

Heidelberg Highlights

Volume No. 42 Summer / Fall 2014

OKTOBERFEST SET FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH



Plan on celebrating our town's German heritage and roots at this year's Oktoberfest! The fourth annual Heidelberg Oktoberfest is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2014, 1:00PM to 8:00PM at Heidelberg Park.

Many festivities are scheduled throughout the day including: Zambelli Fireworks, \$2,500 raffle, live music, dancing, German and American foods, beers, crafters, children's activities and fun for all ages. Musical acts include: the Mansfield 5, Carl Stocker, Karl Lukitsch & Autobahn, the Graham Brothers Band, and Heidelberg's own Mrs. Helen Matlak.

Times for musical performances, details on specific children activities and vendor registration are available on the "Oktoberfest" page at www.HeidelbergBorough.com We are still accepting vendor registrations, spots as low as \$25! Spread the word about this year's Oktoberfest and let's keep making this community celebration bigger and better!

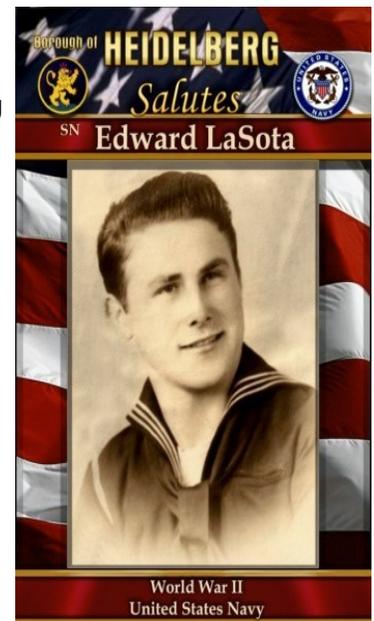
INTERESTED IN A VACANT LOT IN HEIDELBERG?

For a limited time only, property owners can participate in the County's Vacant Property Recovery Program. The program will be accepting applications for acquisition of vacant properties for side yards to an owner-occupied primary residence or blighted structure remediation at a reduced cost to the applicant. Under the 2014 Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program, the County will waive their standard parcel fee of \$3,000 for applicants for side yards to their primary residence and will discount it to \$1,400 for applicants proposing to rehabilitate or demolish a blighted structure. All applicants will also be responsible for the appraised value of the property, a good faith deposit of 10 percent of the appraised value, and closing costs. For more information call the program line at 412-350-1090

HEIDELBERG TO RECOGNIZE ITS VETERANS THROUGH A "MAIN STREET" BANNER PROGRAM

Through a program presented by Mayor Ken LaSota the Borough of Heidelberg is offering an interesting opportunity to salute our brave men and women who are currently serving or those who have served in the military by creating and displaying a 24" x 36" military banner along the soon-to-be completed East Railroad (PA Route 50) Streetscape District.

The banners will feature the name, rank and photograph of the local service member. The banners will be displayed during upcoming patriotic holidays such as Independence Day, Veterans Day and Memorial Day. The new decorative light poles along Route 50 will house the banners. There is a \$70 one-time cost to join the program. Participants will receive one 24"x 36" Military Banner to be displayed by the Borough along Route 50, one 24"x 36" Military Banner or two 12"x 18" banners for personal display and web presence on the Heidelberg Military website at www.troopbanners.com/HeidelbergBorough



Applications are available at the Borough Office and your photos can be scanned there by the Borough Manager.

The Military Banner Program was developed and is made possible by HTM Designs. Heidelberg along with many other communities in southwestern Pennsylvania have partnered with HTM Designs to publicly recognize and pay tribute to our County's service men and women.

