

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE IN HEIDELBERG BOROUGH

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for Heidelberg Borough, Carnegie Borough and Scott Township is nearing completion and will wrap up with a public meeting in the fall, followed after any required modifications by a public hearing where Borough Council will adopt the plan. The project started with public meetings in Carnegie and Heidelberg last September and continued with focus group meetings through this spring. This summer the consultant and steering committee have worked to produce a draft plan for presentation to residents. In Heidelberg, the plan has focused on:

- Improving recreational access along Chartiers Creek;
- Walkability throughout the Borough and connecting with its neighbors; and
- Land use recommendations between Route 50 and Chartiers Creek.

We invite residents this fall to join us in a careful review of the ideas included in the plan. This will be done during a public meeting. It is important for residents to offer their opinions on the future of the Borough. More details regarding this meeting will be announced soon. We look forward to talking with you as positive changes take place in Heidelberg.

After adoption of the Comprehensive Plan the Borough will begin the second phase of the project, which includes revising the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. The zoning revisions will be guided by recommendations included in the Comprehensive Plan. The goal of this portion of the project is to bring the ordinance and its standards into compliance with the Municipalities Planning Code while meeting the current and future needs of the community as expressed in the Comprehensive Plan.



Councilman Al Kosol, County Councilman Mike Finnerty and Mayor Ken LaSota—working collectively for a better and brighter Heidelberg!

Heidelberg Highlights

Volume No. 35

Fall 2011

HEIDELBERG CREATES A RED CROSS COMMUNITY EVACUATION CENTER TEAM



Heidelberg CECT Trailer

As part of the Borough's Emergency Management efforts, a partnership has been formed between the Heidelberg Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, the Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department, Heidelberg VFD Ladies Auxiliary and many of our friends and neighbors.

On Saturday, August 6th, 19 Heidelberg representatives completed a Red Cross training class on becoming a member of the American Red Cross Heidelberg Community Evacuation Center Team (CECT). This team will help establish, coordinate and operate a Red Cross shelter should there be an incident – that warrants temporary housing such as a large fire, natural disaster, utility outages, large-scale accidents, evacuations, etc – in the Borough, or nearby communities.

The American Red Cross, through a grant from U. S. Steel, has stationed a CECT trailer here in Heidelberg. The unit is stored at the firehouse and is ready to go with towing capabilities provided by the Fire Company or Borough Public Works. The trailer is equipped with 100 cots, blankets, comfort kits and other equipment needed to establish temporary housing for displaced residents in our area. This trailer will be a great tool in the Borough's arsenal to help mitigate disasters and respond to incidents.

Through this partnership, the Heidelberg VFD Hall has been designated as the prime shelter facility for the Borough as it is equipped with the large kitchen, bathroom / shower facilities, ADA compliant, has backup power equipment and is centrally located. Should something happen to the HVFD facility, the program through operating with the CECT trailer can be reestablished at another venue in the area to help care for our friends and neighbors.

There are two additional upcoming training opportunities to help fully develop the American Red Cross Heidelberg Community Evacuation Center Team. It is a goal to have the program fully operational and in-service with designated volunteers to the various CECT roles by October. If interested in participating the program, contact the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator, Joe Kauer at 412-276-0363 or jkauer@heidelbergborough.com. The Borough Council and Mayor would like to thank the 19 volunteers who stepped up to coordinate such a wonderful program for our community.

HEIDELBERG TO BE HOME TO OKTOBERFEST ON OCTOBER 1ST!

With a name like Heidelberg – an Oktoberfest is a must! The Heidelberg Borough Recreation Committee is requesting everyone in town to save the date and spread the word about Heidelberg's first Oktoberfest that is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 1:00PM to 7:00PM.



Many festivities are scheduled throughout the day including: live music featuring many local bands, food, beer, crafters, children's activities and fun for all ages.

Craft Vendors are wanted for the event. Registration fee is \$25 per table. There will be no electric service provided and the fee provides you with one 8' table and 2 chairs. For more information, please contact the Borough Manager at 412-276-0363.

As part of the event, the Recreation Committee is seeking volunteers for the day and to help organize the event. If interested, please attend the monthly Recreation Committee Meetings that are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:15 PM at the Borough Building. The Borough is also accepting donations to help sponsor the bands and activities for Oktoberfest. If interested in contributing, call the Borough office.

Neighborhood Garage Sale Day

Saturday, September 10, 2011

**8AM – 2PM: Borough Wide
Junk + Hidden Treasures + Neighbors = Good Times**

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!



