

## K-9 Unit Community Update

Since our last newsletter the Heidelberg Police K-9 Unit is up and running. Both Patrolman Dennis Dixon and K-9 "Rocky" have successfully graduated from the Pittsburgh Police Academy K-9 School. Since officially taking to the streets in late December, the K-9 Unit has made great strides to reduce crime and drugs within and around Heidelberg. The unit has made over 12 drug arrests, assisted in the search of a missing juvenile, assists in routine patrol work in Heidelberg and has aided to gain awareness and connection between the community's youth and the Police Department.

The creation, training, start-up and procurement costs of the Heidelberg Police K-9 Unit were made possible by a grant received from the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation and private donations from CIC Pittsburgh and many residents and anonymous donors. To help offset 2009 expenses of the K-9 Unit, the Heidelberg BP graciously has been donating \$30 per month to the Borough for the purchase of Rocky's food. Many other Heidelberg residents have also donated to help offset equipment and program costs. We would like to thank the residents and businesses who have donated for their generosity, civic involvement and thoughtfulness. Their help is much appreciated and is paramount to the success of this program.



## "Heidelberg Highlights" awarded Second Place Recognition in State-wide Community Newsletter Competition

The Heidelberg Borough Newsletter – "Heidelberg Highlights" was just recently awarded Second Place Recognition in the 2009 Pennsylvania State Borough's Association's Community Newsletter Competition.

Within the competition newsletters were graded on quality, content and format. Boroughs from across the Commonwealth submitted their best newsletter they published in 2008 for judging. The Borough received a plaque for this award and the plaque is proudly on display within the Borough Office. The Borough won a similar distinction in 2008 for our website.

"Heidelberg Highlights" is published quarterly by the Heidelberg Borough Council and Mayor. The newsletter is mailed out to over 700 residences, businesses and governmental contacts.

# Heidelberg Highlights

Volume 30 Spring 2009

## 2nd Annual Let's Redd Up Heidelberg: Saturday, April 25, 2009 – 8:30AM

In effort to keep the Borough of Heidelberg a beautiful place to live, work and play, the Borough will be conducting its second annual "Let's Redd Up Heidelberg". The event will take place on Saturday, April 25th, 2009 starting at 8:30 AM meeting at the Ellsworth Avenue Playground.

The goal of this event is to pick up litter, repaint graffitied areas, plant trees and to do other small earth-friendly chores. Volunteers will be provided with bags, gloves, supplies, safety vests and refreshments. Interested individuals, groups, or students seeking volunteer hours are encouraged to register at the Heidelberg Borough Building by calling 412-276-0363.

Your assistance and time would be greatly appreciated and will yield an end result that beautifies the community, protects the wildlife, and increases civic pride.

Let's Redd Up Heidelberg is an effort of the Heidelberg Borough Council in conjunction with PA Cleanways, Citizens Against Litter and the state's Great PA Cleanup campaign. For additional information, please contact Joe Kauer, Borough Manager at 412-276-0363 or JKauer@HeidelbergBorough.com



Hope to see you on April 25th with your work clothes on! **Earth Day - Every Day**

## Borough to Provide Drop-off Location for Household Waste on Earth Day Weekend

On Saturday, April 25, 2009, the Borough will make available and provide two 30-yard dumpsters for residents to dispose of various household waste that they couldn't otherwise dispose of during weekly pick-up. **We hope that you take this opportunity to clean up your yards and property.**

The dumpsters will be located on Third Street next to the Ellsworth Avenue Playground. **There is no fee** for the disposal of your waste during this program. We ask that you compact the waste so that we can maximize the dumpster space. The program is for residential waste only – **NO COMMERCIAL WASTE or DUMPING**. The dumpsters are limited in size, therefore, once they are full, the program is over and we ask that you do not leave any waste on the street, right-of-ways, neighboring lots or on park property.

**Items that are prohibited from disposing within the dumpsters include tires, freon, liquid paint, car parts and hazardous materials.**

This service is provided by the Heidelberg Borough Council and Mayor in conjunction with their 2nd Annual Let's Redd Up Heidelberg / Earth Day efforts to clean up and beautify Heidelberg; making our town a safe, clean and pleasurable place to live, work and play.