A MOMENT WITH THE MAYOR

Rebecca and I hope these few words find everyone well. I intend to keep my remarks here focused on the recent Town Hall Meeting that centered on the proposed development of the former Wright's Seafood Inn property. The meeting was framed to address some of the confusion regarding the development and to quell some of the fear related to the project resulting from the confusion. I, and many of the sixty or so who attended, feel the meeting succeeded: Action Housing and the Autism Housing Development Corporation of Pittsburgh (the Autism Society) propose a five story, residential structure situated on Route 50 at the corner of Route 50 and Fourth Street, with the current Wright's location serving as a parking lot for the structure. The two vacant houses at the corner of Route 50 and Fourth Street and the Wright's restaurant will be razed. It is proposed that the facility will contain 21 single bedroom units for autistic individuals and 15 single bedroom and six two bedroom units open to all. All 42 lessees will be required to demonstrate an income of between 16 and 28 thousand dollars. All lessees will be subjected to credit checks, background checks, criminal history checks, and will have their prior living situations assessed to determine if they meet the Autism Society's desire to maintain a viable, residential environment for high functioning autistic individuals living immersed with a non-autistic population. The facility will pay property tax to the Borough and the residents will pay wage taxes to the Borough. Action Housing, with decades of experience, will own and manage the facility contractually for a period of at least thirty years. The building will be built according to existing Borough zoning codes. It will have fire suppressive and water sprinkling systems in each unit, and pose no additional burden to the Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department's capabilities or manpower. Action Housing hopes to purchase the Wright's property at sheriff sale before the end of 2014, start construction in 2015, and accept residents in 2016. The project is estimated to cost around 12 million dollars. The transaction is between private parties (Action Housing and Wright's.) Heidelberg Borough is in no way a broker for the transaction, directing Borough tax monies towards advancing the project, nor is Heidelberg able to block or prohibit the sale nor the development, as the transaction is between private parties via the County Sheriff's Office, and the development is on private property. The current Wrights restaurant is delinquent in taxes for several years, is a fire hazard, and squatters have been known to have lived in the vacant structure. It would cost several tens of thousands of dollars for the Borough to tear down, and is an eye sore to its neighbors. All the above was offered as testimony at the Town Hall Meeting.



Mayor Ken LaSota

At the meeting, I was asked if I thought the project would be good or bad for the Borough. In reflection, it is true that the project would produce the tallest structure in the Borough, and would mark the official end of the icon which has been Wright's. These two events would mark major changes to Heidelberg's landscape and psyche. Change is always unsettling. So some fear of the project is understandable. But as presented at the meeting, the project promises to generate significant property tax for the Borough, bring new wages earners into the Borough, and add several dozen new families to the Borough. These new additions should prove to be good for the Borough. May some of the new residents be "bad apples" as it were? Yes, of course there is that possibility. However, the mandate of the Autism Society is to integrate residents into the facility that are conducive to providing a safe and caring environment for the autistic population living in the facility. Additionally, the mandate of the Autism Society is that all the residents of the facility are to be contributing members of the community and that the facility is to be integrated into the residential fabric of the community. Therefore, do I feel Heidelberg will be better or worse given the development? I can not say. What I can say is that if the project proceeds, Heidelberg will look different in 2016. Will a new look for Heidelberg be good or bad in 2016? Time will tell. Testimony at the Town Hall Meeting suggests it will. Well that is all for now. May God Bless.

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

HEIDELBERG BUSINESS DISTRICT GARDEN ADOPTION PROGRAM

Heidelberg Borough is seeking interested volunteers to become special Garden Tenders for the public garden beds along Route 50. Made possible by the revitalization of Route 50, there are now a series of ten garden areas along our core business district that need tending to. The duty of the Garden Tenders will be to routinely weed, water and upkeep the areas.

To recognize your garden adoption, a sign will be placed in your respective garden stating that this garden is adopted by you, your family or business.

The gardens that are available to adopt include the following:

- **1900 Block Billboard Garden**
- **1800 Block Billboard Garden**

Sites that have already been adopted:

- First Street Traffic Island Garden – *Thomas and Walpurga Allen*
- Third Street Steps and Clock Garden Bed – *Al and Dolly Kosol*
- 1700 Block Hillside Groundcover Garden – *Thomson Landscape & Design, LLC*
- 1700 Block Billboard Garden – *Al and Dolly Kosol*
- Second Street Bumpouts – *Apple Printing*
- Third Street Bumpouts – *Hinnebusch Family*
- Fourth Street Bumpouts – *Lindemann Family & Ernesto Carmona*
- Gas House Garden – *Rebecca Stanhope and Mayor Ken LaSota*

If you are interested in volunteering to become a Heidelberg Garden Tender, please contact Joe Kauer, Borough Manager at 412-276-0363 and let him know what garden area you are interested in adopting.

