

HEIDELBERG COMMUNITY EVENTS - 2013 SCHEDULE

- **Saturday, May 18, 2013** – 7AM to Noon – Neighborhood Garage Sale Day
- **Monday, May, 27, 2013** – 10AM, Heidelberg Park – Memorial Day Service
- **Friday, June 21, 2013** – 6PM, Heidelberg Park – Family Night
- **Friday, July 12, 2013** – 6PM, Heidelberg Park – Family Night
- **Saturday, August 10, 2013** – 8AM, Heidelberg Park – Fishing Derby / Family Day in the Park
- **Saturday, September 7, 2013** – 7AM – Noon, Neighborhood Garage Sale Day
- **Saturday, September 28, 2013** – 1P to 8P, Heidelberg Park – Oktoberfest
- **TBD** – Halloween Parade and Party
- **Saturday, November 30, 2013**, 6PM to 8M, Ellsworth Park, First Night of Lights
- **Sunday, December 1, 2013**, 9AM to 3PM, HVFD Christmas Craft Show

The Heidelberg Recreation Committee is also selling the annual **OKTOBERFEST RAFFLE TICKETS**. The tickets are \$10 a piece; you get two (2), 3-digit numbers based on the PA Lottery, evening drawing, first draw. Oktoberfest Raffle awards daily cash prizes everyday during this October, ranging from \$50 to \$250. Tickets are available for purchase in the Borough Office, during the above community events or from any of the Recreation Committee members. Raffle proceeds fund the many wonderful community programs here in Heidelberg and the annual Oktoberfest Raffle is sponsored by the HVFD for the benefit of the Community Events Fund.

SAVE THE DATE
HEIDELBERG OKTOBERFEST
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH, 1PM TO 8PM AT HEIDELBERG PARK
Food, Fun, Music and Fireworks!


Volume No. 39 **Spring 2013**

BOROUGH TO OFFER MONTHLY SENIOR ACTIVITIES



The Heidelberg Recreation Committee is starting a new monthly series of activities specifically designed for our community's seniors! Starting on **Wednesday, May 22, 2013**, there will be a **Senior Citizen Movie Day, 1:00 PM at the Community Room** located at 1639 East Railroad Street (PA Route 50). The event is free of charge and snacks will be provided.

Monthly activities will be scheduled throughout the rest of the year; details will be announced at the first Movie Event. We are open to suggestions for future activities, please come open-minded.

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, MAY 21ST

Primary Elections are to be held on Tuesday, May 21st, and polls are open from **7AM to 8PM** at the Heidelberg VFD Social Hall, 456 First Street.



Many local offices are up for election including three Borough Council positions, Mayor, Tax Collector, Judges and County offices.

Not only is voting your RIGHT, but it is your civic DUTY!

HEIDELBERG BOROUGH COUNCIL & MAYOR OFFERING \$1,000 FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve East Railroad Street (PA Route 50), the Borough Council and Mayor have dedicated funds to enable properties along Route 50 to improve their facades and exterior appearance.

According to Council President Raymond Losego, "To summarize the program, the Borough is granting via a competitive application process, matching grants up to \$1,000 for general façade improvements. To receive the maximum grant, you have to spend \$1,000 or more. Eligible projects include but are not limited to: exterior painting, new signage, exterior lighting, awnings, window boxes, permanent exterior planters, landscaping elements, restoration of exterior finishes, replacing doors and windows, etc."



Grants will be awarded until the program budget is exhausted, therefore applicable properties are encouraged to seek quotes and submit application with proposed plans to the Borough Manager as soon as possible. Funding for this project is being made possible through dedicated funds within the Heidelberg Business District Improvement Fund.

Façade Program Guidelines, Application and supporting information will be distributed to the East Railroad Street properties within the week and is also available electronically at www.HeidelbergBorough.com on the "News" page.

"We hope that many of the Route 50 property owners take advantage of this great opportunity to revitalize our main business district. Coupled with the ongoing streetscape project, this program will truly leave a long-lasting and positive impact on our community," stated Mayor Kenneth LaSota.