### ★ Remember to Vote ★ It is your Right ★ Primary Election: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 ★

**Last Day to Register to Vote Before the May Primary:** Monday, April 20, 2009.

**Absentee Ballots:**

- \* Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot: May 12, 2009.
- \* Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted civilian absentee ballots: Friday, May 15, 2009.

**Heidelberg Polling Location:** Heidelberg VFD Hall, 456 First Street

Voters Registration Forms are available in the Borough Office.

2009 elections is an important year and polling for local offices. In Heidelberg, three Council seats, the Mayor, Tax Collector, Constable, District Judge, election staff and various other County and State offices are up for 2010 service. Please come out to vote on May 19th.

BOROUGH OF HEIDELBERG  
1631 Railroad Street  
Heidelberg, PA 15106

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## A MOMENT WITH THE MAYOR

Rebecca and I hope these few words find everyone well. I would just like to talk about four things:

First, I had a nice visit at the end of February with long-time Heidelberg resident Dawna Urbanic of Washington Street. Our talk centered on an old map of Heidelberg that her Uncle Andy had given to her. The map was from 1909, just six years after the incorporation of Heidelberg. Dawna wanted to donate this map to the Borough. As we speak, the map is being restored and will be hung somewhere in the Borough Building. I would like to publicly thank Dawna for her generosity.

Second, since the last Newsletter I have been busy performing my mayoral charge of administering oaths of office. I had the privilege in early January to swear in the new officers of the Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department. Among those who took oaths of office were Stanley Karpinski, President; Joe Wissel, Fire Chief; Joe Wissel, Jr., Assistant Fire Chief; and Nancy Wissel, Secretary. Swearing in the officers of the HVFD is always a pleasure and I look forward to it each year. Within the Police Department, I swore in two new full-time officers, Patrolmen Ryan McIntyre and Adam Helf. These two fine men were added to the force following the resignations of full-time Officers Andy Bienneman and Tim Gray who left Heidelberg to pursue careers with larger Departments in neighboring communities. Also from the Department, part-time officer Dave Kirchner retired after 30 years of service to Heidelberg. He will be sorely missed. I also had the pleasure of performing a wedding at the Borough Building in late January. All in all, a busy few months executing the ceremonial duties of a mayor.

Third, progress continues on the Congressman Tim Murphy funded redevelopment of the Route 50 Corridor within Heidelberg, Carnegie and Scott Township. Among the first visible signs of this project will be the repair and installation of handicapped accessible sidewalk ramps along Route 50 within Heidelberg. Most noticeable will be the ramps installed on the west side of Route 50, along the grassy hillside where the Lamar Billboards are located. This side of Route 50 has never had a sidewalk but as part of this redevelopment project it will and these new accessible sidewalk ramps will be the first component of the new sidewalk. Good news for those who live, work, shop or merely walk along Route 50.

Lastly, I would like to mention that Rebecca and I were able to donate to the Police Department four model, historic police cars: a 1940 Ford Coupe, a 1949 Mercury Coupe, a 1958 Ford Fairlane, and a 1964 Ford Galaxie. We hope that these four miniature black and white police cruisers will add a bit of history and fun to the Station House. After all, the HPD is one of the oldest police departments in western Pennsylvania and a bit of history seems appropriate. Also, on occasion children visit the station house, looking for a lost bike for example, and there should be a bit of fun at the station house as well.

Well enough for now. Take care and may God Bless.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth A. LaSota, Ph.D.

## Needed Federal Funds on the way for Heidelberg Borough Police Dept.

A Message From Congressman Tim Murphy

Our nation is facing challenging times. Across the country our economy continues to struggle and millions of Americans are hurting, including our local communities. Law enforcement agencies are not immune to these challenges. Police departments throughout the country are facing over-crowding in jails and insufficient funding to keep officers properly trained and equipped with the tools they need to do their job safely and effectively.



The community of Heidelberg Borough is no exception. On March 11, 2009 my office helped secure \$10,000 for the Heidelberg Borough Police Department as part of the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The Department currently has four full time officers who protect over 1,200 residents. On average Heidelberg P.D. receives 1,400 calls per year. With a small force and high demand, modern technology is essential to fight crime.

