple. Season "Lap" passes cost \$20.

Passes and swim lesson sign-ups can be purchased, weekdays through May 24 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), at the Pine Grove Borough Office, 1 Snyder Avenue. The pool office will also be open for season pass sales and swim lesson sign-ups on Friday, May 17 (5 to 8 p.m.), Saturday morning, May 18 (9 a.m. to noon) and during pool hours once the swim season begins.

Complete details and downloadable forms are on the Borough website - pinegroveborough.org.

Daily pool rates and swim lessons

Without a season swim pass, daily admission rates are based on the day of swimming enjoyment.

Monday through Thursday - \$5 for adult, student and non-swimming spectators; \$3 for children (age 0 to 4 years), senior citizens (age 65 and older), and military personnel. After 5 p.m., evening admission is \$2.50 for everyone.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - \$6 for adult, student, and spectators; \$3 for children age 4 and younger, senior citizens, and military. After 5 p.m., evening admission is \$3 for everyone.

Swim lesson registration open to June 3

Swim lesson registration is now open. For water safety, the importance of swim lessons can't be overstated. Everyone - especially children - should be able to swim!

Lessons are offered from June 10 through August 2 with a break from July 1-to-7.

Not sure which ability-level class is appropriate for your child? The registration application has a box to be checked, indicating a desire to have your child pre-tested.

Lessons cost \$50 for your first child and \$45 for each additional child in the same family. Payment by check or credit card is due at registration; checks should be made payable to "Pine Grove Recreation Board."

Hurry! Registration forms (available on the Borough website) will be accepted - on a first come, first served basis - until June 3 or until all classes are filled. Forms will not be accepted after June 3.

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It's Summer Party Time at the PG Community Pool

Reserve the pool to celebrate

Pool parties have once again been a popular item last year following the COVID years.

Reservations can be requested now for the 2024 Community Swimming Pool season. You can reserve the pool for a private party or have your group's celebration when the pool is open to the public to also enjoy this time to swim.

Public Party - \$175; Invite up to 49 guests.

Private Party - \$200 for up to 49 guests; \$225 for between 50 and up to 100 guests; \$275 for 101 to 200 guests; or \$325 for 201 to 250 guests.



A \$50 Security Deposit and a 50% Deposit of the rental amount is due to reserve and secure your date and time. The balance of the party cost is due before the party can begin.

You will be refunded the Security Deposit once the party is over and the facility is returned to its



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original state. Any damage or vandalism to the property will result in a forfeit of the security deposit and the possibility of being held financially responsible for any loss or damage. All trash must be cleaned up before vacating the property. The pool and Borough are not responsible for any lost or stolen property.

Visit www.pinegroveborough.org and select the Community Pool tab for more information and season pass, swimming lessons and pool party applications. Check often on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/thePGpool for updates. Or, email the pool manager with inquiries about reserving the pool for your party at PGpool44@outlook.com.

We look forward to having everyone enjoy the Pine Grove Area Community Pool throughout this 2024 summer season.

Pleasant Valley Park

- Continued from Page 1 -

Creek, wildlife conservation ponds, and historic ruins of the former Pennsylvania Power & Light plant that occupied the site. Every hole, according to the vision, will have two tees - long and short - and one pin position.

Plans call for the disc golf course to be completely funded by sponsorships from the community. Three levels of sponsorships are available - Gold, Silver, and Bronze. When full sponsorship is achieved, construction will begin. Individuals and businesses interested in being a sponsor are asked to leave a message with Borough Office staff by calling 570-345-3555.

This initiative is an example how a thought can grow into an idea, ideas create discussions, and discussions grow into plans. Let's share ideas and optimism for the future of the Pine Grove Community. Recreation Committee meetings are held the last Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the conference room of the Borough's Municipal Building.

Additional information on the proposed Recreation Park can be found on the Borough website - PineGroveBorough.org. Select "Pleasant Valley Park" on the homepage to view a development master plan study, prepared by Benesch & Co. in 2014.

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Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority

Help Us and Help Yourself – Don't Flush Those Wipes!

The answer is NO! The question, you might ask, "Is it okay to flush disinfecting wipes?" Again, the answer is NO!