BOROUGH OF HEIDELBERG
1631 Railroad Street
Heidelberg, PA 15106

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A MOMENT WITH THE MAYOR

Rebecca and I hope all is well. I would like to focus on one topic this issue and that would be the new "Gas House Garden" that sprouted up along Collier Avenue at the intersection of West Railroad. Many of you may have seen Rebecca and I planting a number of the flowers that are part of this new public green space within the Borough. Additionally, Councilman Al Kosol and his wife Dolly, along with Public Works Supervisor Mark Turnbull and his assistant Ben Farow, worked many hours to plant and prepare the site. During the planting process, many a motorist honked a horn, or yelled out words of encouragement concerning the new garden. It seems that most Heidelbergundians and many non-Heidelbergundians who merely drive by have found that the garden has really spruced up this corner of Heidelberg.



The garden idea started some three months ago when Rebecca and I took an urban garden seminar offered by the Scott Township Conservancy. Here we learned the concepts of color contrast, vertical element, and textural

variation that can make a garden an appealing public space. After this seminar, I approached Council with the idea of a public garden and I subsequently worked with Borough Manager Joe Kauer to get Peoples Natural Gas to provide the Borough with a surface easement to the property; that is, the gas company still owns the land, but the Borough now has legal access to the property for the purposes of maintaining a public garden. Peoples Gas even donated \$500 towards the purchase of many of the flowers you see there now: A wonderful private public partnership. It is from this partnership that I suggested the name for this garden, the Gas House Garden.

The Gas House Garden has no public access, nor public seating, as the brick gas house building that is still there is a working distribution site for natural gas. The Gas House Garden is designed and intended to be viewed from afar for what it is, a pleasant little oasis for the eye as you drive or walk by. Within the garden you may have noticed two stately lions, which reflect the Borough corporate logo, the Heidelberg Lion. You can see the Heidelberg Lion on the Borough's police cruisers and other Borough icons. These two lions as well as the trellis, the signature vertical element of the garden, and the wisteria that are growing up the trellis, where donated to the Borough by the First Lady.

In terms of coming attractions in and near the Gas House Garden, the vacant parcel of land next to the garden along West Railroad may in the future be obtained by the Borough for an expansion of the Gas House Garden. The adjacent land has been vacant and delinquent in its taxes since the 1920's and turning it into a public green space would add to the quality of life in the Borough. This additional land, if developed, will have more of a public park ambiance with benches and a walkway through a formal flower garden. Access is possible here because no working gas distribution center in on the site. Look for this new park development sometime next summer.

Well enough for now. Rebecca and I hope everyone is enjoying the new public garden. May God Bless.

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

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

By Congressman Tim Murphy (PA -18)



Many of you have stopped me at grocery stores, church functions, and at town meetings to share your concerns about the future stability of federal programs you've paid into during your working years and now depend on in your retirement.

My motivation to enter public service was born out of my experience working with families throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania when I was in the healthcare industry. I saw firsthand the obstacles and barriers that stood in the way of families getting needed care and services, particularly for seniors who spent a lifetime working and paying into the programs established many years ago to serve them in their retirement years. I remain committed to finding common sense solutions to shore up and protect these vital programs now and long into the future.

But all indications are that these programs face major challenges on the road back to full solvency. For the first time since 1983, Social Security paid out more money in benefits than it collected in taxes last year. And the rapid growth in healthcare spending is real and is expected to continue growing. Forty years ago, Medicare and Medicaid made up five percent of federal spending. Today, they account for more than 20 percent of the federal budget.

Any solution to address the financial viability must not include cutting benefits, raising the retirement age, privatizing accounts, or further harming those that depend on Social Security and Medicare. The key to protecting them is to put them off limits from paying for anything other than what those funds were intended. That is why I introduced the Medicare and Social Security Protection Act. My bill prevents Congress from continuing the practice of taking deposits out of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds to pay for other government programs and ensure these entitlements are there in the future for hard working Americans to collect the money that they have earned.

Seniors rely on their Social Security check to pay for groceries, medicine, and utility bills. It is a matter of fairness that Congress stops spending this money on other things and starts saving it for today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees.

Managing your way through the maze of Social Security and Medicare can be challenging. My office stands ready to serve you. Should you have any questions, help is just a phone call away. Caseworkers can be reached in my Mt. Lebanon office at 412.344.5583 and my Greensburg office at 724.850.7312.

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT

Mayor Ken LaSota has declared and set Heidelberg's Trick or Treat for **Monday, October 31st from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.**

Information about the Halloween Parade will be announced shortly!



