

# Heidelberg Highlights

Volume No. 34 Spring 2011

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LET'S REDD UP HEIDELBERG SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011 – 8:30AM

In effort to keep the Borough of Heidelberg a beautiful place to live, work and play, the Borough will be conducting its fourth annual "Let's Redd Up Heidelberg". The event will take place on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 starting at 8:30 AM meeting at the Ellsworth Avenue Playground.



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

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

### **Earth Day - Every Day**

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

## Trash Collection Day Moved to Thursdays

Its been sometime now since the change of trash collection day from Wednesday to Thursdays, however there are still many residents who keep putting out trash on the wrong day. Effective Thursday, February 3, 2011 – residential trash has been picked up on **Thursdays**. Holidays that will effect the scheduled Thursday pickup include Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving. During these weeks, trash collection will be postponed one day to be picked up on Fridays.

Residents are reminded that contributing to the orderliness of our municipality is a community affair. Ordinance No. 565 regulates the times when containers for garbage and rubbish can be placed to the curb line. Garbage containers and other containers for garbage and rubbish may not be placed at the curb line until 5:00 PM of the day previous to the day set for collection of residential garbage. Emptied container can be left at the curb only until 9:00 PM the day of collection. **The emptied containers must be brought back from the curb line** and placed at their normal storage place, abutting or in the residence at all other times. yard. Do not place your containers at the front of your property

## Heidelberg is now "StormReady"

At the February Council Meeting, the Heidelberg Borough Council and Mayor LaSota were presented with "StormReady" Community signs by representatives from the National Weather Service. Through the efforts of Heidelberg Borough Council and Mayor, Heidelberg is now the second municipality in all of Allegheny County to be designated as such, other than Heidelberg – Pittsburgh is the only other "StormReady" community in the County. Furthermore, Heidelberg is the ninth municipality in the entire State to be designated such by the National Weather Service.

To be designated as Storm Ready, Heidelberg Emergency Management completed a multitude of projects and initiatives including: created a severe weather operations plan for the Borough, equipped the Borough Office with a weather radio, weather monitoring equipment, implemented information notification procedures, maintains the Heidelberg Flood Warning System, trained over 20 of our staff and fire-fighters and "Skywarn" Weather Spotters, completed weather exercises in September and routinely brief the public at our meetings about weather incidents and precautions.

The Borough is proud of our "StormReady" designation and thanks everyone who helped make it happen. In conjunction with being designated as "StormReady", the Borough is currently working with FEMA on efforts to reduce flood insurance premiums for our property owners as result of our many emergency management initiatives.

Per the National Weather Service, StormReady Communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives.



*From Left to Right*, Councilman Bob DeBar, Councilman John Duda, Councilman Ray Losego, Mayor LaSota, Councilman Al Kosol and NWS Meteorologist Fred McMullen