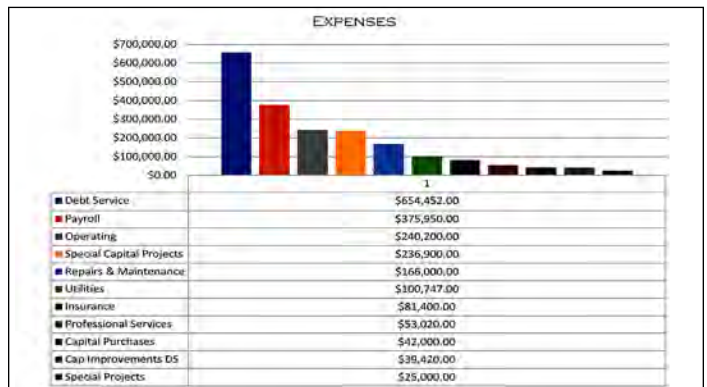
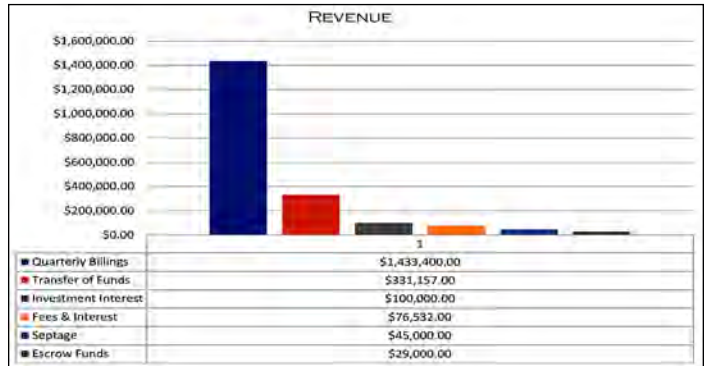
WIPES DON'T BREAK DOWN – These found their way to the sewage treatment plant.

Disinfecting wipes, baby wipes, and paper towels should NEVER be flushed. These items – even those that are marketed as “flushable” – should be properly disposed of in the trash, not the toilet!

These wipes and other items do not break down in sewer or septic systems, can clog or damage your home's internal plumbing, causing expensive sewage backups in your home or your neighborhood, and can do significant damage to pipes, pumps, and other wastewater treatment equipment. Sewer backups can be a threat to public health.

Toilet paper and human waste are the only items that should go into your toilet and flushed.

2024 JTA Budget balanced at \$2,015,089



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Planning A Project? Know Your Floodplain Status!

Ordinance Compliance Needed to Get Favored Flood Insurance

459 Borough Properties Have A 1-in-4 Flood Chance

BY COUNCILOR SKIP BUTLER & MARTY SOWERS

Pine Grove Borough recently was the focus of a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Community Assistance Visit as part of the National Flood Insurance Program.

In its report, FEMA noted a number of properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA or floodplain) where development occurred, that the Borough has no record of floodplain development permits. This is considered a “deficiency” in the Borough’s administration of the floodplain regulations.

In order to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, all properties must comply with the Floodplain Ordinance for Pine Grove Borough to remain in good standing. If they don’t become compliant, penalties can be imposed. As a means to address this deficiency and satisfy FEMA’s requirements, the identified properties are being notified by the Borough of their status along with a floodplain development permit application and instructions on how to comply.

According to RiskFactor.com, there are currently 459 properties in the Borough that have a 26% chance of being affected by flooding in any given year. This represents 55% of all residential properties in the Borough and 69 of the 90 businesses.



Is your property located in a floodplain?

Go online to <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search> and enter your property address. A map of your area will pop up and it will show if your property is located in a FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Area.

If you are new to home ownership or if you recently purchased a home or property, this information is typically disclosed in the sales documentation. However, in some cases this is either overlooked or the ramifications are not sufficiently conveyed to the purchaser.

Another indicator that a property is located in the SFHA is the requirement to carry flood insurance. It is a requirement of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that all federally-backed mortgages for properties located within any SFHA, carry flood insurance. It is always wise to check with the Borough’s floodplain administrator or your real estate agent.

To meet the requirements of the NFIP, a municipality shall make floodplain determinations for ALL “development” within its jurisdiction. This requires that a permit be requested by the property owner so that the floodplain administrator can make that determination and the Borough issue the permit before work begins.