INFORMATION URGENTLY NEEDED FOR HEIDELBERG EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Each municipality in Pennsylvania is required to formulate and prepare an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which is filed with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services. Part of that plan requires that municipalities compile lists of residents that have special needs or may require additional medical assistance in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. This includes any individual that may need assistance if an evacuation is required or special assistance during long-term power outages, etc. Elderly persons who live alone are strongly urged to fill out this survey.

Residents who may need assistance are asked to send the information below to Joe Kauer, Emergency Management Coordinator, 1631 East Railroad Street, Heidelberg, PA 15106.

HEIDELBERG EMERGENCY CONTACT SURVEY

Name of Person Requiring Assistance: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Age: _____

Nature of Disability / Assistance Required: _____

Name of Caregiver: _____

Caregiver Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

Any resident or caregiver who has questions regarding this emergency operations procedure is asked to call Joe Kauer, Emergency Management Coordinator at 412-276-0363. Also, if you have furnished us with this information in the past, and it no longer applies to your residence, please advise us. **All information is kept strictly confidential.**

ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011

SAVE THE DATE

Remember to Vote – it's our Right!



**Heidelberg Polling Location – HVFD Hall
456 First Street**

Polls are open from 7AM to 8PM

**Absentee Ballot Applications and Voters
Registration Forms are available at the
Borough Office.**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!!!

Heidelberg Borough is now on Facebook. We urge residents, business owners and anyone interested in your Borough government to become our friend on Facebook. The Borough will be posting reminders, news-flashes and other community events on our "Wall". Search us as "**Heidelberg PA**" Heidelberg Borough Council envisions Facebook as an additional tool to keep in touch with our constituents – this remains in addition to our award winning quarterly newsletters, website (www.HeidelbergBorough.com), voluntary email subscription program and the community message boards.

In regards to our voluntary email program – we need more email addresses of interested residents! If you are interested in receiving news-flashes, community event info, updates and Council meeting agenda's directly in your email account – please send your contact info to HeidelbergBorough@hotmail.com



NEW WITHHOLDING REQUIREMENTS FOR EARNED INCOME TAX – ACT 32 OF 2008

How it affects Heidelberg residents and employers.

Act 32 of 2008 is a Pennsylvania law that was passed with the intention of simplifying the way local earned income tax is paid and collected throughout the state. The law will affect taxpayers, employers, municipalities, school districts, and tax collectors across Pennsylvania.

The most significant change of Act 32 is the consolidation of local earned income tax collectors. Act 32 requires all taxing jurisdictions within a specified geographical boundary to jointly select just one tax collector to serve the entire area. Each of the areas is called a "Tax Collection District" (TCD). Heidelberg has been placed in the Southwest Allegheny County TCD, which includes all Allegheny County municipalities and school districts that are entirely located south and west of the Monongahela and Ohio rivers. That means Heidelberg will share the same earned income tax collector as our neighbors in [Upper St. Clair, Mt. Lebanon, Moon, Robinson, and Jefferson Hills] to name a few.

Although Act 32 was passed in 2008, the major changes will not go into effect until the 2012 tax year. Therefore, all taxes attributable to 2011 earnings will still be collected under the current system (including the 2011 final returns that are due April 15, 2012).

How will this impact taxpayers?

First, the consolidation means that all Heidelberg earned income tax will continue to be collected by a single tax collector. Jordan Tax Service has been appointed as the tax collector for the Southwest Allegheny County TCD. Therefore, both the municipal portion (0.50%) and the school district portion (0.50%) of Heidelberg's earned income tax will be collected by Jordan Tax Service.

Another significant change is that your employer should begin withholding the local earned income tax from your paycheck. Currently, many of you file and pay your local earned income tax on a quarterly basis because your employer does not withhold the tax from your paycheck (this is common throughout Pennsylvania). But under Act 32, all Pennsylvania employers will be required to withhold the tax. This will eliminate the need for most taxpayers to manually make a quarterly earned income tax payment. Taxpayers who are self-employed or work outside of Pennsylvania will continue making manual quarterly payments.

How will this impact employers?

All employers will be required to withhold local income taxes for all of their employees, regardless of where the employees live. Employers will be responsible for identifying each employee's residency and proper tax rate. Employers will have to provide that information to the tax collector quarterly along with the tax payments. Employers that have at least one location within the Southwest Allegheny County TCD must register with Jordan Tax Service.

How can I learn more?