OKTOBERFEST RAFFLE

Win \$2,500

Drawing on Saturday, September 27, 2014

Tickets are \$5, available at the Borough Office or from any Recreation Committee Member

Winner Based on PA Daily Number, 7PM– First Draw, Proceeds Benefit the Hbg. Recreation Committee, Community Events.

Help is also needed in selling tickets, if you can help out, please call the Borough at 412-276-0363.

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR YOUR PROPERTY TAX / RENT REBATE?

*By: Jesse White
PA State Representative
46th District*



The deadline for Pennsylvania residents to file for their 2013 Property Tax/Rent Rebate has been extended until the end of the year, December 31. Eligible applicants can apply for free through Representative Jesse White's office by calling 724-746-3677.

Funded by state Lottery proceeds and administered by the Department of Revenue, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides a rebate on property taxes or rent paid by residents who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. To be eligible, household income must be \$35,000 or less for homeowners or \$15,000 or less for renters. However, applicants only have to count half of their Social Security benefits.

This year to date, Representative White's office has processed over 450 applications yielding over \$210,000 in total rebates.

Please contact my office for an application or more information. For those who have already applied this year, rebate checks are now being sent out by the Department of Revenue.

HEIDELBERG COUNCIL SEEKS APPLICANTS TO FILL 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.

If interested in serving in this position for the Borough of Heidelberg, please send letter of interest and resume to Joe Kauer, Borough Manager, 1631 East Railroad Street,

BOROUGH MANAGER'S UPDATE

Since the spring edition of Heidelberg Highlights, the Borough Council, Mayor and staff have been busy with the largest capital improvement project in our town's history, the revitalization and beautification of East Railroad Street. Over the past several months, all of the new sidewalks on both sides of the street have been built including new ADA corner ramps, and all of the decorative street lanterns, benches, gardens and ornamental signs have been installed. We also partnered with many of your neighbors, Duquesne Light and Comcast Cable to remove 24 service wires that used to cross Route 50. There was also much private investment with many property owners completing improvements to their facades. Through all of this work, Heidelberg's Route 50 truly looks like a "Main Street," complimenting our already handsome residential areas. Interestingly enough, over one million dollars worth of construction for this project has been paid for through outside assistance and grant funding made possible by Congressman Tim Murphy. Borough Council and the Mayor did not have to raise taxes, jeopardize services, or cut other projects to make this transformational effort on Route 50 possible.

Heidelberg Borough has also been successful with a number of other recent grant awards. These include receiving \$18,500 to repave the third phase of Grant Avenue between Ellsworth Avenue and Hayes Street - work is scheduled for this fall, \$2,500 for the construction of the Route 50 bump-out rain gardens, \$1,800 for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the Community Room, \$5,000 for playground equipment to offset the costs to rehabilitate the Ellsworth Playground, and 17 trees were awarded by a grant from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's TreeVitalize Program. They were planted in April at Heidelberg Park, in front of the firehouse and on Madison Avenue.

As always, if I can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to stop by the Borough Office; as it is truly a pleasure to work for such a wonderful community.

Respectfully yours,
Joe Kauer, Borough Manager

HEIDELBERG POLICE SUMMER NEWS

This year is moving quickly, the students are already out of school and active in the community. A reminder that Heidelberg does have a curfew according to age and we have already given a number of warnings to youth's out after those time limits.

1) Please pay attention to the construction being done on Rt. 50 and within the Borough. Reduce your speed and use caution. 2) Note that if your windshield wipers are in use you are required to have your headlights on in inclement weather. 3) Parents and children are reminded that they are required to follow all traffic laws when riding on bicycles the roadways including stopping for stop signs, red lights and yielding to pedestrians in cross walks. The fines are the same as listed within the motor vehicle code for these violations. 4) Children twelve and under are required to wear a bike helmet for safety when riding their bikes.

A reminder that August 9th, 2014 is the annual Heidelberg Fishing Derby with registration beginning at 8AM at Heidelberg Park at the pavilion. (PA Fishing Regulations Apply) Licenses are required for those who are required to have them. (This is a catch and release alive derby.) Rules and regulations supplied at registration. You must supply your own bait.

