THE EVERGREEN

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

Vol. XVIII, No. 2 – Issued Semiannually | BOROUGH OF PINE GROVE, PA | October 2026

Council President's "State of the Borough"

New Council Members; Water Wells/Lines Back on Track

Do you ever have your week, or even a day, planned… and when it's all over, you didn't get accomplished what you planned? As Borough Council president, that was my last month or two.

LEROY BATES
Council President

I wanted to gather our Storms and Water Committee together to create a long-range plan for our Borough Manager to build grants for needed future work.

We had a busy couple months with our Personnel Committee, as described in the new council member article printed here on the front page. Hopefully, we can give you a short- and long-range plan by the next issue of ***The Evergreen***.

On a positive note, our Council vice president, Deb Thompson, attended a PSAB conference not too long ago and was able to corner one of the Pennsylvania DEP leaders and get us some answers regarding procedural delays of our water needs on the east side of town. We should have had the wells certified by now and a waterline brought out to the north side of the road just across from Halton Hill.

Between DEP and our water engineers, something got lost with certifications of the wells, causing a loss of some funding that was contingent upon a timely completion. One of the wells will get certification, but the water line will be tied to future funding with the Highway 125 to Echo Valley water line project.

Deb's persistence paid off and we got a go-ahead to get one of the two wells initiated for certification. Our streets and water crew also found an agitator that is not working properly in the water tower above Pine Vista, so this repair will also be tied into the Highway 125 water line project.

The personnel committee has been diligently working with our Borough Manager to get job descriptions written for all the positions in our Borough. We have comprehensive bullet statements on what each person in the Borough does for their job, but the formal job description is what we plan to finalize by our October meeting this year.

With the job descriptions is an employee handbook that we also plan to submit to Borough Council by the end of this year for a vote.

– Continued on Page 2

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 17 – Autumn Stroll along Veterans Memorial Drive at Union Canal Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 17 – 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.

Saturday, 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 Sunday, Nov. 1. Updates will be posted on Pine Grove Borough's website – ***pinegroveborough.org*** – and Facebook page.

Saturday, Nov. 28 – Lighting of the Community Christmas Tree, adjacent to the Lions Den, and lights at Union Canal Park… plus festivities will welcome the holiday season. Please join in!

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Stroll Through the Grove! Celebrate the holidays with family, friends, and your neighbors.

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 5-6 – Country Christmas Concert & Celebration; Get tickets early! See ad & coupon on Pg. 3

New Council Members

Please welcome our newest Pine Grove Borough Council members, sworn-in earlier this year.

Ethel McMullen was a write-in winner during the May 2025 Primary Election and won her two-year Borough Council seat on the November Municipal Election ballot. She was sworn-in during the Borough's reorganization in January.

It was necessary for former Councilor Kyler Burke to resign his position earlier this year due to his relocating outside the Borough. Council advertised to fill the vacancy and appointed **Saagar Mehta**.

Most recently, Elaine Holley unfortunately resigned at the end of June. Council advertised that vacancy and received two letters of interest. Council appointed our newest member of council, **Tyler Yeagley**.

Welcome, and best wishes, to all.

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 ..... Debra Thompson
Pro Tem ..... Ethel McMullen
Borough Manager & 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 ..... Lewis Moyer

COUNCIL

Leroy Bates • Skip Butler
Ethel McMullen • Saagar Mehta
Aimmee Reilly • Debra Thompson
Tyler Yeagley

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

Amanda Lutz, Borough Secretary
Mandy Miller, Asst. Treasurer & Water Admin.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE

Leroy Bates • Ethel McMullen • Debra Thompson

PERSONNEL

Leroy Bates • Ethel McMullen • Debra Thompson

PUBLIC WORKS

Debra Thompson • Ethel McMullen • Saagar Mehta

PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Debra Thompson • Ethel McMullen • Tyler Yeagley

COMMUNITY DEV. • PARKS & RECREATION

Aimmee Reilly • Skip Butler • Saagar Mehta

PUBLIC SAFETY

Skip Butler • Aimmee Reilly • Debra Thompson

STORM WATER/FLOOD COMMITTEE

Leroy Bates • Debra Thompson • Saagar Mehta

State of the Borough

– Continued from Page 1 –

New ordinances to improve parking

Last month we passed an ordinance that deals with trailers being left along the sides of streets in the Borough. Another ordinance specifies how long RVs and travel-trailers are allowed to be parked.