Taxpayers and employers can learn more about Act 32 by visiting Jordan Tax Service's special Act 32 website at: www.jordantax.com/act32. You can also call Jordan Tax Service 412-835-5243 or 724-731-2300. More information is also available through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development's website at www.newpa.com (search for "Act 32").

FIREHOUSE NEWS— Updates from the Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department

HVFD FUND DRIVE

Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department will be holding our annual Fund Drive campaign in September. HVFD depends on your donation to fulfill our yearly budget. Every year residential donations are on the decrease while our budget continues to rise. Your monetary donation is needed now more than ever!!!

1st Annual Splash Festival

Saturday, September 3, 2011 at the Ellsworth Avenue Park—Food / Games / Fun / Water Battle Tournament

Heidelberg / Scott Township Firefighters Cash Bash

The 2011 Cash Bash will be on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM at Saints Simon and Jude Gymnasium, 1607 Greentree Road, Pgh, PA 15220. There will be \$500 drawing every 15 minutes and \$3000 Grand Prize drawing at 11:00 p.m. Food and Refreshments are included in the \$20 per person admission ticket. For tickets please call (412) 292-6710 or stop at the fire station on Thursday evenings.

First Annual Heidelberg / Scott Township Firefighters Gun Bash

Saturday, November 19, 2011 doors will open at 11am and the drawings will begin at 12pm and every 15 minutes after. Tickets will be \$25 a person and will include Food/Beverage/Fun. Grand prize will be \$2000 CASH. For tickets or more information please call (412)292-6710.

FREE SMOKE DETECTORS

HVFD has received a grant to provide free smoke detectors while supplies last to Heidelberg residents. If you wish to have a new smoke detector installed at your residence please call (412)276-5955 and leave a message. A firefighter will contact you to schedule an appointment.



HVFD Thursday Night Bingo

Doors open at 5:30pm Early Birds start at 7pm sharp. We run special deals every week. Our ladies Auxiliary serve great food all night long. Come and support your Fire Department BINGO.

Heidelberg Borough Police Department's 2011 Summer Updates

As the summer of 2011 is quickly coming to an end and school will be starting shortly there are a number of topics and issues that the police would like to address in regards to police reports taken and observations by the police officers on patrol.

To date the Heidelberg Police Department has responded over 587 calls from residents, business establishments or other incidents and taken 483 police reports to date with four months still left to go on 2011.



New Heidelberg Police Cruiser—paid 90% with Grants

Police have come into contact with more DUI drivers traveling through Heidelberg this year than last. There has been a steady increase in the transient population due to the Borough having two hundred rental units not to mention the traffic both vehicle and persons on foot going to the various stores and malls in Scott Twp and Collier Twp and other destinations daily on Route 50. Officers have still observed many vehicles with their windows down all night long parked on the streets creating an opportunity for thefts of items in the vehicle or the vehicle itself. Garage doors of residents left open all night, bikes, lawn mowers and other items left in yards and on porches within the community. Everyone needs to secure their residents at night and put bikes and personal items in a secured garage or shed. Identity theft is up and has affected a number of residences here in Heidelberg as well as Mt Lebanon and the City of Pittsburgh. Everyone needs to monitor your credit reports, charges on monthly bills and make sure you protect your social security number, date of birth and credit information. Everyone needs to be aware of scams, suspicious emails and offers in the mail and on the phone.

Complaints of dogs running loose at large and young juveniles on their bikes speeding through intersections and jumping off curbs into traffic lanes not stopping as required by law even on a bicycle, putting their lives at risk of serious bodily injury or death. We won't even get into the emotional trauma of the driver of the vehicle that may strike that juvenile or that of the parents whom the police will have to inform regarding that accident. The bigger picture is the drivers speeding, not coming to complete stops at stop signs or red lights, and keep in mind you can turn right at red if it is not posted NO TURN ON RED, but you must come to a complete stop first, look both ways then you can turn on red. Just too much out and out distracted driving. Drivers too preoccupied with texting, talking on cell phones, looking trying to find street signs, trying to eat and drinking that morning coffee while driving and yes even looking at the morning newspapers.

Police have encountered more overdoses via prescription med's usually belonging to a parent or other persons. Parents need to know what their children are up to at all times and keep account of all prescriptions, medications and should destroy any unused medications to keep them out of the hands of curious children or their friends that may be visiting. The same can be said regarding alcoholic beverages in your home, it needs to be locked up and out of the children's sight and access. Parents need to educate their children about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and cigarettes, not just leave it up to the teachers or for your children to learn about these things on the street. As everyone has seen on the news more and more situations of attempted child abductions or encounters have been occurring and this is another issue to educate your children about as to what to do if they are approached by a stranger.