## A MOMENT WITH THE MAYOR

Rebecca and I hope all is well. Just a few developments to review that have come my way in the last few months that offer me the opportunity to better serve and promote Heidelberg in my capacity as Mayor. Three exciting opportunities have presented themselves: First, I have for nearly eight years, on and off, represented Heidelberg as its voting member on the Board of Directors of SHACOG, the South Hills Area Council of Governments. SHACOG serves 17 communities from Moon Township to South Park. SHACOG works to allow the member communities to purchase materials and services at a discount by buying in volume and also acts as a forum for the communities to solve common problems, such as, intergovernmental safety concerns and police protection. In January, the member communities voted me to serve as Vice President of SHACOG. This one year position is truly an honor and allows me to better present Heidelberg's perspective and point of view at our monthly meetings. Second, since my election 13 years ago, I have had interactions with the LGA, the Local Government Academy. This organization serves as a vehicle to offer training seminars and courses to local elected officials. In 1998, I graduated from their signature program, the eight week long, 120 hour, Newly Elected Officials Course, or the NEOC. Since then, I have attended at least one LGA seminar, program or event each year. In 2004, I was asked by the LGA to serve as an instructor in their NEOC program and help train newly elected mayors concerning various aspects of their duties and responsibilities as a mayor. In, November of last year, I was invited to serve as a member of the LGA Board of Directors. This two year position again allows me to continue my interaction with the LGA but also allows me to help promote Heidelberg to a wide range of area elected officials, educators and non-profits leaders. Lastly, this February, I was invited by the Chartiers Valley School District to be a founding member of their newly established CV Education Foundation. The Education Foundation is to be a Board independent of the CV School Board to help foster educational excellence at CV. The Education Foundation, which is composed of concerned citizens from with the four member communities of the CV District, and beyond, is charged with establishing endowments and other funding programs to help strengthen CV's education programs, its community out reach programs, its athletic programs in terms of student athletes' academic advancement, and other charges as well. As a 1973 graduate of CV, Captain of its soccer team in 1973, a local educator at Robert Morris University, and the mayor of one of the CV member communities, I hope I can meet the high expectations of this Foundation. In addition, as a member of the Education Foundation during this three year term, I hope to help ensure that Heidelberg's concerns and issues are always present in the Foundation's deliberations. Well enough about these three new and exciting challenges that I have undertaken that hopefully will allow me to help promote our lovely little town. I just hope that Rebecca forgives me as I now have three more monthly meetings I must attend in addition to the four to five I attend now. Perhaps she and I can become pen pals and communicate via letter while I'm away. Take care and May God Bless.

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

## 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](http://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](mailto:HeidelbergBorough@hotmail.com)

## Heidelberg Borough Police Spring Update



As we head into spring and then summer shortly thereafter the Heidelberg Police have been busy over the winter months handling the increasing number of issues brought on by the current economy, those people wanting to live their lives through modern chemistry either by buying, selling or using those illegal substances and the ever increasing battle in regards to DUI's., domestics and over the past months reports of attempted child luring in our neighboring communities. Through the support of the Mayor, Borough Council and the tremendous job of budgeting and grant writing by Manager Joe Kauer the police have been able to put extra patrols out on various evenings to help detour those many potential criminal elements that pass through our streets at night on a regular basis as you sleep. High visibility, numerous arrests which we put in the police blotter, security cameras, and the help from many of the citizens here in Heidelberg whom have called and reported suspicious activities, we have maintained a safe and secure community with a no nonsense reputation within the surrounding communities that being, "if you break the law in Heidelberg you will caught, you will be arrested and they will take you to jail." The Heidelberg Police have come a long way over the past six years in large thanks to the resident's and their calls and concerns. We have progressed with our K-9 program, with officers whom take pride not just in doing a good job but in the concerns of this community. The officers have been making an effort to become more community oriented, stopping and talking to the community and spending time getting to know the business people. We have reduced the speeding on many streets and those that haven't gotten the message yet will sooner or later it's just a matter of time we have no intentions of lightening up on violators that put our community at risk. We are hoping for all of you a safe summer and we are hoping you will continue to call **911** when you see suspicious activities and or persons you don't feel comfortable about in our community. Remember to let the police know when you are going on an extended vacation, need welfare checks on loved ones living in our community or just need advice or have concerns in your neighborhood. Help us help you in keeping your neighborhoods safe and secure. Call **911** when you see anything suspicious.

Chief Vernon M. Barkley



# 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2010 was a year of great progress for Heidelberg Borough, with your Borough Councilmen and Mayor undertaking many legislative matters, community events, projects and developments all in aim in making our community a better place to live and work.