Development is defined as “any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate - including, but not limited to, the construction, reconstruction, renovation, repair, expansion, or alteration of buildings or other structures, the placement of manufactured homes, streets and other paving, utilities, filling, grading and excavation, mining, dredging, drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, and the subdivision of land.”

Planning a project? You may need a permit

Okay, so you have determined your property is in a SFHA and you are planning a project that falls within the definition of “development.” Here are some requirements to keep in mind for common building projects.

- **Elevation Requirements** - For additions and new residential buildings, the lowest floor (including basement) must be elevated at least 1-1/2 feet (18 inches) above the base flood elevation determined by a professional engineer or land surveyor. New commercial buildings are required to be elevated OR to be “dry floodproofed.”



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Planning A Project? Know Your Floodplain Status!

• **Renovations or Damage Repair** - Damage repair, renovations and additions (commercial or residential) must first have a “substantial damage/improvement” determination. Any repair, addition or renovation resulting in substantial improvement or substantial damage must be treated as a new building and must be elevated to comply with the floodplain ordinance.

“**Substantial Damage**” is damage from any cause sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed fifty (50) percent or more of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

“**Substantial Improvement**” is any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure that will cost 50% or greater of the structure’s market value before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred “substantial damage” or “cumulative substantial damage” regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications that have been identified by the local code enforcement official and



that are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions.

If you are planning any “development” project on your property, complete the Floodplain Development application at the link above and submit it to Pine Grove Borough, 1 Snyder Ave., Pine Grove, PA 17963. The application will then be forwarded to the floodplain administration technician, Marty Sowers of Light-Heigel & Associates, for review. You will be

advised of “in or out” and what regulations apply to your proposed project. You can then move on to the other required permits such as zoning and building permits.

It is important to understand that, while these requirements reside in the Borough floodplain management ordinance (ordinance NO. 463), they are federal requirements that the Borough is tasked with and required to administer to remain in good standing with the NFIP. Failure to properly administer these rules will jeopardize the Borough’s ability to qualify for reduced flood insurance rates for their residents and effectively disqualify the Borough from receipt of disaster relief funds and assistance.

Questions? Contact Marty Sowers of Light-Heigel and Associates at 717-821-8689.



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Memorial Day parade and service

Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start to summer, a time to fire up the outdoor grill and enjoy warmer weather. But, as you are burning your hamburgers on the grill, give a smile and a kind thought to all of those who have and still are sacrificing so that we may enjoy this weekend.



For those of us safe in our own homes, is it too much to sacrifice a few hours on Monday, May 27— Memorial Day — to participate in the day’s patriotic parade through the streets of Pine Grove and the memorial service to follow?

The parade will form at “the brickyard” along Christ Street adjacent to the HH&L Fire Company

beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will step off promptly at 9 a.m.

The parade will feature special guests, Gold Star Mothers, town and area dignitaries, speakers and honorees at the service to follow. Also marching will be the Pine Grove Area Community Band, Pine Grove Area High School Marching Band and JROTC color guard and marching unit. Always a popular part of the Memorial Day parade are community organizations members, children’s sports groups, high school teams, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownie troops, floats, church groups and area fire and rescue companies.

The parade will proceed onto East Pottsville Street to South Tulpehocken and continue south to Saint John’s Cemetery. The Memorial Day service and keynote address will take place beginning at 9:45 a.m. at and adjacent to the Pine Grove War Memorial monument.

Upcoming Borough holiday closures

Pine Grove Borough offices and operations will be closed in observance of these upcoming holidays: Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day); and Thursday, July 4 (Independence Day).

Strike up the band and enjoy!

The Pine Grove Community Band has planned a full schedule of appearances this summer. The public is invited to enjoy the concerts.

May 27 Memorial Day - Pine Grove parade and service at St. John’s Cemetery.