Keep in mind with school starting shortly **now** and this is the time for you to have those discussions you have been putting off with your children regarding all these issues. If you need help or advice on how to approach your children in regards to these issues, you can contact the police whom will setup an appointment to meet with you or with today's technology go to the internet for all the examples you need from professionals on down. Keep in mind your children need to hear it from you and you need to set an example and guidelines to follow. Learn how to talk to your children, it's great that you want them to be your best friend, but they need a parent first.

Vernon Barkley, Chief of Police

Smoking Now Banned from Parks and Borough Property



At the July Council Meeting, the members of Heidelberg Council adopted Ordinance No. 597 that prohibits the smoking and / or lighting of any type of tobacco on or within the Heidelberg Parks and the Borough Buildings. The idea for this legislation came from a request made to the Borough Council from Tobacco Free Allegheny in aim to eliminating children's exposure to secondhand smoke at local public parks and playgrounds.

There will be "Young Lungs at Play – Tobacco-Free Zone" signs going up at all of the parks within the next couple of weeks. To facilitate an area for smokers there will be a designated smoking area outside of Heidelberg Park in the parking area. This area will be duly posted and an ashcan will be provided. Persons caught violating this newly created smoking prohibition within the municipal park system can be subject to \$600 fine.

Foreclosure Help is Out There

Through the Federal Emergency Homeowner's Loan Program, persons facing foreclosure have an avenue for help to turn to. The program will offer a declining balance, deferred payment "bridge loan" (non-recourse, subordinate loan with zero interest) for up to \$50,000 to assist eligible homeowners with payments of arrearages, including delinquent taxes and insurance, plus up to 24 months of monthly payments on their mortgage principle, interest, mortgage insurance premiums, taxes, and hazard insurance.

Eligibility:

The homeowner has incurred a reduction in income due to involuntary unemployment, under-employment or medical reasons. (Current gross income must be at least 15 percent lower than pre-event income.)

Current household income must be equal-to-or-less than 120 percent of Area Median Income
Homeowner must be at least three payments delinquent on his/her first mortgage or have received notice of an intention to foreclose.

Homeowner must have reasonable likelihood of being able to resume payment of the first mortgage obligation within two years and meet other housing expenses and debt obligations when the household regains full employment.

The property must be owner-occupied and be the homeowner's principle residence. The mortgaged property must be a single-family residence (one-to-four unit structure or condominium).

For additional information and applications, please call 2-1-1 or 1-800-552-4171.

WHAT LANDLORDS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR HEIDELBERG RENTAL PROPERTY

The Borough would like to remind our landlords and rental property owners in Heidelberg of their responsibilities. Having knowledge of five basic principles, will allow you peace of mind to your rental property operation.

TENANT REGISTRATION: All Landlords are responsible to complete a property registration form upon the change of occupancy and during the operating license renewal period for each of your rental units. This provides the Borough with the most recent census information of whom is living within the Borough and any emergency data that would be needed should there be an emergency incident at your location.

OBTAINING RENTAL OPERATING LICENSE / INSPECTION EVERY 3 YEARS: All rental units are to be inspected by the Borough's Building Official every three years for health, safety and property maintenance code compliance. The next round of inspection and registration starts in January 2012.

BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX: The rental earnings from your Heidelberg properties are subject to the Borough's Business Privilege Tax which is 1 mill on your gross rental earnings.

AWARE OF BOROUGH'S NUISANCE PROPERTY ORDINANCE: Excessive Police and Code Complaints from your property can subject the landlord's property to be deemed a "Nuisance Property" whereby the property owner will end up being responsible to reimburse the Borough for public services rendered to the location (i.e.: Police Calls, Building Inspector Investigations...)

GENERAL CODE COMPLIANCE: All properties are to be kept to the basic standards of the Borough's Property Maintenance Code. Accordingly, you are expected to be a good neighbor and cut your grass, don't leave your trash cans at the curb all week, keep up the curb appeal of your property and shovel your snow.

All of these simple principles are governed by the Heidelberg Code of Ordinances. Accordingly, violators are subject to fine and penalty, and in some cases fines can reach in excess of \$1,000. These laws make for a safer and sustainable community. With a little bit of pride in your properties, common sense and a responsible tenant, owning a piece of rental property in Heidelberg can truly be beneficial.

Do you know where your children are and what they are doing?

With this warmer weather and longer days Heidelberg youth and parents need to be reminded about the Borough's curfew laws. The Borough of Heidelberg has an Ordinance that puts into law the curfew for children under 18 years of age.