The following are highlights of some of the many community improvements and initiatives that were made possible in 2010:

## **Public Safety**

Mayor and Council created the Sergeant's position within the Police Department and appointed Dennis Dixon to such. The HPD was awarded special LCB funding for increased patrols and made available new equipment to the Department including new breathalyzer equipment, laboratory equipment, new bulletproof vests for all of the full-time officers and other crime prevention materials. The Fire Company made many initiatives including procuring a new Squad Unit, attracted new volunteers and was recognized for the third fastest EMS response times in the County for Ambulance requests. In 2010, the Borough was also faced with two disaster incidents. In early February, two large snow storms paralyzed the town so bad the Mayor LaSota declared his second in his career history "State of Emergency". The snow storm caused substantial property damage and made significant budgetary constraints to the Borough. The second large scale incident was the June 3<sup>rd</sup> rains that caused the 1900 block of Washington Street to flood, many trees to come down and substantial power outages. In the realm of Public Safety, the Borough Council also enacted a Nuisance Property Ordinance and created a Board of three citizens to hear appeals to such.

## **Community Redevelopment**

The Borough's Redevelopment Committee made possible the development of the two new houses at the corner of Grant Avenue and Hayes Street through a partnership between the Borough, Allegheny County Economic Development and Action Housing. Other accomplishments included the 100% grant funded demolition of two flood-ridden homes at 1606 West Railroad Street and two vacant, tax delinquent lots, were put back on the tax rolls through the Borough's participation in the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program. We also welcomed the grand opening of Holzer Jesko Roofing at 1901 Washington Street. They have made considerable improvements to that property and should be commended for their efforts. In regards to the Route 50 streetscape project – the Borough was able to secure an additional \$250,000 in grant funds for sidewalk improvements and selected Trans Associates to complete the design of the project.

## **Planning**

Heidelberg Borough Council was active in 2010 to pursue community planning initiatives that have been long overlooked in our Borough. Through spearheading a multi-municipal project, Heidelberg was awarded two grants totaling \$71,000 for the creation of the first ever Heidelberg Comprehensive Plan that will lay the groundwork from everything from bringing about community redevelopment to improving public services. Other planning work included the Borough's partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to undergo a Borough-wide greenscape plan to allow for street trees and other garden projects.

## **Public Works Projects**

The Road Committee made possible the Cherry Lane Storm Water and Paving Restoration Project that corrected a run-off problem that was causing the Cherry & Madison intersection to fail. The Committee also enabled the reconstruction of Virgin Way. New handicapped ramps were added to Route 50 including improvements to the First Street traffic island that will allow for a small roadside garden this summer. Many sewer repairs and projects were completed including multiple open cut projects throughout the Borough and a large emergency repair at the top of Lincoln Avenue was undertaken. Council also enabled a contract that opened up the clogged storm sewer system on Route 50 near First Street.

## **Administration / General Government**

The Borough Council was awarded in 2010, statewide recognition for winning second place titles for both our Borough newsletter and website. Also regarding recognitions, Councilmen Kosol and Duda were recognized by the State Borough's Association for their 10 years of service as Councilmen. Another municipal budget was adopted without a tax increase, and there were 18 Resolutions and six Ordinances adopted by Council. The Borough Staff was able to secure \$576,689.21 in outside grants for multiple community initiatives. A new Borough Fund was created in 2010 for the purposes of improving our Business District, and the Council ended the year with a surplus that has been transferred to savings accounts for 2011 projects.

## **Parks / Community Events**

In 2010, the Recreation Committee spearheaded 12 community events including, our First Night of Lights, Halloween Parade, Movies in the Parks, Memorial Day Festivities, Grand Opening of Heidelberg Park – Community Picnic, a Rain Barrel Workshop and the Community Cleanup Day. They added many new amenities to the Parks including the Heidelberg War Memorial, a new slide and community message board. The Borough also added security cameras to the Parks in 2010 and was awarded funding to construct a restroom building in Heidelberg Park in 2011. They also contracted for a field maintenance program to help control weeds in the Park.

In retrospect, your members of Borough Council, Mayor and Staff have undertaken many community projects this past year that will have a lasting impact in Heidelberg. Through effective budgeting and planning, 2010 is merely a prelude to the many wonderful projects planned for the next couple of years. As always, the Council is looking for interested volunteers to help serve on the necessary committees and groups that ensure making these projects and initiatives possible, let alone successful.