Over the summer please check in on your elderly neighbors and make sure they are well hydrated and have air conditioning or are aware of cooling stations that will be setup in extreme heat situations. Check the Borough Website for locations or contact the local police for assistance. (www.heidelbergborough.com)

Have a Safe and Joyful Summer,
Chief Vernon M. Barkley

The logo for the Heidelberg Police Department (HPD) consists of the letters "HPD" in a large, bold, serif font. The letters are black and are underlined with a thick black horizontal line.

RECREATION EVENTS PAST AND PRESENT

By: Carrie Nolan VP Council/Recreation Committee Chairwoman

It is hard to believe that a little over eight months ago, I was sworn into office and appointed to the recreation committee. As one of my visions for the Borough, I wanted to slowly start a summer recreation program for the youths of this town and school district. This summer we brought in a British soccer camp through Challenger Sports. The camp was a big success! Two coaches, one from Ireland and one from England, were sent to Heidelberg for one week and performed drills, taught skills, and modeled sportsmanship and teamwork with 22 children from this Borough and neighboring communities. A family in Collier hosted the two coaches for the week and took them around Pittsburgh. The coaches had many accolades for our community. This camp will be returning next year the week of June 15-19, 2015, so save the date! We had several other successful community events. For Clean Up Day, we planted trees (given through a grant by Western PA Conservancy), picked up trash, and provided dumpsters for household clean up. Our Memorial Day ceremony was a nice tribute to those who served and sacrificed their lives in the military. Our guest speaker was Technical Sergeant Robert Ruffing from the 911th Airlift Wing. The event brought a large turnout of veterans and citizens. Both Family Nights were successful and brought a night of fun for the families of Heidelberg. For our June event, free hotdogs were given, Kona Ice was present, and the band LOCAL performed. In July, we offered free ice cream, water fun and games, and music by DJ, Jeff Patrick of Heidelberg.

Upcoming events to note are: the Fishing Derby scheduled for Saturday, August 9 from 8AM-Noon. Registration begins at 8AM. Prizes, food, and raffles will take place after fishing is complete. Oktoberfest will be held Saturday, September 27 from 1PM-8PM. We are in need of volunteers to work the event. Please contact the Borough Office if you are able to donate some time. The Halloween Parade is scheduled for Sunday, October 26 at 12:30PM. A pizza party and activity will follow at the firehall.

If any citizen has questions or suggestions for upcoming events or future events, please do not hesitate to contact me at nolanhbgcouncil@gmail.com or 412-722-4349. If you are interested in giving back to your community and would like to join the recreation committee we meet every third Tuesday of the month in the Borough Building beginning at 6:15pm. I am available to speak with citizens regarding any Borough issues or non issues at any time. As I promised in my campaign, "I AM YOUR VOICE". I hope everyone has had a safe and happy summer!



YOUR INVITE TO FONTANAFEST

If you have never attended FontanaFest before, then what are you waiting for? Mark your calendars now and plan to join me on Saturday, August 9th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Highmark Stadium at Station Square, home of the Pittsburgh Riverhounds, for the 10th Annual event!

Best of all, it's FREE, including lunch that will be available from noon – 2 p.m.

There will be plenty of fun activities for families and children during the day that promote a healthy and active lifestyle. Members of the Pittsburgh Riverhounds will be on hand from noon – 1:30 p.m. leading soccer activities for children on the field at Highmark Stadium. There will also be several inflatables and a climbing wall for children. Nearly a dozen local organizations will also be present to provide important educational and health-related information to families and children while also providing fun crafts, games and other activities for children to explore and engage in. Come out and see what these wonderful groups have to offer while enjoying a fun and active day in our region's newest stadium venue.

I hope to see you there!

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

UPDATE ON UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AT U.S. - MEXICO BORDER

A wave of illegal migration, unprecedented in size and scope, is underway in the Rio Grande Valley Areas along the U.S.-Mexico Border. Many of these illegal entrants have heard in their home countries within Central America through the radio, television and newspapers that the United States had relaxed immigration laws, allowing them to receive a permit or "permiso" to stay here. As of mid-June, the Department of Homeland Security has seen 50,000 minors and over 40,000 family members crossing into the United States, ten times greater than before this crisis began in 2009.