The curfew of the Borough is that is unlawful for any person 17 or fewer years of age (under 18) to be or remain in or upon the streets, right-of-ways, public grounds within Heidelberg at night during the following time periods ending at 6:00 AM and beginning:

- 10:00 PM for minors 11 or fewer years of age,
- 10:30 PM for minors 12 or 13 years of age,
- 11:00 PM for minors 14 or more years of age.

There are various exceptions for the curfew including: when the minor is accompanied by a parent, accompanied by an authorized adult by the parent, etc. Violation of the Curfew Ordinance is punishable by a \$600 fine.

Earlier this year, two of our community's youth vandalized the gazebo in Heidelberg Park. Thanks to the efforts of good Samaritans and the security cameras in our parks, the two young men were identified, prosecuted and their parents were held accountable for their children's actions. Both sets of parents ended up paying restitution to the Borough in the amount of \$524 for the necessary repairs that were needed to the gazebo as result of these children's acts of vandalism. We would like to remind our parents that they are responsible for their children's actions even though they might not be in your sight...



FONTANAFEST 2011

If you have never attended FontanaFest before, then what are you waiting for? Mark your calendars now and plan to join me on Saturday, September 24th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at South Side's Riverfront Park (bottom of 18th Street at the river) for the 7th Annual event! Best of all, it's FREE!

I began this event shortly after my election as a way to celebrate our rivers and riverfront parks and to highlight all of the things that children and families can do on and near the rivers, and in our region, as a family. Attendance has exceeded 1,000 in the past few years and those attending get to enjoy a day full of activities, food, giveaways and appearances.

Thanks to Pittsburgh Water Limo, FontanaFest will include rides on our three rivers – and you can visit with the PA Fish & Boat Commission to take a canoe out on the Monongahela. Pittsburgh River Rescue will also be on hand for a dive demonstration and talk about river safety and you can discover other ways you can enjoy our rivers and trails with Riverlife and Friends of the Riverfront.

Each and every participant has an activity geared at children and there is a lot going on. The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium will be on hand with a few of their animals to liven up the event, the National Aviary will have a dove release, Healthy Start Pittsburgh returns with an inflatable Moon Bounce and cotton candy machine, and there are plenty of activities at booths by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, the Technology Collaborative, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – and more. Stop and enjoy a chair massage as you make your way through FontanaFest, get a blood pressure screening and learn about consumer protection resources available to you. You may even wander upon a mascot or two as they greet attendees and show off in public. There will also be a DJ and a procession the Soldiers & Sailors' 6th Regiment USCT Drum Corps. While you are taking it all in, get some food and sign up to win one of several door prizes.

These are just a few highlights of the family-friendly event. There are dozens of other participants and sponsors and more are being added all of the time. Come out and see what these wonderful organizations in our community have to offer. You can get also get updates by logging onto www.FontanaFest.com, "liking" us on Facebook, and following us on Twitter (@FontanaFest). I hope to see you there!



DID YOU KNOW A TREE COULD:

Trees improve the curb appeal of a neighborhood, increasing real estate values by 5 to 20 percent!

Planted to the south and west sides of your house, they can lower air-conditioning costs by 10 to 15 percent.

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM STATE REP. NICK KOTIK

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DEC. 31

I am happy to announce that the deadline to apply for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended from June 30 to Dec. 31, 2011.



The program provides state rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2010 to eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit to qualify is \$35,000 for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters. Applicants must count all sources of income toward the limit, but only half of any Social Security, Supplemental Security or federal railroad retirement Tier 1 benefits toward their total income.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

My staff is available to assist constituents who need help completing the forms. Applications are available at my offices or online at www.revenue.state.pa.us or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

MY OFFICES CAN ALSO HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
 - Information on financial assistance for higher education
 - Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
 - Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
 - Birth and death certificates
 - Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
 - Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
 - Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
 - Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
 - Complaints and problems with insurance companies
 - Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
 - Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

HELP US HELP YOU

Contact Rep. Kotik's Coraopolis office at 412-264-4260 or his Carnegie office at 412-429-5091.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATES

I would like to update everyone regarding some progress being made within the community with a wide array of public improvements that are both wrapping up and are about to be let within Heidelberg. As a resident or business owner, you should have great pride in the efforts being made by your members of Borough Council and Mayor for their dedication to see such rewarding community initiatives through. To summarize just some of the more interesting projects the Borough has been active with, the projects run from major road resurfacing, to new equipment, and even housing development.