## From the Office of US Congressman Tim Murphy

In the Fall of 2010, I received in my office a letter from Mayor Ken LaSota conveying to me his concerns regarding the proposed construction of a sewage storage facility currently under consideration for Heidelberg Park. The Mayor's letter was accompanied by a petition signed by many Heidelberg residents sharing the same concerns with locating the proposed five to nine gallon sewage storage tank in the borough.



Under the federal consent decree, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has mandated the elimination of all sanitary sewage overflow throughout the Commonwealth. The Allegheny County Sanitation Authority (ALCOSAN) was issued a consent decree by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2000, and per a U.S. District Court order in 2008 has been developing a plan for full implementation of control and maintenance of runoff for its 83 municipalities by 2013.

While ALCOSAN has identified the sewage storage tank in Heidelberg as a "high priority location," I am deeply concerned that a small community like Heidelberg would have great difficulty bearing the brunt of this project. And I was further surprised and dismayed to learn that the excavation that would be required to construct this tank would cut right through our ongoing efforts to revitalize the Route 50 corridor. We've worked long and hard on securing the investments both locally and federally to complete the revitalization project and I will press hard to stop those efforts from being undone.

Most importantly, the community of Heidelberg is a densely constructed area that could have residences a mere 25 feet away from the location of the tank. The impact could be unbearable for residents, severely damaging the value of property and the quality of life for families far into the future.

In response to receiving the Mayor's letter and resident petition, I sent a letter to ALCOSAN relating your concerns along with my own and seeking further deliberations with the officials (local, state and federal) on the proposed site. As a follow up to my request, in January, I met with Mayor LaSota, Heidelberg officials, and ALCOSAN to discuss their plan, and what the short and long-term effects of placing the tank in Heidelberg would be to the residents and the surrounding communities. Questions still remain on the cost of using alternate sites and who will be responsible for maintenance of the proposed holding facility in the future.

And so our efforts will continue. Please know I share your concerns and that of the community and have committed to the Mayor my support at the federal level to find alternatives to the proposed site in Heidelberg.

I will continue working with the Mayor and Borough Council, as well as representatives from ALCOSAN and the federal government so you have a voice at the table from your Congressman. However, your voices are the most important, so please keep in touch with my office as these developments continue.

Respectfully,  
Tim Murphy  
United States Congress  
18th District—PA

## NEWS FROM THE FIREHOUSE

Friends, Family and Neighbors,

The Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department is proud to announce that we were recently recognized by the PA State Fire Commissioner's Office as a silver level participating department. This certification is awarded to department's who have a 75% or higher level of firefighters with state level training and certifications. Of the over 1000 departments in the state, the HVFD is one of only 31 to have obtained this level of training and certification.



We would also like to invite each and every one of you to come and play our new and improved bingo. In addition to moving bingo to Thursday evenings beginning at 7:00, we have also increased the prizes and made the games more enjoyable. To kick off our new format, we will be having a special \$10 ALL YOU CAN PLAY card night on April 7 beginning at 7:00 pm. Remember that this is just one way to help support your local fire department.



In addition to our annual Good Friday Fish Fry, this year the HVFD will be holding fish fry's on Ash Wednesday and then every Friday throughout lent. Our famous potato and cheese pierogi's are available during every fish fry. For Good Friday, we ask that you please preorder your pierogi's by calling (412) 276-5955 or (412) 722-6314.

Along with the potato and cheese pierogi's we will also have sweet cabbage and sauerkraut available on Good Friday.

Our department in conjunction with East Carnegie VFD will be hosting a Night at the Races on Saturday, April 2, 2011. Admission tickets will be \$20 a person and will include food, beer, beverages, horse races, and live entertainment. Horses will also be sold for \$10 and the winning horse in every race will receive a \$30 prize. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket or horse please contact Chief Joseph Wissel at (412)292-6710.