As Chairman of the Oversight & Investigations panel, I recently convened a briefing for lawmakers with Administration officials to understand exactly what the federal agencies in charge of handling this situation are doing. What I learned is shocking. This crisis is a result of a law that was enacted in 2009 without a vote in Congress, coupled with numerous Presidential Executive Orders ending deportations for certain illegal entrants, and the use of so-called "prosecutorial discretion" by lawyers in the Executive Branch who are dismissing cases that otherwise would end up before an immigration judge for deportation. That is why there are tens of thousands more border crossings than in previous years, without the typical deportation process following illegal entry into the United States.

Most of those who await deportation or asylum hearings, which may take more than two years to occur, are not detained in shelters. Instead, the Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) releases the child to live with a parent, sibling, or "family friend" in 85% of these cases. Estimates from the Congressional Research Service suggest more than half of these sponsors are also here in the United States illegally. There is no follow up on the child's well-being, creating an even further burden on state and local governments in oversight of those awaiting an deportation hearing. Often those released never show up for the mandatory hearing.

To deal with this crisis, the President is advancing a plan to open up new shelters and detention centers throughout the country and has asked Congress for \$3.7 billion for their care and housing. None of the money he is requesting will be spent on building a border fence and less than two percent will go toward patrols or security measures. The President is also requesting more than \$615 million be earmarked for local wildfire control in the Western US and tens of millions in new aid to Central American governments to "address the root causes of migration."

Congress will soon vote on options to deal with the crisis. Instead of the President's plan, I will be focused on aggressive enforcement of all standing immigration laws, strengthening border security, and prosecution of the smugglers helping these children illegally cross into the United States. I have also called for an increase in Border Patrol manpower and the overturning of the failed policies that have allowed this crisis to continue growing. I'm also committed to other legislative options to stop any incentives for illegal migration, including: once and for all completing a border fence on the southern boundaries; mandating an electronic verification system to check eligibility of all future hires; and giving local authorities the means to protect their boundaries and constituents as well as increasing border patrol agents.

I welcome residents to contact me with your thoughts on solving the border surge crisis, and to sign up for my weekly email newsletter at Murphy.House.Gov to stay informed on these and other issues I am working on in Washington D.C. and in the district. As always, if you need help with federal programs like Medicare, Social Security or Veterans' benefits, please call my office at (412) 344-5583.

Tim Murphy, Congressman, PA-18th District

BOROUGH NEWSLETTER BUSINESS ADVERTISING NOW AVAILABLE

The Borough's award winning quarterly municipal newsletter is mailed out to all residences, businesses and government contacts of the Borough of Heidelberg. Over 700 editions are distributed quarterly. Advertising space is now available to be included in Heidelberg Highlights for \$25. This includes an ad that is business card size (2" x 3.5").

Advertisements are to be prepared in a .jpg electronic format applicable to be imported into Microsoft Publisher software. For more information please contact Joe Kauer, Borough Manager at jkauer@heidelbergborough.com or 412-276-0363.

TAX COLLECTORS DESK

2014 Chartiers Valley School District taxes were mailed Monday, June 30, 2014. Please contact my office immediately if you have not received your statement, and believe it should have been sent to your residence. All statements are mailed to the address of record as provided by Allegheny County. Even if it is mailed incorrectly, it is still the responsibility of the property owner to pay the taxes on time.

2014 CV School District Real Estate Tax Payment Schedule:

Due at Discount – 7/1/14 to 8/31/14

Due at Face – 9/1/14 to 10/31/14

Due at Penalty – After 10/31/14, a 10% penalty must be added to the face amount.

Installment payments have been approved again this year and to participate in this program, each payment must amount to at least 1/4th of the face amount and submitted as follows:

First Payment must be received prior to 10/15/14

Second Payment must be received prior to 12/15/14

Third Payment must be received prior to 2/15/15

Final Payment must be received prior to 4/15/15

Installment payments are only permitted on any parcel valued at \$100.00 or more. No discount is permitted if you decide to participate in the installment program. Any installment payment not received by the due dates established must have a 10% penalty added to that payment.