South Sch. Garden Club

Plant sale on May 18

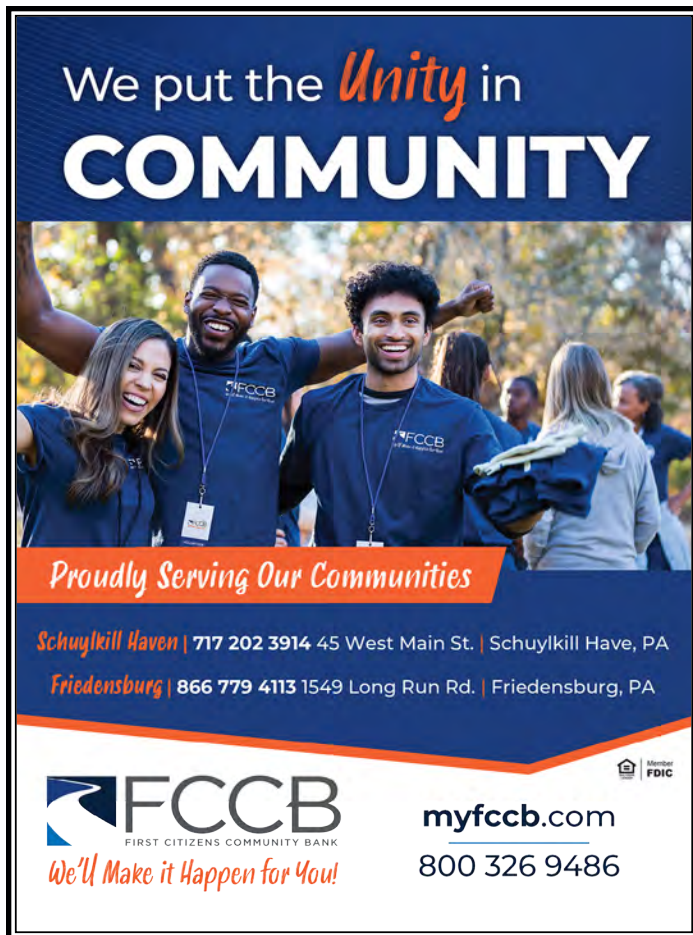
The annual plant sale of the South Schuylkill Garden Club will be held Saturday, May 18 at Bubeck Park in Schuylkill Haven from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The selection of plants includes perennials, annuals, herbs, shrubs, natives, heirloom vegetables, succulents, sun-loving and shade-loving plants, small trees and even house plants.

The plants are sourced from club members’ gardens right here in Schuylkill County making them especially hardy to grow locally. Prices are hard to beat. Qualified gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice for successful outcomes.

Club to give \$1000 scholarship

The Garden Club will award a \$1000 Scholarship to a Schuylkill County high school senior furthering their education in related horticulture and agricultural fields.

Applications must be received by Thursday, May 30. An application form can be requested from high school guidance departments or from Scholarship Chair Patricia Wishousky - call 272-245-5050 or e-mail pjw47@outlook.com. The winner will receive the scholarship at a Garden Club summer meeting.



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

June 13 - A private performance for residents of Swatara Village.

June 15 - Walk In Art Center at 220 Parkway in Schuylkill Haven. Times yet to be determined.

July 4 Independence Day - Sweet Arrow Lake, 6 p.m.

July 11 - Providence Place on Hikes Hollow Road, Pine Grove, 6:30 p.m.

August 15 - Pine Grove Lion's Den on Veterans Memorial Dr, Pine Grove, 6:30 p.m.

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 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.

Spring/summer work to be aware of

Hydrant flushing will be conducted during May and June. Hydrant flushing allows the Borough to flush its fresh water system. Property owners may experience times of low water pressure and discolored water. Simply let your tap water run a few minutes until it becomes clear. Flushing also allows the Borough to monitor and maintain fire hydrants throughout the system.

Line painting of crosswalks and curb painting, where needed, will also take place during May and June. Pedestrians are asked to cross streets at the crosswalks. Motorists are reminded it is state law to stop to allow pedestrians to cross the street when they present themselves in the designated crosswalk.

Curb painting is an important reminder to motorists when parking near an intersection. The yellow painted curbs indicate a "no parking" area to allow other motorists and pedestrians a safe view when attempting to cross an intersection.

Parking meters

If you choose to park your vehicle in the business district at a space with a parking meter, please know that you are liable for ticket enforcement of expired time Monday through Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can enjoy free parking during other hours plus Sundays and holidays.

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 collection in the county or by the Borough.

Thanks to all residents helping to keep Pine Grove Borough a cleaner place and responsible in its waste and recycling efforts.

Get your compost site permits

Those sunny and warmer days are here. Property owners will be mowing, gardening, and improving their grounds. You are able to dispose of vegetative waste at the Borough's compost site located behind the municipal garage.