The Heidelberg Police Department will use these federal dollars to purchase security cameras that will be installed in at least two parks in Heidelberg. Adding cameras will allow for faster and safer response during police stops, adding more eyes and ears to the force. The security cameras will give officers the ability to instantly view the park when they receive a disturbance call. Moreover, the 300 gigabyte cameras are hooked into a digital video recorder, allowing officers to record any illegal activity to be used as evidence in court. Whether in the station or the patrol car, officers can instantly access the security cameras and record whatever is going on.

Currently, there are no cameras in any of the Heidelberg parks. This technology will provide residents with improved security in the community and help bring the Heidelberg P.D. into the 21st century. Working together we can continue to improve safety in the community and reduce crime.

### ★ YOUR AD HERE ★

The Heidelberg Borough Council and Mayor would like to make available to the businesses and organizations in and around Heidelberg the opportunity to place various ads in our award winning community newsletter. "Heidelberg Highlights" is published quarterly and distributed to over 700 Heidelberg residences and businesses. This ad is an inexpensive way to gain business and additional publicity for your establishment.

Space is available at \$30 for a quarter page and \$60 for a half page. If interested in placing an ad, please contact the Borough Manager at 412-276-0363.

## Heidelberg Borough Police News for the First Three Months of 2009



As we are now into April of a new year with a new President and leadership we are seeing the same problems across this country. Only now, due to the economy, those problems are increasing and affecting more and more families. No matter how much our politicians try to stimulate the economy or how much they spend bailing out banks and industries, crime is still an on going battle. From retail thefts, to domestic calls, bank robberies, burglaries and senseless homicides, to internet fraud and identity thefts, more and more people are becoming not just victims, but now more are becoming the predators who feed on the weak, elderly and unknowing.

Heidelberg has its share of criminal issues, as does any other borough or municipality. However, the Heidelberg Police have been able to make a number of arrests for a variety of criminal activities against and by some of our residents. Heidelberg Police, in a number of cases, have joined forces with both local, state and federal agencies on a number of issues through intelligence gathering and special meetings on information sharing concerning local criminals, drug trafficking and lately illegal gambling. In questionable areas where there may be on going court battles, such as with video poker games and Texas Hold'em, as to whether these are games of chance or games of skill, the best path for law enforcement currently is to monitor the situation and request assistance and expertise from other governmental agencies. As such, Heidelberg Police are continuing their quest for a safer and a police-oriented community through education, legal updates and new court decisions.

The priority of the Heidelberg Police, as well as that of Mayor LaSota and your Heidelberg Borough Council, is that the safety of our borough residents and those visiting our area needs to come first. We seek the help, knowledge and experience of our fellow law enforcement agencies, local, state and federal in helping us keep our officers out in the streets, patrolling and handling the immediate needs of this community. Thanks to our local political figures, such as Congressman Murphy, Senator Fontana and Representative Kotik, Heidelberg Police have been able to secure the tools, education and help needed to do just that and will continue to do so even in these hard times. We will continue to seek grants, funding and any donations for the continued and ongoing efforts in keeping Heidelberg a family-oriented community, free of those criminal elements that try to make victims out of all of us, always seeking an easy buck.

Heidelberg is a stable and active community with outstanding leadership from the Mayor, Borough Manager and Council, not to mention a large number of residents who go above and beyond in making this community what it is today. The Heidelberg Borough Police will continue doing everything possible to keep your borough the way it is now and for many years to come.

Vernon M. Barkley  
Chief of Police

## TAX COLLECTOR'S DESK

The 2009 Heidelberg Borough Real Estate Tax Statements were mailed and should be received by April 1, 2009. The Millage Rate for 2009 (8.5 Mills) is the same as 2008.

Please contact my office if you do not receive your statement, and believe it should have been sent to your residence. **I do not know if your statement is missing unless you contact my office.** All statements are sent to the address of record (residence or mortgage company) as provided by Allegheny County. However, it is still the responsibility of the property owner to obtain and pay the taxes on time. I do not have the authority to waive penalty or interest charges that occur after the due dates.