Act 50 Homestead Exclusion: real estate tax assessment reductions have been authorized by the Chartiers Valley School Board for the year beginning July 1, 2014 under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program. If you were registered with Allegheny County Office of Property Assessments prior to March 1, 2014 for the exclusion in this program, your tax bill will reflect a reduction from the original assessment. If you have NOT registered and feel that you meet the residency requirements for this program you can secure an application form my office. This will enable you to receive the reduction next year.

Should you have any questions on any of these taxes or related matters please contact my office at 412-276-5413.

Ted R. Gazda, Real Estate Tax Collector

HEIDELBERG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By: Bob DeBar, Councilman

The following is an excerpt from a 1959 submission to the Carnegie Signal Item from Miss Frances Bane, a teacher at the original old Heidelberg School.

“The Old Frame School”

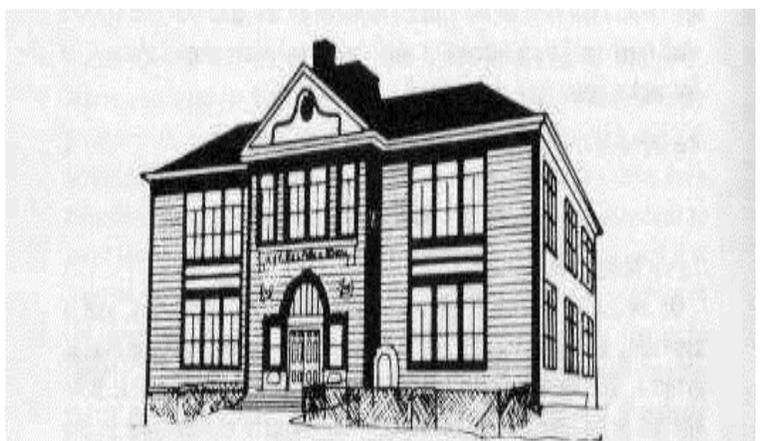
We are getting ready to leave you, “dear old frame school.” You have been kind and good to us, for you have sheltered us from the bitter winter storms, the sudden showers of spring, the hot summer sun, and the cold autumn rains.

Thousands of children have walked through your halls and have spent many happy days here working and playing together. You have put your great loving wooden arms around all these children, the weak, the strong, the rich and the poor.

Through the years you have witnessed the gamut of the innate abilities of the boys and girls who were welcomed at your doors by zealous leaders. You have heard these capable councilors teach many valuable lessons of life: you have observed how the seeds of love, encouragement and hope which were planted by them, helped to advance each child toward the maximum development of his capabilities.

Time marches on. Soon your halls and rooms will be silent. The tramp of children’s feet and the echoes of their happy laughter will be heard no more, for we must go. We’ll leave you but we’ll not forget you, for with us will go memories of many happy days. “Goodbye, dear old frame school; goodbye.”

The old frame school sat where the current Ellsworth Avenue Playground is and was razed in 1959 upon the opening of the “new” Heidelberg Elementary School. The current school cost \$338,262 to construct and was opened in September 1959.



Old Heidelberg Schoolhouse



BOROUGH OF HEIDELBERG

**1631 East Railroad Street
Heidelberg, PA 15106**

Borough Office Phone: 412-276-0363

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8—4

Emergency: Dial 9-1-1

www.HeidelbergBorough.com

Email: info@heidelbergborough.co

Facebook: Friend us at *Heidelberg PA*

2014 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Richard Pattinato, President
Carrie Nolan, Vice President
John Duda
Robert DeBar
Rick Jordan

OFFICIALS:

Kenneth A. LaSota, Mayor
Joe Kauer, Borough Manager
Vernon Barkley, Chief of Police
Vincent Tucceri, Solicitor
Robert Koch, Building / Zoning Official
Ted Gazda, Tax Collector
Mark Turnbull, Public Works Supervisor
Richard Minsterman, Borough Engineer
Joe Wissel, Jr.— Fire Chief

MEETING INFORMATION

All meetings, unless otherwise posted and advertised, are conducted at the Community Room, 1639 East Railroad Street.

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Workshop / Agenda Meetings

2nd Tuesday of Each Month, 6:30 PM

Voting Meeting

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 7:00 PM

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meet – 3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 6:15 PM at the Borough Office Conference Room

ZONING HEARING BOARD, PLANNING COMMISSION, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND NUISANCE PROPERTY APPEALS

BOARD

Meet as Needed