This year's permits are now available at the Pine Grove Municipal Building, 1 Snyder Ave. Permits are strictly for Borough residents only. Proper identification and proof of residency is required. Cost is \$20.

The compost site only accepts organic materials and yard waste - leaves, grass clippings, and other yard vegetation. The site operates from March through the fall season on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

- Continued on Page 10



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 9

An attendant will direct you where to place your vegetation waste.

Think spring ... and summer!

The Pine Grove Bicentennial Committee is looking forward to a beautiful spring and summer season at Union Canal Veteran's Memorial Park.

Residents of Pine Grove and surrounding areas are invited to enjoy a walk around the canal, stop and eat lunch at one of the picnic tables, or simply sit and relax on one of the park benches. While at the park, be sure to stop at the Memorial Pavilion, that lists the names of those who purchased trees in honor and memory of loved ones.

While leashed pets are allowed at the park, pet owners are urged to clean up after their pet. Keep the park grounds healthy and safe for our children.

Please help your neighborhood

Blocked street drains can create a hazard for you and your neighbors during heavy rain events. 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 May 6. Additional payment due dates in 2024 are August 5, and November 5. After these dates, a late fee will be assessed. If you are dropping off your water payment after hours and/or weekends, please don't put cash in the drop box.

Pay by credit/debit

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

Payments accepted through MuniCIPAY 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 MuniCIPAY in order to provide this convenient service to you.

MuniCIPAY is audited on an annual basis by a company that is recognized as a Qualified Security Assessor by the PCI Security Standards.

Spring and summer ash collection

Curbside ash collection has changed back from two to only one day per week for the spring, summer, and early fall seasons. Residents are reminded that ash tubs must have handles and be free of sharp edges.

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.



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 possibly 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.

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 area residents by providing support for health related issues, youth programs, emergency disaster relief, cultural growth, and other needs of local communities through giving and personal 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.

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Make A Plan – A Healthy Lawn Can Be Yours!

First, I must give credit for the following. Those that have helped me over the years are our trusted grounds staff at Pine Grove Area School District, the Schuylkill County Penn State Extension office on Rt. 901 outside of Pottsville, and a lawn maintenance book I purchased at Lowes.



LEROY BATES
Council Vice President

It's already too late to deal with crabgrass preventer, but if you keep this article for early next spring it will help keep this hardy grass at bay. Soil temperature around 50 degrees is what crabgrass needs to start its germination process.

The big question is when? Short of sticking a thermometer in the ground, local lore suggests "when the Forsythia bloom, put your preventer on the grass."

This may only be a myth, but I've found great success battling crabgrass using this tip.

Often crabgrass pre-emergent/preventer comes with the fertilizer already mixed into it. This application should hold the crabgrass at bay for 2-3 months.

The next thing to consider is fertilizer and if you go to Werner Lumber or Tractor Supply you will be inundated by a plethora of numbers and information on the fertilizer bags. Fertilizer has three numbers on it and it's the percentage of whatever is in the bag that you are applying to the grass using a broadcast spreader. The first number is the N number, which is Nitrogen and causes the plants to produce chlorophyll. This makes the grass grow quicker and appear much darker green. The second number is the P which is for root development and is important during seeding. The last number is the K which also is for root development. The K helps guard against diseases and aids in drought protection and cold tolerance. Seeding also requires more K fertilizer.

Weed control is applied granular when the weeds are damp. Often weed control also has the fertilizer mixed into it. Make sure it does not rain after application for 36-48 hours. The chemical attaches to the leaf surface and trans-locates throughout the plant. I personally like to use Weed Be Gone in its liquid form when dealing with spot locations of weed. This or a similar chemical will tip a dandelion head into the ground in about 3 days. Liquid chemicals need a still wind application and need to attach to the plant. Never apply liquid weed/herbicide during windy conditions, because it's toxic to your body and always wash your hands when done.

The last tip on lawn maintenance deals directly with the cutting of your grass. The cool season grass varieties that thrive here in Pennsylvania are best maintained at 2.5 to 3 inches. This practice will encourage increased root growth and moisture retention. Also it will assist in establishing a thicker stand of turf that will shade out and decrease the number of broadleaf weeds. Avoid shocking your grass by removing more than 1/3 of the leaf surface at one time. If a vacation away from home or a rainy period creates a tall stand



of grass, it will be healthier for the plant if you add an additional cut during the week to get your desired height.