2011 Road Paving Program

The 2011 Road Paving Program included the reconstruction of Plum Way, Cherry Way and half of Washington Street from First Street to Third Street. This \$137,265.87 project was let by Borough Council earlier this year to A. Folino Construction. Of this project, the work on Washington Street was the necessary road repairs from the gas line replacement project by Peoples Gas Company. The Borough included this work within our program to ensure a better price for the Gas Company and to make sure that the repairs were to the Borough's specifications and likings. The Washington Street improvements cost \$67,791.75 and have been paid for by Peoples Gas through the Borough. The Borough's share of this project of \$69,474.12 was made possible through the Borough's Road Fund and General Fund appropriations. This project was completed the first week of August, and truly improved accessibility, drainage and let alone the atmosphere in the project areas.

Park Comfort Station Building Construction Project

As part of the Master Park Plan, the Borough was able to secure a \$46,500 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the construction of a permanent restroom and concession building at Heidelberg Park. This grant is a matching grant, where the Borough is matching the project from the Park Fund. The facility includes separate facilities for men and women, a field kitchen, and the necessary asphalt improvements to tie the facility into the walking path within the park. The building is to be block construction, painted to match the pavilion and is to be set next to the Horseshoe Pitch. Construction is anticipated for late this year or early 2012.

East Railroad Street Scope Project

The design of the multi-municipal street scape project along East Railroad Street (PA Rt. 50) is progressing quite well. Borough Officials meet every other week with our neighbors in Scott and Carnegie with the design staff to work out the necessary planning and specifications for the construction of this major and all-so transforming Borough project. We are on schedule for design to be complete by Christmas of this year. Design includes plans for a sidewalk on the west side of Route 50, decorative street lighting, various landscaping, street trees, a linear park along the Lamar Advertising property and other amenities to improve and create a true downtown setting for Heidelberg. The streetscape improvements are planned for construction next Summer.

New Police Cruiser

Through two grants received, a \$20,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development made possible by Senator Wayne Fontana and a \$10,000 grant from the PA. Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Borough was able to procure a new 4x4 police cruiser. The new unit cost \$34,571, with such we were able to offset this purchase with another \$1,000 donation from the Southwest Communities Credit Union Police Golf Outing. Therefore, this new police cruiser only cost the Borough Treasury - \$3,571. The other 4x4 unit has also been upgraded for the HPD K-9 Unit.

1606 West Railroad Street Housing Development Project

The Borough with our partners at Allegheny County Economic Development have just acquired the property at 1606 West Railroad Street for the purposes of building another single family home on this site, similar to the homes previously built on Grant Avenue. We were able to secure 100% grant funding to raze the previous two houses that were on this site, thus making the property ready for construction. Construction is anticipated to start in late September, with the house being complete in early 2012. Interested home buyers are urged to contact my office at 412-276-0363.

First Street ADA Ramps Replacement Project

We were able to secure a \$10,542 grant that will enable the Borough to replace 10 Americans with Disability Act (ADA) ramps on First Street and one on Third Street. These ramps are to the new ADA code that includes reduced slopes and special detection equipment for the visually impaired. The goal of this project is to improve walkability in the First Street corridor to connect it to the improvements proposed for Route 50. The project is expected to be completed late this fall or early in the Spring 2012.

Public Works Garage Project

The Borough Council is in the process of initiating the complete reconstruction of the Borough's Public Works Garage. The current facility located behind the Borough Bldg is in need of extensive repairs. Accordingly, preliminary estimates by the Borough's retained architect are that reconstruction of a similar style block garage that has a second floor loft and connects to the Borough Building is roughly \$202,000. The Borough Council has already been able to secure and appropriate \$125,000 for the project and is in the process of pursuing low-interest governmental loans to fully fund the project. Design is anticipated to take place throughout the rest of the year with construction hopefully in 2012.

Sewer System Improvements

As the Borough is now nearing the end of the construction portions of the Court Ordered Administrative Consent Order over our Sanitary System, operation and maintenance efforts are now unfolding. In the past weeks, we were able to secure \$7,000 from Congressman Tim Murphy to complete manhole rehabilitations. These works were completed on Lincoln, Washington, Ellsworth and Collier Avenues. Other projects planned for this year include continuation of the cleaning and routine cameraing of the system, development of a feasibility study to analyze the system flows to ALCOSAN and deficiency repairs that are found in the portions of the system that are televised.

Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance Revision Project

2011 has been a year of monumental planning initiatives in our Community. Not including the \$275,000 design of the three community street-scape project, the Borough was able to secure \$71,000 for a multi-municipal comprehensive planning and zoning effort. Members of the Heidelberg Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (Mayor LaSota, President of Council Ray Losego, Planning Commission Chairman John Mahalchak, Dawn Cindric and myself) have been meeting monthly with our neighbors in Carnegie and Scott to put forth ideas and plans that expand public efforts in the Heidelberg, Carnegie and Scott commercial cores, walkability improvements, recreations and flood mitigation efforts and housing. The plan is anticipated to be adopted later this year with the zoning ordinances being completed in early 2012.

I hope that this article brings you up to speed on just some of the many interesting projects and programs unfolding here in Heidelberg. As always, if I could ever be of assistance please do not hesitate to call or stop by my office.

Respectfully yours,

Joe Kauer, Borough Manager

TAX COLLECTOR'S DESK

2011 Chartiers Valley School District Property Taxes were mailed the first week of July and should have been received by now. 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 (residence or mortgage company) as provided by Allegheny County. Every effort is made to mail statements to the property owners, but if it is mailed incorrectly, it is still the responsibility of the property owner to pay the taxes on time.

2011 Chartiers Valley School District Real Estate Tax Payment Schedule:

- Due at Discount: 7/1/2011 – 8/31/2011
- Due to Face: 9/1/2011 – 10/31/2011

Due at Penalty: After 10/31/2011 – a 10% penalty is added to 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:

1. First Payment must be received prior to: 10/15/2011
2. Second Payment must be received prior to: 12/15/2011
3. Third Payment must be received prior to: 02/15/2012

Final Payment must be received prior to: 04/15/2012

Installment payments are only permitted on any parcel valued to \$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.

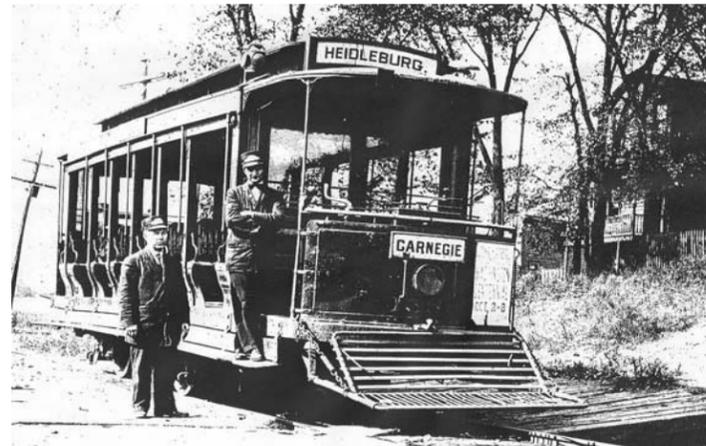
Act 50 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion:

Real Estate Tax Assessment reductions have been authorized by the Chartiers Valley School Board for the year beginning July 1, 2011 under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program. If you registered, with Allegheny County Office of Property Assessments prior to March 1, 2011 for the exclusion in this program, your tax bill reflects a reduction of \$101.90 from the original assessment. This tax reduction has been funded from slot money tax revenue received from the State. If you have not registered, and feel that you meet the residency requirements for this program, you can secure an application from my office. This will enable you to receive the reduction next year. The homestead exclusion can only be claimed on one place of primary residence. When the use of a property approved as homestead or farmstead changes so that the property no longer qualifies for the exclusion, the property owner must notify the Assessor within 45 days of the change in use. Any person who filed an application that now contains false information because the property is not their primary residence and does not notify the assessor of this change could be required to: 1) pay the taxes which should have been due plus interest, 2) pay a penalty equal to 10% of the unpaid taxes, 3) if convicted of filing or not advising the Assessor's office of a change could be found guilty of a misdemeanor and sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$2,500.

Heidelberg Borough Property Taxes Reminder:

2011 Heidelberg Borough Property Taxes are now due at penalty. Starting August 1, 2011, a 10% penalty must be added to the face amount on all unpaid Borough Taxes. 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



Pgh. Railways – Heidelberg Trolley circa 1930's.

REMEMBER WHEN....

Did you know that the Pittsburgh Railway's trolley line separated Heidelberg's East and West Railroad Streets – hint the name "Railroad Street". The trolley system ran in the Borough from the early 1900's through 1959. The trolley would travel from Pittsburgh to Heidelberg, making the turnaround behind the old Oasis Restaurant where the present-day Walgreen's Drug Store is located.

If you have Heidelberg memorabilia and stories you would like to share for future generations, please contact the Borough's Historian and Curator of the Heidelberg Historical Society, Councilman Bob DeBar at 412-735-6897.