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 1631 Railroad Street
 Heidelberg, PA 15106

A MOMENT WITH THE MAYOR

As this is the first Newsletter of 2013, Rebecca and I hope everyone is well and that 2013 will be a good year for all. Moreover, as this is the first Newsletter of 2013, I'd just like to take a moment to update everyone as to the committees and boards that Council has appointed me to, or that I have volunteered to serve on, to represent and better serve the Borough during 2013. Council has appointed me to serve as the Borough's primary delegate or representative to the following organizations and societies for 2013: the Allegheny County Boroughs Association (ACBA); the Chartiers Basin Group of the Three Rivers Wet Weather Project (3RWW); the Heidelberg Community Redevelopment Committee (HCRC); the Heidelberg Planning Commission (HPC); the South Hills Area Council of Governments Board of Directors (SHACOG); the South Hills Area Council of Governments Franchise Authority (SHACOGFA); the South Hills Area Council of Governments Joint Rate Review Board (SHACOGJRRB); the Heidelberg/American Red Cross Community Evacuation Shelter Team (HARCCEST); the Heidelberg Business District Façade Grant Committee (HBDFGC); and the Customer and Municipality Advisory Committee (CMAC) of the Allegheny County Sanitation Authority (ALCOSAN). Council has also appointed me to serve as an alternate delegate to the South West Communities Chamber of Commerce (SWCCC); the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Tree Vitalize Program (WPCTVP); and the Chartiers Creek Flood Authority (CCFA). In all these capacities, I attend these organizations' meetings on behalf of the Borough and bring Heidelberg's point of view and perspective to the issues under their purview. Also as mayor, I have been elected or nominated by several nonprofit organizations to serve on a number of local Boards of Directors for 2013. I serve on the board of Allegheny Land Trust (ALT); the Chartiers Valley Education Foundation (CVEF); the Greater Chartiers Valley Community Outreach (GCVCO); and the Local Government Academy (LGA). As a Board Member of these area nonprofits organizations, I again attend meetings and have the opportunity to present a Heidelberg perspective to issues under their purview. Also during 2013, it is my intention to try, to the best of my ability, to execute my duties and responsibilities as Mayor, to teach a full course load as an Associate Professor of Geology and Earth Sciences at Robert Morris University, and, from time to time, to stop and say hello to my lovely wife Rebecca. All in all, for me, 2013 appears to be a very busy year indeed, but hopefully a productive year.



Finally, I would be remiss to not mention at least something about an item that has been part of this Newsletter for the last nine years, the Route 50 Streetscape Project. As we can all see, the sidewalks along Route 50 in Heidelberg are finally being torn up and replaced, and the beginnings of new ornamental streetlights and street furniture are starting to appear. By November the project should be complete and these long awaited improvements will start serving as the new town center of our wonderful little community. Well that is all from Rebecca and I. May God Bless us all.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth A. LaSota, Ph.D., Mayor, Borough of Heidelberg.

ATTENTION DRIVERS – FIRST STREET AND ELLSWORTH IS NOW A 4-WAY STOP

After a PENNDOT approved traffic study by the Heidelberg Police Department of the First Street and Ellsworth Avenue intersection, the Borough Council and Mayor has created a policy that made this intersection a four-way stop. Through this action all vehicles will be required to stop when approaching this intersection.

The Heidelberg Police will be closely monitoring the new stop sign to increase police visibility at this intersection. Persons caught going through the new stop sign will be issued warnings until May 16th, after such citations will be issued.

Please slow down and respect our stop signs. They are here for your safety!



NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM STATE REP. NICK KOTIK

Saving for education could save you money

Pennsylvania offers two ways to help you save money for a college education while earning important tax breaks. The Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program, which is administered by state Treasurer Rob McCord, offers two savings plans for higher education, including career and technical schools: the PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan and the PA 529 Investment Plan. The main difference between the two plans is how savings grow. With the PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan, growth is tied to tuition inflation, while returns with the PA Investment Plan are based on actual market performance.

Contributions up to \$14,000 per beneficiary can be deducted from Pennsylvania's Personal Income Tax. Married couples filing jointly can deduct up to \$28,000 per beneficiary if each spouse has taxable income of at least the amount deducted. Further, the entire value of a Pennsylvania 529 College Savings account is exempt from the state inheritance tax. There are many more advantages to the program. To learn more or to open a PA 529 Guaranteed Savings or PA 529 Investment account, visit www.pa529.com or call 1-800-440-4000.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate program now accepting applications

FREE assistance with filing applications for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is available in my constituent service office. The program, primarily funded by the Pennsylvania Lottery, has contributed \$4.8 billion to rebates for older Pennsylvanians and those living with disabilities.