I am often cheap and want to save money and not change out my blades every year. This causes the grass to be hacked and not cut. My

friend up at the school said he keeps an extra blade set on stock that he keeps sharp so when one blade set gets dinged up or dull, he changes them out. Make sure you cut the grass when it's dry. I plan to add another article to the mix in a later publication that addresses aerating and how to get your grass ready for the winter. Enjoy the green and have a super summer.

- Leroy Bates, Councilman

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FOREIGN & DOMESTIC REPAIRS

Fire Prevention and Home/Garden Safety

Smoke detectors

Properly installed and functioning, smoke detectors are the single most important factor in preventing home fire fatalities. On the job 24 hours per day, they will provide you and your family with an early warning should a fire occur, giving you the best opportunity to escape.

Where should I install them?

A smoke detector should be installed on every level of your home. Since many home fires occur while the residents are asleep, smoke detectors should also be installed in every bedroom and in the hallway outside each sleeping area.

Ceiling-mounted detectors should be positioned at least four inches from the nearest wall. Wall-mounted detectors should be placed four to twelve inches away from the ceiling. If you have peaked ceilings, install the detector near the ceiling's highest point.

Don't install detectors near doors, windows or ducts where drafts might interfere with the detector. Never paint smoke detectors or apply stickers or decorations, since these too may affect the ability of the detector to respond to a fire.



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.

How long do they last?

All smoke detectors, whether battery powered or hard wired should be replaced after 10 years. Any detector, that fails to activate when you press the test button, should also be replaced.

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.

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Historical Society Preserves the Past

Stanhope School Opens for the Season on May 18

The 2024 season is underway for the Stanhope Schoolhouse, a project of the Pinegrove Historical Society. The first educational program will feature the History of Pine Grove Township on Saturday, May 18 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Schoolhouse located at the intersection of Mexico, Camp, and Stanhope Roads. Admission is free (donations gratefully accepted). Please note the Schoolhouse is not handicap accessible and does not have restrooms.



Kids, experience how it was

Our educational focus this year is delightfully geared to school-age children, especially those in grades 4 through 6. Stanhope intern and Kutztown University elementary education major, Reanna Reynolds, has developed an educational program providing an interactive history lesson about education during the period the Stanhope School was in operation.

The lesson includes a look into a school day and includes a spelling bee, arithmetic lesson, and practice with cursive writing. The lessons even culminate with a report card! Join her for the inaugural public program of her work on Saturday, July 20 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. This program will also be available by appointment for groups of 10 or more by contacting the Stanhope Schoolhouse at info@PGHS-StanhopeSchool.org.

Museum is open one day each month

The museum continues to expand its collection.



The most recent acquisition is a one gross box of An-Du-Septic Blackboard Crayons made by Binney & Smith Co. You may know this item by the name of chalk. Did you know the blackboard crayons were packed in sawdust to protect it in transit?

The museum will be open for viewing on Saturday, May 18 following the educational program, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.; on Sunday,

June 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.; on Saturday, July 20 following the children's educational program, from 2:30 to

4:30 p.m.; on Sunday, August 11 from 2 to 4 p.m.; and on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The Schuylkill County Historical Society, 305 N. Centre St., Pottsville will be featuring the Stanhope Schoolhouse in a special exhibit during July and August.

The Schoolhouse project gratefully received a 2024 grant from the Charles Werner Endowment Fund

through the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation to assist with programs, acquisitions, and operations.

Early education in Pine Grove Township

Because Pine Grove Township School District had to depend only on its farmers and laboring class of people for its tax resources, the length of its school term and the salary of its teachers were the minimum allowed by the state.

School equipment and supplies at first were discouraging. Often only one child, out of a class of a dozen or more, had a textbook. But, starting in 1899, free textbooks were supplied by the district school board and paid from the district funds. This meant very much to the poorer class of people and gave the rural schools a needed advantage.

In 1899, the minimum length of the school term became seven months; in 1921 it was extended to seven and one-half months; and, finally in 1922, it extended further to eight months. Farmers who failed to see the need for better schooling complained at first when the school term was lengthened.

Rural school education was greatly helped by laws extending the term of school, improved school equipment and qualifications of the teachers. But rural school children still had not yet gained an educational advantage equal to the children in districts better favored financially.