### 2009 Heidelberg Borough Real Estate Tax Payment Schedule:

1. Due at Discount 4/1/2009 to 5/31/2009
2. Due at Face 6/1/2009 to 7/31/2009
3. Due at Penalty After 7/31/2009 – a 10% penalty is added to the face amount.

My office is continuing to work on delinquent accounts to bring them up-to-date and eliminate the need to pursue legal action with the Magistrate. **This program has been successful and continues to save our residents the additional burden of court costs by settling delinquent tax years with my office.** We understand that many are facing difficulties. The Borough and Tax Collector are willing to work with these accounts to not only collect delinquent taxes but eliminate additional costs. Our goal is to bring delinquent accounts up-to-date before the property must be lien. If you are behind, please contact me immediately to review your Borough Tax Account and establish a reasonable payment schedule.

Should you have a question on your current tax statement, prior year's statements or related matters, please contact my office at 412-276-5413.

Ted R. Gazda, Real Estate Tax Collector

### HEIDELBERG BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT Special Notification to Residents

Due to the current economic strain on many businesses that we so generously obtain donations from over the years, the Heidelberg Borough Police will not be holding it's Annual Public Safety day in June as usual. We, along with the Borough, hope to put together a Community Day later in the year at the new Heidelberg Park on Industry Way.

Please be aware that the Allegheny County Firemen's Convention is being held in Heidelberg - June 6th through June 13th, 2009 at the Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Hall on First Street. There will be some restricted parking as well as a few streets blocked off at various times during this week. Please keep this week in mind and if you have any problems or complaints please do not hesitate to call and seek assistance.

## Help Wanted for Various Borough Positions

The Borough of Heidelberg is seeking interested residents to volunteer for the following positions within the Borough:

**Emergency Management Volunteers:** In attempt to become better prepared for aiding our town's people in the event of a disaster, the Borough of Heidelberg is seeking volunteers to assist with Emergency Management duties and to create a Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.).

There will be free local training provided and occasional meetings to maintain mechanical skills and update procedures. In order to get started we are recruiting people from all walks of life who are willing to volunteer. For more information, please email Joe Kauer at JKauer@HeidelbergBorough.com or call 412-276-0363. Check out this site for additional information: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>

**Zoning Hearing Board – Alternate position available:** The Borough Council is in seek of an interested resident to be appointed as the alternate position on the Zoning Hearing Board. The purpose of the Zoning Hearing Board is to hear appeals on the validity of the zoning ordinance or any decision made by the zoning officer. In addition, the ZHB has the power to grant variances to the zoning ordinances. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Borough Manager.

**Recreation Volunteers:** The Borough Council's Recreation Committee is seeking interested volunteers to help with the various community events within the Borough, including the Movies in the Park, the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Parade / Party and any other event planned by the Committee. Volunteers are needed to help organize and run the events. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to Councilman John Duda at the Borough Office.



## A Message from our Fire Department

HVFD will be celebrating its 100th Birthday in June of 2009. To commemorate this event the department will be hosting the Allegheny County Firefighters Convention with events throughout the week of June 7, 2009 and concluding with a parade through the streets of Heidelberg on June 13, 2009. For more information please go to our home on the WEB at [www.heidelbergfire.com](http://www.heidelbergfire.com).

HVFD was able to secure a grant through the PA State Fire Commissioners Office for a Thermal Imaging Camera. This new tool will help our firefighters locate victims in zero visibility conditions. These new weapons being added to our arsenal are proof of how we make every effort to keep Heidelberg a safer place.

Last but not least! The HVFD website committee would like to reach out to the residents of Heidelberg and ask for your help. We are trying to locate old fire department pictures you may have from the past. If you have any photos or know a friend who does please have them contact John Mahalchak by calling (412)279-5955. We will not keep these photos; we would like to copy them for our website.

