

THE EVERGREEN

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

Vol. XVIII, No. 1 – Issued Semiannually

BOROUGH OF PINE GROVE, PA

May 2026

Council President's "State of the Borough"

Seasons Change; Infrastructure Challenges Addressed

As the arrival of spring gives way to summer, let's pause and appreciate what a beautiful village we live in here in central Pennsylvania! We have the Swatara Creek that cuts through town and brings fresh mountain water through our village. As I write this, there are fishermen in the creek, hopefully finding those freshly brought-in trout.



LEROY BATES
Council President

We also have a beautiful park and recreational area - referred to by many of us simply as "the canal" - a community treasure that is the site of many festivities planned throughout the year.

We often take these community features and the quiet solace our village provides for granted. Take a moment and say thank you. I chose this town to bring my wife and sons 20 years ago. Though not even remotely from around here, Pine Grove

welcomed us beyond measure and I am thankful.

New council member appointed to lead

Two months ago we got notification from Kyler Burke that he was moving to another nearby town where they built a home. No longer a resident, a vacancy on our Borough Council was created.

The Borough received a letter of interest to fill Kyler's vacancy. I would like to welcome Saagar Mehta to our Borough Council. Saagar has lived here nearly three years and brings an extensive background that will assist our Borough into the future.

Water and stormwater infrastructure

Clearance from landowners to install a new water line along Rt. 125 north is ongoing. The section is several miles long where our present water line is located. Illusive owners are slowing the process.

Connecting the wells northeast of Echo Valley to our water treatment station located near the sawmill in Ravine is the next phase to update our aging water system. Additionally, Pennsylvania DEP has not yet approved the waterline along Rt. 443 that will run from the new wells we dug several years ago.

The storm drains and how water is removed from the Borough is a continuing conversation for Borough Council. A strategic plan, detailing what to repair first, is challenging due to an adverse mixture of

existing lines with varying diameters. These diameter differences cause chokeholds, restricting the flow that forces water to flood our road system. It is my hope that by the next issue of *The Evergreen*, I can share what we plan to fix.

Winter's snow/cold... worst in a decade

It had been at least 10 years since we received as much snow so quickly as this past winter. Clearing of

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Make A Splash!

Dive In and Cool Off! Regular daily operations of the Pine Grove Community Pool will begin Thursday, June 4, the day after PGA School District dismisses students for the summer.

Season pool pass purchases and swim lesson sign-ups can be made now at the Community Pool on Friday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon or at any time once the pool opens on a daily basis.

Swim season pass and daily admission

This summer, a Family Season Pass will cost \$200 to admit up to 5 members of your immediate family, living in the same household. A Military Family Pass will cost \$175.

Individual season passes are also available... \$100 per Adult; \$80 per Student; \$55 per Senior Citizen (age 65+) and \$100 for a Senior Citizen couple (both age 65+); \$55 per Military individual and \$100 for a Military couple.

Lap Swimmers can purchase a Season Lap Pass for \$20; but, admission will be limited to Lap Swim hours only, not for general admission.

Daily rate admission will cost \$6 per Adult; \$6 Student; \$3 Child (to age 4); \$3 per Senior Citizen (age 65+); \$3 per Military personnel; and \$6 for non-swimming spectators/guardians.

A reduced admission rate of \$3 for all categories takes effect after 5 p.m. daily.

Military personnel must show valid identification. Passes and daily admission must be paid in cash or check; no credit cards will be accepted. Daily rates are not refundable in the event of inclement weather.

Visit our Facebook page at Pine Grove Community Pool, for updates on the pool.

2026 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..... Leroy Bates
Vice President of Council..... Elaine Holley
Pro Tem..... Debra Thompson
Borough Manager 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 Lewis Moyer

COUNCIL

Leroy Bates • Skip Butler
Elaine Holley • Ethel McMullen
Saagar Mehta • Aimmee Reilly
Debra Thompson

POLICE

Thomas J. Trotter, IV - Chief
Mike Dissinger • William Gelgot
Gino Ricigliano • Jeff Sampson
Mark Vandermartin • Beau Yarmush

STREETS & WATER DEPARTMENT

Jacob Dinger, Streets Crew Leader
Robert Kolb • William Kramer • Zach Peters

BOROUGH OFFICE

Melissa A. Dyer
Amanda Lutz • Mandy Miller

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE

Leroy Bates • Elaine Holley • Debra Thompson

PERSONNEL

Leroy Bates • Elaine Holley • Debra Thompson

PUBLIC WORKS

Debra Thompson • Ethel McMullen • Saagar Mehta

PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Debra Thompson • Elaine Holley • Ethel McMullen

FLOOD MITIGATION

Elaine Holley • Leroy Bates • Skip Butler

COMMUNITY DEV. • PARKS & RECREATION

Aimmee Reilly • Skip Butler • Saagar Mehta

PUBLIC SAFETY

Skip Butler • Aimmee Reilly • Debra Thompson

STORM WATER COMMITTEE

Leroy Bates • Debra Thompson • Vacant

State of the Borough

- Continued from Page 1 -

streets following the heaviest storm was impacted by a water line break that took priority, removing three-quarters of our snow removal manpower.