- Continued on Page 14

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Historical Society Preserves the Past

- Continued from Page 13

Pine Grove Township School District "School No. 8" was Stanhope. In 1876 the one-room brick schoolhouse was built near and south of Stanhope Station. This building was destroyed by fire on October 22, 1923, while school was in progress. Students attended the Marstown School, also known as "Chickentown School," until the new wooden Stanhope School was erected the following year.

According to the Teacher's Monthly Reports from September 1883, Frank R Huber was the teacher for 21 boys and 22 girls, with an average attendance of 27. By mid-November the enrollment increased to 30 boys and 24 girls and the average attendance increased to 43. His pay was \$30 per month. He used 12 Primers, eight First Readers, nine Second Readers, 10 Third Readers, two Fourth Readers, three History, five Geography, 11 Arithmetic, and 14 Spellers to teach the students. Frank remained the teacher until October 1885.

Teachers received instructions

Teachers were provided the following information regarding the course of study for the Elementary



Schools of Schuylkill County in 1883. "D Division" studies were for students, six to nine years of age. The First Reader was the textbook.

Reading - Use Blackboard, Chart, Slate, and First Reader. On chart use the word, sentence and phonic method; Use blackboard for additional exercises written in plain script. Teach pupils of this division to pronounce words readily at sight and to read in natural conversational tones. Have them tell the substance of reading lessons in their own language. Do not permit them to spell or point to words when reading.

Spelling - Both written and oral spelling, the latter by sound and letter, but use mostly written spelling of the words found in the reading lessons, names of familiar objects, and words used in conversation.

Writing - Teach script writing from the first; discard printing altogether; have pupils use long slate pencils; teach proper position, and how to hold pencil; rule a position on a portion of the blackboard as copy books are ruled with double lines to indicate the height of letters, and prepare pupils' slates in a similar manner by ruling one side permanently. Place writing on blackboard and have pupils copy on slates. For beginners, write words on board without con-

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
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Publication dates for the next three issues are August 22, November 14, and February 20, 2025

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.

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Historical Society Preserves the Past

necting the letters. After pupils have acquired some ability in the formation of letters, teach them how to connect letters by having them copy words written on board with letters connected. Write new and difficult words or portions of the reading lesson on board for pupils to copy. Examine carefully, criticize, and mark slate-work at every recitation.

Drawing - Have pupils copy on slates from blackboard or tablets, simple forms, simple solids, plain figures, and lines, and teach the names of them.

Arithmetic - Oral and written without book. Teach counting, addition and subtraction; use numeral frame. Teach first with objects and afterward without them. Pass from the concrete to the abstract. Teach to write and read figures and small numbers. Use signs: plus, minus, equality, etc. Drill constantly in rapid and accurate reckoning.

Oral Instruction - Teach objectively. For beginners, have short conversational exercises on familiar



objects. To pupils of this division, give short daily lessons on one or more of the following topics:

- 1) Names, common forms, colors, quantities, size, weight, and use of familiar objects;
- 2) Description of articles of food, drink, clothing, fuel, light, and familiar tools, and household implements;
- 3) Plants, flowers, personal habits, conduct of life, and care of body and health.

Language - Correction of common errors in conversation; oral description of familiar objects and pictures; require statements and answers to questions in complete sentences; correct faulty expressions; memorize easy verses and maxims.

Management of D Division - Length of exercises from five to fifteen minutes according to the subject. Teach one step at a time; have it well impressed on the mind of the pupil before you attempt to teach another; recitations short but frequent; vary

the exercises; keep the little ones interested and busy by requiring plenty of slate-work; examine it closely, and approve faithful effort. If directors consent, make school hours for pupils of this division less than five or six hours. At this age, fresh air and plenty of exercise are most important.



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The PA Department of Environmental Protection mandated all water systems are required to notify customers quickly when a situation with the water system arises. From time to time, we have had to contact our customers when our water system was compromised and issue a Boil Water Advisory.

Pine Grove Borough has contracted with Rave Mobile's Smart911 to contact our customers and residents. Smart911 is a Public Notification System using cutting-edge technology to swiftly contact our residents via telephone or e-mail. 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 other states of emergency, disaster announcements, road closures, parking restrictions, and other announcements 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.

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