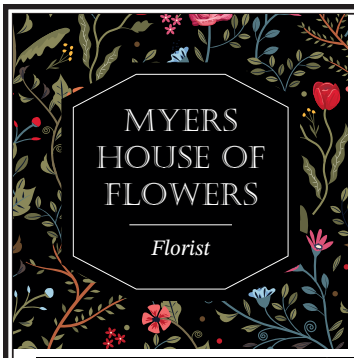
With these, our city streets should have more parking space for people who come and go to work and who don't have on-property parking available. These ordinances also allow our police to get problematic vehicles and RV/travel-trailers removed.

By the time this article arrives in your mailbox, the people along the east end of Orchard Street should see their roadway improved. This street saw repairs by our water treatment authority back in June. It took time for the dirt/gravel to settle prior to paving.

Welcome to new residents

I noticed many new residents are moving into Pine Grove. Welcome to our community! Pine Grove is a great place to live and especially good to our children who go to school here. Uniquely, we have a high school, middle school, elementary school, and district offices all on the same land along School Street.

Usually during the school year, the most happening place is the schools. Remember to get your blanket on the bleachers early, so you can reserve your place to sit. The stadium fills up quickly by the time the national anthem is played on a Friday night.



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Borough Services Update . . . And Seasonal Tips!

Holiday closures

The Pine Grove Municipal Building and Borough services will close for the upcoming 2026 and 2027 observed holidays – Monday, Oct. 12 (Columbus Day); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27 (Thanksgiving); Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24-25 (Christmas); Friday, Jan.1 (New Year's Day); Friday and Monday, March 29-and-31 (Good Friday and Easter Monday); Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day); Monday, July 5 (Independence Day); and Monday, Sept. 6 (Labor Day).

Compost site is always available

With summer's vegetative growth and fall's shorter days/cooler temperatures signaling deciduous trees will soon be dropping their leaves, the Pine Grove Borough compost site is a welcome spot for residents to dispose of grass, garden waste, and those leaves as we prepare for winter.

The Compost Site is open 24/7. You must be a Borough resident and must complete an application and get your access code for the Compost gate system at the Borough Office. You will need your vehicle information and license plate number. The permit fee is $30, cash or check, and can be purchased at the Borough Office, Monday thru Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trespassers, non-residents, those without a current gate pass, or those dumping non-compostable materials will be prosecuted.

Leaf collection in November

Bagged leaves will be picked up curbside on Thursdays starting November 5 and end on Wednesday, Nov. 25, prior to Thanksgiving. Leaves must be bagged and tied and placed at the street so the Borough Crew can safely pick them up.

Ash collection

Ashes will be picked up on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning Tuesday, Nov. 3, continuing through the heating season. Tubs must have handles and be free of sharp edges.

Christmas tree collection

The Borough will pick up Christmas trees every Thursday, beginning January 7 through January 28. Trees must be placed at the curb, void of all ornaments, tinsel, lights and tree stands.

Water bill due dates

Upcoming quarterly water bill due dates are Thursday, Nov. 5 in 2026 and the following in 2027 – Friday, Feb. 5; Wednesday, May 5; Thursday, Aug. 5; and Friday, Nov. 5. A late fee will be assessed if not paid by these dates.

Dumpster permits

Are you thinking about renting a dumpster? Dumpster Permits are required in the Borough,

– *Continued on Page 4*

3 Shows… Saturday, Dec. 5 – 6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 6 – 2 p.m. & Sunday, Dec. 6 – 7 p.m.

FEATURED PERFORMERS

Mended Heart • Butch Flory
Seger Family • Doug Tretter • Dan Clark
Eileen Hoffman • Kirk Wolfe Family
Jared & Katie Wehry • Cheryl Haas
Daphne & Graham Pinto • Scott Warner
Levi Seigfried • Crystal High
Tom Hartman • Gracye Johnson
Tiff Maley Ina • Dale Cresswell
Howard Taylor • Emily High • And More!