The program provides rebates on property taxes paid in 2012 to eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. The annual income limit is \$35,000 for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters and half of Social Security, Supplemental Security or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I income is excluded. If you receive a mailing or solicitation asking you to pay a fee for help with filing this application, PLEASE IGNORE IT. My office can help you apply for free.

TAX COLLECTOR'S DESK

THE 2013 HEIDELBERG BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX STATEMENTS WERE MAILED AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2013. **THE TAX MILLAGE RATE FOR 2013 IS (6.95 MILLS)**

PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE IF YOU DID 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.

2013 HEIDELBERG BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

1. DUE AT DISCOUNT ON OR BEFORE 5/31/2013
2. DUE AT FACE 6/1/2013 TO 7/31/2013
3. DUE AT PENALTY AFTER 7/31/2013, A 10% PENALTY MUST BE ADDED TO THE FACE AMOUNT.

The Borough understands that many residents are facing difficulties paying their Real Estate Tax and is 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 liened. If you are behind, please contact the Tax Office immediately to review your Borough Tax Account and establish a reasonable payment schedule.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON YOUR REAL ESTATE TAXES, PLEASE CONTACT MY FFICE AT (412) 276-5413.

TED R. GAZDA, REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR



COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR PARTY RENTALS



The furnished Heidelberg Community Room, located at 1639 East Railroad Street (three doors up from the Borough Building) has seating for approximately 50 people, includes a small kitchen, large-screen TV, DVD player, and handicapped restroom accommodations. The room is also fully ADA accessible from Oak Way. The Borough is encouraging the public use of the facility by permit for small family get-togethers, parties and other communal functions. Permit fee for the room rental is \$50 for residents and \$75 for non-residents. Heidelberg based non-profit organizations are also encouraged to use the space. Historical Heidelberg photographs and artifacts are also on display within the Community Room.

Community Room rental applications are available at the Borough Office or online at www.HeidelbergBorough.com on the "Permits" page.

HEIDELBERG COUNCIL SEEKS APPLICANTS TO FILL ADVISORY POSITIONS

Alternate Civil Service Commission Board Member – as authorized by Act 43 of 2012, Borough Civil Service Commissions shall always maintain a quorum of three members present to have any meetings. To facilitate this quorum requirement, the Commonwealth has authorized its Boroughs to have alternate board members on the Civil Service Commissions. The Heidelberg Civil Service Commission's role involves the testing, hiring and promotion of full-time police officers and hearings involving police disciplinary actions.

Vacancy Board Chairman - According to Section 901 of the Pennsylvania Borough Code, all Boroughs are to have a registered elector of the Borough to be appointed as the municipality's Vacancy Board Chairman. This office would address scenarios should there be a vacancy on Borough Council and if the Council cannot fill the vacancy within 30 days, the Vacancy Board has 15 days thereafter to appoint someone to office. More information is posted on the "News Page" at www.HeidelbergBorough.com

If interested in serving in either of these positions for the Borough of Heidelberg, please send a letter of interest and resume to Joe Kauer, Borough Manager, 1631 East Railroad Street, Heidelberg, PA 15106



WE WANT YOU!

HEIDELBERG'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



Through the efforts of Councilman Bob DeBar, there is now a "Little Free Library" located at the Ellsworth Avenue Playground at the intersection of Third Street and Ellsworth Avenue.

The Borough is seeking donations of books (anything appropriate to all ages). Please simply just put your donation in the little library kiosk. The system works on the honor system, "take a book, return a book." There are no sign-in sheets or fines, just simply neighbors being good neighbors!

Our Little Free Library was constructed in house by our Public Works Foreman, Mark Turnbull. Once we see how the little library works, we'll consider erecting additional kiosks at the other parks in Heidelberg.

The mission of the Little Free Library Project is to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide. The project also builds a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations! For more information on the Little Free Library Project please visit: <http://www.littlefreelibrary.org/>

COUNCIL ENACT NEW ZONING ORDINANCE

At their March 19th Meeting, the Borough Council and Mayor adopted the new Heidelberg Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. This two-year long project redrafted the zoning ordinance in its entirety, including the many amendments to the 1989 Zoning Ordinance.