Thanks to all who came out to enjoy Fish and Pierogis on April 10 at the Heidelberg VFD for our annual Fish Fry.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT!**

## Mayor Announces \$1,000 College Scholarship Program

As many of you know, in addition to being mayor, I am also an Associate Professor of Geology and Earth Sciences at Robert Morris University. Much to my amazement, this year marked my 20th year at RMU. As such, I was inducted into the "20 Year Club" at RMU. The significance of this induction to the residents of Heidelberg is that as a member of the 20 Year Club, merely upon my recommendation, I can authorize a \$1,000 - 20 Year Club Scholarship to anyone who enrolls as a new undergraduate student at RMU. The scholarship is for up to four years of undergraduate study so the scholarship can have a total net value of up to \$4,000, and the new student may enroll in any major or program. This \$1,000 yearly scholarship can also be added to any other scholarships or grants or loans that the student may receive from other sources. The application process merely involves the prospective student filling out a simple, one page application, which I then sign and endorse, and the \$1,000 yearly scholarship is guaranteed upon enrolling at RMU. As of this Newsletter, I have already processed two scholarships for Heidelberg residents who intend on entering RMU. Therefore, if you or a friend or a neighbor has an interest in attending RMU, or if you know someone who knows someone who is interested in attending RMU, whether you or they are a Heidelbergian or not, please allow me to use my signature as an RMU 20 Year Club Member to get you a \$1,000 scholarship. I have placed a supply of the application forms at the Borough building. So stop by and get one.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth A. LaSota, Ph.D.  
Mayor

## From the Office of State Senator Wayne Fontana

It should come as no surprise that increased movie and television production in the state of Pennsylvania greatly impacts local and state economies. Since the Pennsylvania Film Production Tax Credit was established in July 2007, twelve feature films and/or television productions were shot in southwestern Pennsylvania. Prior to the film tax credit, from 1995 through 2006, there was an average of two productions per year.



To receive a film tax credit, at least 60 percent of the production's budget must be spent in Pennsylvania. Twenty-four productions that received film tax certificates have put 2,600 people to work and pumped \$186.4 million in local economies – in addition to \$12.2 million in new state revenue.

The film tax credit is an attractive deal for both the productions coming into the state and Pennsylvania's economy. For production companies, they can save money through the tax credit that they would have to spend in other states. Once the production is brought to Pennsylvania, there is an immediate impact on the local economy where the production is shooting. Actors and crew members all need to eat, they need somewhere to stay, and they need to rent cars.

In Southwestern Pennsylvania alone, film production crews accounted for nearly 25,000 hotel room nights in 2008. Hotels report that revenue from rented rooms due to film production has increased 800 percent; car rental agencies have reported a 250 percent increase.

Pittsburgh's first full-time series was the 2007 Spike TV drama "The Kill Point," which employed 250 people full-time, 80 percent of which were local. During a two-week shoot in Market Square an additional 300 extras were on the payroll and producers spent \$18 million of the \$23 million budget locally.

## 2008 Heidelberg Borough Year End Report Available for Public Review

As a yearly administrative duty, the Heidelberg Borough Council and Mayor have been publishing an annual report highlighting the work of the municipal government. The 2008 Year End Report can be downloaded off of the Borough Website on the "Borough Information" page. Years 2006 and 2007 reports are also available on this page. Hard copies of the 2008 report are also available in the Borough Office.

To summarize the 2008 Year End Report, the Borough Council and Mayor adopted four Ordinances, 21 Resolutions, completed multiple road and public works improvement projects, constructed a new house at 604 Grant, assisted new business with the addition of Walgreen's, received \$271,121.00 in grant funding, ended the year with a surplus, constructed two new parks, continued a series of community events, replaced and upgraded equipment and vehicles, instated a police K-9 unit, completed multiple sewer projects, increased our initiatives to be more "green" and was successful in securing the federal funding to start the Route 50 street-scape.

Thirty-six states have similar incentive programs aimed at luring the film industry to their towns. If we were to get rid of this tax credit, film productions would go elsewhere. A recent report by Ernst & Young for the New Mexico State Film Office showed that their tax incentives to film productions generated \$253 million of spending from the 30 films done in the state in 2007. This figure includes direct jobs, indirect jobs, tourism spending, and capital expenditures.

Pittsburgh is not the only area in the state to see an economic benefit from increased film production. There are new businesses emerging and expanding all across the state to deal directly with the film industry. The Community College of Allegheny County has developed curriculum to train students for local jobs needed by the film industry.