Kick off the holiday season – Enjoy a Country-style Christmas Concert with a Nashville sound in the magical ambience of the Historic Pine Grove Theater. The 2025 concerts saw nearly 1000 people attend these three concerts. Some tickets are already reserved for 2026. There will be something for everyone, even a visit from Santa Claus himself.

EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE STRONGLY SUGGESTED!

Don't wait to reserve your seats! Prepurchase well in advance to guarantee seating.

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Address: _____

_____ **Phone:** _____

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Please Reserve the Following Seats for the Indicated Performance:

❑ **12/05/2026 6:00 PM # SEATS** _____
❑ **12/06/2026 2:00 PM # SEATS** _____
❑ **12/06/2026 7:00 PM. # SEATS** _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED** _____

$15 Per Seat Thru 10/31/26
$20 Per Seat From 11/01/26
Until Sold Out!

MAIL CHECK AND RESERVATION FORM TO PG CHRISTMAS CONCERT / 83 HARRIS AVE. /PINE GROVE PA./ 17963
QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION – CALL 570-691-6673

Borough Services Update . . . And Seasonal Tips!

– Continued from Page 3

whether it's on public or private property. Permits help coordinate placement, ensure all safety measures are taken (such as cones, reflectors, and lighting), and prevent possible damage to vehicles, properties, and streets. There is no fee at this time to get a permit. You may go on our website or stop in at the Borough Office to get an application.

Note – Dumpsters are prohibited from being placed on North and South Tulpehocken and East Pottsville Street. View our dumpster ordinance for more information and get a permit before scheduling dumpster placement.

Did You Know?

Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner! Please go to ***www.pinegroveborough.org*** and select the Ordinance tab. Pine Grove Borough Code 360 will show up; enter Sidewalks in the Search area. Ordinances pertaining to sidewalks will be displayed.

Clear walkways for everyone's safety

Winter weather and seasonal debris can create hazards for pedestrians, delivery drivers, and emergency responders. As a community, we all share the responsibility to keep our sidewalks and fire hydrants accessible and safe.

Free Parking for the Holidays

Parking Will Be FREE at Meters in Pine Grove Borough Tuesday, Dec. 1 Thru Friday, Jan. 1

Clear snow and ice

After a snowfall, promptly shovel your sidewalks to maintain a safe walking path. If your sidewalk is narrow, clear at least a path wide enough for one person to pass comfortably. Apply salt, sand, or other ice-melt products to reduce slippery spots. This not only prevents accidents but also helps your neighbors.

Keep fire hydrants accessible

In winter, snow can quickly bury fire hydrants, making them hard to find in an emergency. If you have one near your area, please clear a three-foot radius around hydrants and ensure there's a clear path from the street. This small effort can save firefighters precious seconds when responding to a fire.

Thompson Social Services

Thompson Social Services is a local non-profit agency providing Representative Payee Services to people who receive Social Security benefits.

We act on your behalf… receiving your SSI and Social Security funds and then paying your recurring monthly rent, utilities and other bills when received and authorized by you.

In addition, we can often help deal with landlords, creditors, attorneys and the Social Security Administration.

Our mission is to fill the gaps in social services with a focus on quality of life for people in Pennsylvania.

Want to find out more?

Visit our website… stop in… or give us a call!

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Bike Safety and the Law on E-Bikes

More bicycles and electric bicycles, commonly known as e-bikes, are being used throughout our community. Whether riding for exercise, transportation, recreation, or simply enjoying time with family and friends, all riders have an important responsibility to operate safely and follow the law.

The Pine Grove Police Department encourages everyone to understand the rules of the road and take common-sense precautions.

Bicycles are vehicles on the road – Under PA law, bicyclists have many of the same rights and responsibilities as other roadway users. When operating on a roadway, bicyclists must obey applicable traffic laws, including traffic signals, stop signs, and right-of-way rules.