The new Ordinance is available for public reference on the website, www.HeidelbergBorough.com on the "Zoning Ordinance & Map" page. There are a few fundamental changes comparing the new Zoning Ordinance to previous editions, these new sections include zoning measures to protect and allow sustainable practices such as solar panels and wind-mills. It also tightens nuisance matters by regulating noise and light pollution, regulates parking lot / pad construction and prohibits various livestock as pets. It also redistricted portions of Lincoln Avenue as Residential-1, only permitting single family residences. Lastly, the new Ordinance created two overlay districts, one allows for the expansion of the streetscape project on Route 50 should a lot of 10,000 square feet be redeveloped and the other overlay allows for the various housing development concepts in east Heidelberg to be realized without limiting current property uses. Through these overlays, the new Comprehensive Plan can be implemented without our own laws prohibiting its vision.

Two interesting features of the new Ordinance include the now regulation of personal storage containers (AKA: PODs) and Dumpsters. Both now require you to get permit approval before you place one within Heidelberg. Applications are available in the Borough office or on the website. POD permit fees are \$50 and Dumpsters are \$15.

Zoning laws have been in effect in Heidelberg since the adoption of Ordinance No. 139 in April of 1940. This latest revision of the Heidelberg Zoning Ordinance and drafting of the Comprehensive Plan were paid for via two grants received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Local Government Academy.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN SEARCH OF OLD HEIDELBERG PHOTOS AND ARTIFACTS

The Historical Society is currently seeking old photographs of the Borough, local businesses, organizations, local servicemen, officials, sports teams, buildings, etc., anything really of local significance that you would like to share with your fellow neighbors. Approximately 100 photographs have already been donated and are on display in the Community Room.

If you would like to share your photographs please drop them off at the Borough Office, the Historical Society will simply make a copy of your photograph that is worth sharing, give you the original back and properly display it in the Community Room. We also accept donations of original artifacts.



Historical Photos on Display in Community Room

TV RECYCLING LAW



Effective in January of this year, residents and business owners alike can no longer place TV's, computers, monitors and other "covered devices" out for the weekly trash pickup.

To dispose of these products you have to take them to designated recycling locations. Here in Heidelberg, we are fortunate that eLoop, an electronic recycling organization, has designated a location very close to us at the Guardian Self-Storage Center, 1599 Washington Pike in the Collier Towne Square Shopping Center, as a drop off center. They collect TV's and recyclable electronics, Monday – Friday, 9AM to 5PM. To arrange a drop off, contact their office at 412-429-7368.



GOOD NEWS FOR THE HEIDELBERG FIRE DEPARTMENT

As recipients of a \$23,000 fire-fighter grant, members of the Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department and all Heidelbergundians have reason to celebrate.

First responders, like those at Heidelberg VFD, put their lives on the line every time they respond to the call of a house fire, a traffic accident, or a dangerous storm. Keeping these volunteers with top-of-the-line equipment keeps them safe so they can keep our families safe. But obtaining equipment and protective gear can be costly to smaller communities. That is why FEMA began the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG). These merit-based awards go to departments demonstrating a clear need for new equipment to continue their important work protecting local communities. And I'm happy to report, the Heidelberg VFD just secured a grant to outfit the town's 25 volunteer firefighters with new fire helmets and boots.

The AFG Program has taken on increased significance in recent years because of concerns that many areas across the country lacked the emergency infrastructure to respond in cases of a natural disaster or major attack. As we've seen with recent catastrophes, it's the volunteer firefighters who are called upon first to help deal with the immediate aftermath, from dispensing emergency supplies to assisting with cleanup. That is why I have joined a congressional effort to maintain critical first-responder programs. There is strong bipartisan support for this grant program given the sacrifices first responders are willing to make to keep our communities safe.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking the Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department for all they do!

Tim Murphy, Congressman
United States House of Representatives
PA—18th District

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE DAY

Saturday, May 18th - 7AM to Noon - Borough wide
Junk + Hidden Treasures + Neighbors = Good Times

We will promote the event with newspaper and web advertising. Heidelberg Garage Sale Day flyers and Heidelberg Garage Sale Day signs will be put up in advance to help spread the word!

Take advantage of a day where all can participate in a garage sale at your home or business. The Borough will advertise the event for you, all you have to do is put out some goods and enjoy the day walking door to door within Heidelberg - meeting your neighbors and getting some good deals!

PENNSYLVANIA STATE 'SENATE UPDATES

As the state budget process is once again upon us, it has become apparent that this budget, like the two that came before it, will task us with finding ways to do more with less. One area that has been overlooked by the current administration is the need to invest resources in economic development and jobs 'programs, to do all we can to put people back to work!

We must create a positive business environment that encourages investment and helps small businesses succeed. I have authored two bills that will do both.