Unfortunately, efforts to secure bids from emergency snow removal contractors went unanswered pre-season. We scrambled once the snow fell and made every effort to clear the downtown areas.

It is each property owner's responsibility to remove snow from their sidewalks in a timely manner. But, it is a violation to deposit snow from sidewalks or driveways into the street. You will receive a ticket in your mailbox.

Veterans Memorial Drive

Veteran's Memorial Drive will be closed to motor traffic during all summer weekends beginning Friday, May 22 through Monday, Sept. 7.

Holiday closures

Borough offices and operations will be closed for the following holidays: Memorial Day—Monday, May 25; Independence Day (observed)—Friday, July 3; Labor Day—Monday, Sept. 7; Columbus Day—Monday, Oct. 12; Thanksgiving—Thursday/Friday, Nov. 26-27; Christmas—Thursday, Dec. 24 (half day) and Friday, Dec. 25; New Years Day—Jan. 1, 2027.

The snows are behind us now. Enjoy your spring and summer!



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Pine Grove Borough Recreation

Community Pool Secures 3rd Consecutive Swim Grant

For the third year in a row, the Pine Grove Borough Recreation Committee is proud to announce that our Community Pool has been selected as a recipient of the Step Into Swim grant. This funding ensures that water safety and the joy of swimming remain accessible to every child in our community.



Breaking down barriers to water safety

Learning to swim is more than just a summer pastime; it is a vital, lifesaving skill. However, the costs associated with lessons can often be a hurdle for families. The Step Into Swim grant specifically targets this gap by providing the necessary funds to cover lesson fees for families experiencing financial need.

Because of this continued partnership, Pine Grove can offer certified instruction, financial help to offset enrollment fees, and community wellness.

Here's how to enroll

We want to see our pool filled with confident new swimmers this season!

Who is eligible? Families of the Pine Grove community experiencing financial hardship are urged to apply. Indicate on the swimming lesson registration form that you are requesting grant funding. Grants are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Let's make this summer the safest one yet. See you at the pool!

Pool Pals "Dive In" to support community

The Community Pool has long been a staple of summer fun and safety. To ensure this tradition of excellence continues, a new grassroots organization has emerged - Pine Grove Pool Pals.

The Pool Pals were formed with a singular mission: to spearhead fundraising efforts and provide additional financial support for the pool's maintenance and programs. As the facility continues to grow and serve the Borough, the dedication of this volunteer group will be essential in keeping the water clear and the gates open for generations to come.

The Pine Grove Pool Pals are just getting started and need the community's support. Here's how the community can help make it happen...

Search for "Pine Grove Pool Pals" on Facebook to get the latest updates on upcoming meetings and community initiatives. Help spread the word; tell your neighbors! The more "pals" the pool has, the stronger our community pool becomes.

By supporting the Pool Pals, you aren't just funding a facility—you're investing in water safety, youth recreation, and the heart of Pine Grove's summer season. Be sure to follow their social media page for all upcoming announcements!



29 S Tulpehocken St
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NEW HOURS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY
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Borough Services Update . . . And Seasonal Tips!

Fresh finds at upcoming Outdoor Markets

Get ready to support local and enjoy the best of the season! Pine Grove's Veteran's Memorial Park is thrilled to host two Schuylkill Outdoor Markets this summer - Saturday, July 25 and Saturday, Aug. 22. Markets will open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



These markets are the perfect opportunity to discover fresh produce, unique handmade goods, and delicious treats while connecting with your neighbors.

Ash collection now once each week

Now that the heating season has ended, curbside coal ash collection will take place once per week on Fridays. Tubs must be in good condition, have handles, and be free sharp edges.

Water bill payments

Quarterly water bill upcoming due dates are Wednesday, August 5 and Thursday, November 5. A late fee will be assessed if not paid by these dates.

If you would like to pay your water bill in monthly installments, you may take your last water bill and divide it by three to see your amount owed per month.

If you would like to know an estimate on your bill, you may call into our office Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and ask for Mandy who can assist you with your water bill.

You may make monthly payments via check, credit card or cash. Your monthly payments will be credited to your account and any balance or credit will be reflected on your next quarterly bill. You may also pay for the year by taking your last water bill and multiply it by four.

A payment drop box is located at the side of the Municipal Building, right by the police entrance, if you would like to drop your check payment after hours. Please have your account number written on the memo line. Do not put cash in the drop box.

Get your compost site permit

With summer's vegetative growth and fall's shorter days and cooler temperatures signaling deciduous trees to drop their leaves, the Pine Grove Borough compost site is a welcome spot for residents to dispose of grass, garden waste, and those leaves later this year.