Thanks to this tax credit, Pennsylvania has become extremely competitive in the film industry and will provide more opportunities for our residents for years to come as long we continue to support this necessary program. I firmly believe that any investment Pennsylvania makes that can help put our friends and neighbors to work in the current recession is worthwhile.

Senator Wayne D. Fontana  
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## Heidelberg Borough Manager Receives Distinguished Service Award

Heidelberg Borough Mayor and Council are pleased to announce that our Borough Manager, Joseph Kauer was one of only three people in the state of Pennsylvania chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Award for 2009.

Joe was secretly nominated by the Mayor and Council with a detailed history of his accomplishments as Borough Manager being submitted to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs for consideration.

Among Joe's many talents that he has utilized in his short time as Borough Manager are his grant-writing abilities. Grants received from Joe's efforts have included funds to replace playground equipment, plant trees, obtain police cars, install new storm inlets, repave and reconstruct streets, obtain computer equipment for the

*Continued, next page*

## Borough Manager Award *Continued*

Borough office and Police Department, among many other things. He also spearheaded the Borough's efforts to begin construction on the former industrial brown field that has become the new Heidelberg Park through a grant awarded from the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development. These are but a few of his many achievements.

Council and the Mayor were not surprised to learn that Joe had been selected to receive the award. Joe has not only performed his duties as Borough Manager with distinction, he goes well above and beyond what is expected and required of him in his office. We are lucky to have him as our Manager, and we encourage all residents to let him know just that.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Disasters of various degrees can strike quickly and without warning. Would you know what to do if basic services like water, gas, electricity or telephones were cut off?

Some tips to help you and your family cope with a disaster include the following:



**Create a disaster plan.** Discuss with your family the types of disasters that are most likely to happen and explain what to do in each case. Have a primary and secondary place to meet.

**Create a disaster checklist.** A simple checklist including posting of emergency phone numbers, show family members how to shut off electricity, gas and water lines and know which family member is responsible for each task.

**Prepare an Emergency Go Kit:** Preparing an Emergency Go Kit ahead of time can save precious time in the event you must evacuate. Information on what is suggested to be included is available at [www.HeidelbergBorough.com](http://www.HeidelbergBorough.com) or in the PA Emergency Preparedness Guide that is available in the Borough Office. This kit is also paramount should you have to shelter-in-place during an emergency.

**Practice and maintain your plan.** Quiz your kids every six months or so to make sure they remember what to do. Change batteries in smoke detectors, flashlights, and radios each daylight savings time change to make sure they will function properly.

Heidelberg Borough Emergency Management has made the Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide available for public distribution and copy in the Borough Office. It contains many good tips and planning information regarding various emergencies both natural and man-made for both the home front and business.

## Code Enforcement in the Borough

When you drive and walk around Heidelberg what is your impression? Is it clean or dirty? Are the properties well-kept or in disrepair? In other words, would you want to move to Heidelberg if you didn't live here?

These are issues the Borough Code Enforcement deals with every week. The Borough is committed to making sure that the code is being followed and enforced fairly.

The Borough's Code Enforcement Officer is Robert Koch. The Borough contracts his services through his company, Professional Code Services. Mr. Koch also serves as the Borough's Building Inspector and Zoning Officer. The Borough Council has adopted the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC) and the International Property Maintenance Code in addition to the Borough's Zoning Ordinance adopted in 1989 and amended over the years. The Building Official is in the Borough on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to approximately 2:00 PM. You are reminded to secure the appropriate permits before you perform any renovations or building / property additions.

The Borough is very proactive with code enforcement. We routinely do code enforcement patrols and send out notices to give property owners warnings before citations are issued. First offenders are given notice via US Mail, but repeat offenders will be cited and fined in increasing amounts. The Borough Code Enforcement Office will be stepping up its enforcement efforts this year in order to ensure the beauty of Heidelberg and the value of your property.

We all have a part in this effort, and the Borough welcomes your comments and suggestions. If you ever spot a violation, please contact the Borough office at 412-276-0363 or electronically via the Borough website: [www.HeidelbergBorough.com](http://www.HeidelbergBorough.com) on the "Complaints" page.