Senate Bill 141 establishes a tax credit to Angel Investors that would encourage early stage financing to businesses less than five years old. These type of investors play a crucial role in our economy, making higher-risk investments in new businesses, where banks and other lenders typically shy away.

Another piece of legislation I wrote, Senate Bill 205, loosens restrictions on the Second Stage Loan Guarantee Program, providing a needed catalyst to spur private banks and other commercial lenders access to capital for small business.

These two measures would both provide a shot in the arm to small businesses across our region and a growing network of small businesses will lead to job creation, at a time when it is desperately needed. I will continue working with my colleagues in the Senate, from both parties, to move this legislation forward so we can start putting people back to work. You can read more about these bills at www.senatorfontana.com.

Senator Wayne D. Fontana
42nd Senatorial District
www.senatorfontana.com



HEIDELBERG BOROUGH POLICE SPRING / SUMMER UPDATES

Now that winter is finally over and we are moving into the spring and summer modes, it's time again to review your summer plans once school is out with the same issues of what are the children going to be up to over the summer, especially while I'm at work? Maybe it's time to have your children get involved in sports, not just soccer or baseball, but fishing. Heidelberg has a prime resource of Chartiers Creek which is loaded with a variety of fish. Fishing is a sport for all ages and boys and girls. Again on August 10th, Heidelberg is hosting its annual fishing contest which will be advertised closer to that date. This can be a learning experience for the entire family and one that can keep your children interested in years to come.

The Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department is also a potential for long term interest and education over the summer since they are always looking for new volunteers in a variety of positions. Again age is a factor for many of these positions but keep in mind that many students are required to obtain a specific number of community service hours by their schools prior to graduation over the summer.

Summer vacations, those of you taking extended vacations away from home, the police urge you to notify the police and fill out a vacation house watch form. This makes the police aware that no one should be around your home while you are gone, gives them emergency notification and contact numbers and when you will return. It is recommend you have timers on lights upstairs and down and leave a radio on near the back door just loud enough to be heard outside the door. Alarm systems are recommended, if you can afford them for your home and all vehicles should be locked and windows closed when that vehicle is not in use, even while in your garage.

A new stop sign has been officially approved and erected at First Street and Ellsworth Ave making this a four way stops. It has been up since April first and will be strictly enforced.

Drivers need to be aware that with summer comes more bicycles on our roadways and the new laws pertaining to right of way for bicyclists and passing people riding bikes. Share the road, know the laws, and wear your bike helmet

Note the speed limit on First St and Industry Way is 15 miles per hour; we have had a number of complaints regarding speeders on both of these streets which will shortly be marked off for timing of vehicles traveling this area.

Shortly there will be extensive road construction beginning on Route 50 (E. Railroad St) with the Route 50 project, new sidewalks, paving and the installing of new decorative lighting. Drivers should be alerted to traffic congestion at times; limited or reduced speeds for construction zones and that fines and points are doubled for moving violations in the construction zones.

All dogs are required to be on a leash, licensed and have all of their shots up to date and those specific tags attached to their collar. We have had a number of complaints of loose dogs running in the borough without collars or tags. If caught these dogs without proper tags will be turned over to the South Hills Animal Control. At this point you could be subject to a \$300 fine plus additional cost to retrieve your pet.

Chief Barkley, Heidelberg Borough Police

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT



It's hard to believe that almost ten years have passed since Heidelberg held its Centennial Celebration which aimed to ignite and sustain a new sense of community pride. And while that single day of commemorating 100 years as a Borough was a memorable one, there have been many changes in our community since then that will last far longer than day of celebrating with friends and neighbors. Over the past ten years our Council, Borough Manager, Mayor, Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department and residents have come together to take action and improve the way of life in our town. Our joint efforts have resulted in more than seven miles of newly paved roads in the community; a renovated and updated Borough Building and Community Room; new playground equipment for the Tot Lot on Zero Street; land acquisition that has enabled

Heidelberg to create its long-awaited public park complete with playground equipment, a war memorial, gazebo and permanent restroom facilities; the Streetscape/Rt. 50 beautification project which is now underway, and thanks to our Recreation Committee a host of regularly scheduled community events including movies in the park, garage sale days, picnics and holiday celebrations open to all residents. I recall addressing the crowd at that Centennial Celebration nearly ten years ago and asking everyone to make an effort to continue the sense of community pride by becoming informed and involved in the decisions that affect our community. It seems as though many of you have done exactly that, and we look forward to the many further improvements to our borough in the years ahead.

Ray Losego, Council President