The Compost Site is now open 24/7. You must be a Borough resident and you must stop into the Borough Office to fill out an application and get your access code for the gate. You will need your vehicle information along with your license plate number in order to obtain a compost permit.

The permit fee is \$30 - cash or check - and can be purchased at the Borough Office, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please be aware that trespassers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Krammes Plumbing & Hydronic Heating

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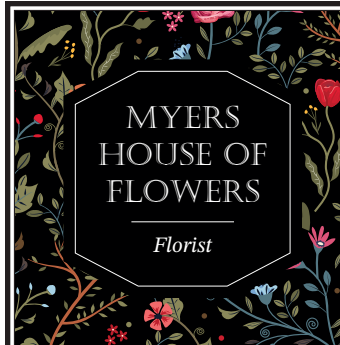


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250 Years of Change, Resilience, and Community

From a modest 18th-century settlement to a quiet borough shaped by industry and adaptation, Pine Grove is reflecting on roughly 250 years of history.

Founded by German settlers in the late 1700s, the community took root along the banks of Swatara Creek, where early residents built mills, tanneries, and forges that sustained daily life. By the early 1800s, Pine Grove had established itself as a functioning village, anchored by agriculture and small industry.

The town's trajectory changed dramatically in the 1830s with the creation of the Union Canal. A feeder canal linked Pine Grove to a growing transportation network, transforming the Borough into a key shipping point for anthracite coal.

With increased trade came expansion. Homes, hotels, and businesses were built to support the influx of workers and commerce.

In 1862, a major flood damaged canal infrastructure, and the rapid rise of railroads shifted transportation routes from the Borough. Coal traffic declined, forcing Pine Grove to adapt or risk obscurity.

Adapt it did!

By the late 19th century, the town pivoted to manufacturing, including textile mills and shoe factories. This shift helped stabilize the local economy and set the stage for renewed growth in the early 20th century.

Between 1900 and 1930, Pine Grove's population climbed significantly. Much of the Borough's current

architecture dates to this period, including well-preserved homes and community buildings. The opening of the Pine Grove Theatre in 1910 became a cultural centerpiece for residents.

Like much of the nation, Pine Grove faced hardship during the Great Depression. Industrial activity slowed, and growth stagnated for decades. Yet the town maintained its identity as a close-knit community.

Another turning point came in the 1960s with the construction of Interstate 81. The highway improved access to the region, encouraging modest industrial development and making Pine Grove more accessible to commuters.

Today, the Borough is home to just over 2,000 residents. While no longer a center of coal transport or manufacturing, Pine Grove remains defined by its history. Tree-lined streets, historic homes, and long-standing institutions reflect a community that has endured economic shifts while preserving its character.

Local leaders and residents say that legacy still matters. "Pine Grove has always found a way to move forward," one longtime resident noted in community discussions. "That's what defines us."

As the Borough looks ahead, its past continues to shape its identity—reminding residents that even small towns can carry a long and meaningful story.

- *Debra Thompson, Borough Council member*



Thompson Social Services

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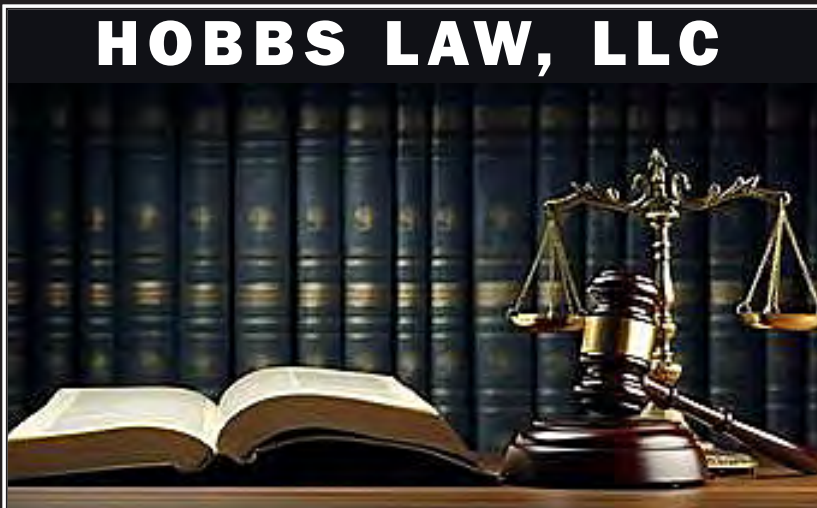
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Please return the information sheet to the borough office at
Pine Grove Borough: One Snyder Avenue, Pine Grove

info today!

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.



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- Bad-Faith; Policy Breaches



Law Office of Shane Hobbs Shane H. Hobbs, Esquire

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Municipal & Zoning Law

Small Business Law:

- PLCB Licensing
- Business Formation
- Buying / Selling Businesses

Criminal Law:

- Misdemeanors & Felonies
- Traffic Infractions; Appeals

Real Estate Law:

- Title Coverage, Closings, Zoning