## Heidelberg Park Pavilion Available to rent for Parties, Gatherings and other Social Events

The Heidelberg Borough Council and Mayor have made the new pavilion at Heidelberg Park available to rent for parties, gatherings and any other social event. Come April, the pavilion will have tables with a seating capacity of 60 people, electric, water, and a barbeque grill. The rental fees are: \$75 for Borough Residents, \$100 for Non-Residents, \$25 for Alcohol Permits and there is a refundable Cleaning / Security / Key Deposit of \$50. Pavilion Rental Permits are given out on a first come, first serve basis for any date within the current calendar year, and are currently open for scheduling.

Applications and additional details about renting the pavilion are available on the Borough website, [www.HeidelbergBorough.com](http://www.HeidelbergBorough.com) on the "permits page" or can be picked up in the Borough Office during normal business hours.

## Council and Mayor hire two new full-time police officers

In December, the Mayor and Council hired Patrolman Ryan McIntyre to replace Patrolman Andrew Bienemann who resigned in July 2008 to take another law enforcement job in another municipality. Patrolman McIntyre is a graduate of the Allegheny County Police Academy, and has over three years experience in police work being employed with McDonald Borough before coming to Heidelberg. He is a native of the area, graduating from Chartiers Valley. Ryan has many specialties, certifications and characteristics that will make him a great addition to not only the Police Department, but the entire community.



On December 31, 2009, Patrolman Tim Gray resigned to take another law enforcement job in another municipality. Patrolman Gray served the Borough for many years working the "midnight shift". In January, the Mayor and Council hired Patrolman Adam Helf to fill this vacancy, thus bringing the department back to a full roster with four (4) full-time officers and eight (8) part-time officers. Patrolman Helf is a graduate of Waynesburg College and the Beaver County Police Academy. He has three years of law enforcement experience before being hired full-time here in Heidelberg. Patrolman Helf also has many exceptional qualifications and certifications that will also make him a fine addition to the Department and Borough.

Both new officers were tested and reviewed by the Heidelberg Civil Service Commission in 2008. They both tested positively and received high scores in the required, physical agility, written and oral examinations. Since being hired, both officers have been designated to special details and duties within the Department and will be rotating shifts on a three month basis to keep the community connected to our police officers.

Also regarding personnel, on February 1, 2009, part-time Patrolman David Kirchner retired after 30 years of service to the Heidelberg Borough Police Department. The Mayor, Council, and staff wish Patrolman Kirchner the best in his retirement. The Department and Mayor gifted David with a Retired Officer Badge and a citation / service pin for his 30 years. In January, part-time Patrolman Tom Fortunato was commended by the Mayor for 20 years of service, he to received a service pin from the Mayor.

## Borough Council and Mayor Enact Nuisance Property Ordinance

In order to reduce nuisances, deter repeat violations of state and local ordinances, and in order to protect the public health and safety within our community the Borough Council and Mayor have enacted Ordinance No. 571 of the Borough of Heidelberg, which essentially is our "Nuisance Property Ordinance".

Under this Ordinance a "Nuisance Property" is defined as:

- A) Any residentially zoned property, or commercially zoned property with one or more residential units that generate citations from Authorities for any Enumerated Infraction on three (3) or more separate occasions within any sixty (60)- day period; or
- B) Any residentially zone property with more than three units that:
  - a. Generates three (3) citations from any one unit from Authorities for any Enumerated Infraction on three (3) or more separate occasions within any sixty (60)-day period; or
  - b. Generates five (5) citations from the entire building for any Enumerated Infraction within any sixty (60)-day period.

Once deemed a nuisance property, in addition to the fines, the property owner would be responsible to reimburse the Borough for the Police or other Municipal services. Such actions and responses could be in excess of \$250 per call.

This Ordinance will relieve the taxpayers from the undue and inappropriate financial burden that nuisance properties were placing on the Borough as result of repeat violators of Borough and State laws within the respective time frames.

If anyone would be interested in viewing the full Nuisance Property Ordinance, please visit the Borough Office or contact the Borough Manager.