Motorists also have a responsibility to safely share the road with bicyclists. Drivers should remain alert, provide adequate space when passing, and watch carefully for bicycles when turning, entering roadways, or opening vehicle doors.

Bicyclists should ride predictably, remain aware of their surroundings, and avoid sudden movements into traffic. Visibility is especially important during early morning, evening, and nighttime hours.

Pennsylvania's E-Bike Law

It is important for riders and parents to understand that not every electric-powered, two-wheeled device is legally classified as an e-bike under state law. In PA, the law recognizes a category known as a "pedal cycle with electric assist."

A qualifying e-bike must have fully-operable pedals, an electric motor of no more than 750 watts, a motor that assists the rider only up to certain speed limits, and a design that allows the bicycle to be operated like a traditional bicycle when the motor is not engaged.

Modified or high-powered E-bikes

A growing concern involves modified E-bikes or high-powered electric bikes that exceed legal limits. When a bicycle is altered to increase speed, remove factory limiters, or install motors beyond 750 watts, it may no longer qualify as a pedal cycle with electric assist.

In these cases, the device may be legally classified as a motor vehicle, which can require registration with PennDOT, a valid driver's license, insurance coverage, and compliance with motorcycle or motor-driven cycle equipment standards.

Parents should take the time to inspect and understand the type of electric bike or electric-powered device their child is using. Some devices marketed or referred to as "E-bikes" may be capable of speeds and performance far beyond those of a traditional bicycle.

A very comphensive article – addressing bike safety, classifications of E-bikes, and requirements for rider safety and operation is posted on the Borough website:

pinegroveborough.org/borough-communication/

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October Is National Fire Prevention Month

ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN! A fire plan can save your life when it matters most. Know every exit in your home – doors, windows, and even porches or rooftops if you can't make it down the stairs. Make sure all exits are unobstructed and that you can reach them quickly in an emergency.

GET OUT, STAY OUT! Have a designated outside meeting place for your family. It is important to understand everyone's accountability. Once you have exited, it is vital to remain out. Do not re-enter the home for any items. Materials can be replaced, even if they hold sentimental value; but, loved ones cannot. Ensure that all family members have your address and phone numbers; also, knowing your neighbors helps.

Make sure smoke detectors are installed on every floor of your home. Place carbon monoxide detectors at the top of the basement stairs. A combination unit can be found at local hardware stores. Remember to change the batteries twice a year, typically during Daylight Saving Time changes, as this serves as a helpful reminder for this task.

Keeping an ABC extinguisher in the kitchen is vital. Knowing how to properly use this device is essential. If you feel a fire is bigger than you can handle, then exit the home and **CALL 911**. This is not a toy; ensure it is properly charged on the gauge. This should be checked annually. If the extinguisher has been discharged, it will need to be recharged or replaced.

In the event of a grease fire, do not use water. Instead, smother the fire with a lid, close the oven door, or use an ABC fire extinguisher. It is important to **CALL 911** and evacuate the premises.

ELECTRIC FIRES IN THE HOME. Implement your fire plan, evacuate everyone from the home, and contact emergency services.

Be aware of local ordinances regarding open burning outside. If you do burn, ensure that a garden hose is readily available nearby to manage any potential fire hazards. Contact emergency services if necessary.

Educating children about fire safety begins at home. It is essential to communicate the importance of not using lighters, matches, and similar items as toys, as the consequences can escalate quickly.

If you need assistance with installing smoke detectors, have questions, or wish to develop a fire escape plan, don't hesitate to reach out to your local fire station. We are here to support you 24/7.

Nick Miller, Fire Chief
Pine Grove Area Fire & Rescue

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 in the event of an emergency or need to convey critical information.

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 snow emergency, disaster announcement, road closure, parking restrictions, etc., we can do so in a matter of minutes.

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 have not sent this to date, go to the Borough website and click on the Smart911 tab or complete this form and mail it in, deliver in person, call or e-mail your info today!

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

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 *Boro.office@pinegroveborough.org.*

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