HVFD and our ladies auxiliary are look for volunteers to help with our ongoing events. No matter if you are a 9-5 worker, a retired grandfather, or a high school student looking to complete your community service hours volunteering with your fire department will be a great way to give back to the community. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact us by E-mail at [sta170750@aol.com](mailto:sta170750@aol.com) or give us a call at (412)276-5955.

The officers and members of HVFD would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support .

## Bagsters for Sale at Borough Office

Heidelberg Borough now offers Waste Management "Bagsters" at the Borough office. A Bagster is really just a dumpster in a bag. Cost is \$29.95 per Bagster. Each bag holds up to 3300 LB / 3 cubic yards of debris. Once filled, users can call 1-877-789-BAGS or go online at [www.thebagster.com](http://www.thebagster.com) to schedule reliable collection from Waste Management. The removal and disposal cost in Heidelberg for Bagster is \$99; payable directly to Waste Management. The Borough only sells the bags.

The idea of the Borough selling the bags is that it makes for a convenient stop when applying for Building Permits, Zoning Permits or if the trash crew doesn't pick up your items for weekly pickups as it would be beyond what's normally authorized (i.e.: building materials, large yard waste, etc.) What makes Bagster so special is that you have the "dumpster" at your convenience, and that you are not paying for any rental fees or on anyone else's project calendar. It is suggested that once in use, your bag is not placed directly under any power lines, is on a level spot and is close to the road or driveway so that crane/hauler can access the bag safely.



The Bagster program accepts the following debris for removal: construction and demolition debris, household junk, heavy debris and yard waste. Generally not accepted items include: appliances, batteries, chemicals, liquids, fuels, medical waste, railroad ties, tires, hazardous or toxic waste, hot materials, and asbestos. A detailed list of what is and what is not acceptable is available for review at the Borough office.

## BOROUGH TO PROVIDE DROP-OFF LOCATION FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE ON EARTH DAY WEEKEND

**On Saturday, April 16, 2011**, the Borough will make available and provide two 30-yard dumpsters for residents to dispose of various household waste that they couldn't otherwise dispose of during weekly pick-up. **We hope that you take this opportunity to clean up your yards and property.**

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

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

This service is provided by the Heidelberg Borough Council and Mayor in conjunction with their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Let's Redd Up Heidelberg / Earth Day efforts to clean up and beautify Heidelberg; making our town a safe, clean and pleasurable place to live, work and play.

## From State Senator Wayne Fontana

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, I joined with my fellow Senate Democrats in unveiling a six-point proposal that is aimed at helping businesses create jobs, rebuilding the state's aging infrastructure and energizing Pennsylvania's economy. Our plan will spur the creation of over 28,000 jobs, leverage over \$2 billion in new private investment, and will result in more than \$150 million in general fund savings.



The program, PA WORKS, focuses on six core areas: Small Business, Workforce Training, Critical State Investments, Clean & Green Energy, Infrastructure Investment and Tax Fairness. As Democratic Chairman of the Senate Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development, I was part of the working group that developed these issues and coordinated the legislative proposals.

Some of you may wonder what this has to do with you, or the Borough of Heidelberg, at all, but it is exactly what it does have to do with you that makes it so important. Your community promotes Heidelberg as a safe and friendly place and a great place to call home or to locate a business. There are already 45 such businesses listed on your municipal website that have taken advantage of what the borough has to offer. Wouldn't it be great to make that list even longer?

That's what this plan does. In this economy, job creation remains the number one issue in our Commonwealth. As elected officials, we should look at every issue through a "job creation lens" and determine whether proposals grow Pennsylvania's economy. We must also be mindful of our state's current budget challenges as well, which is why much of our focus was on identifying what works and finding the resources to continue those investments, while eliminating or re-focusing what doesn't work.

Small businesses are an important part of this plan. They are the lifeblood of our economy. We are friends of small business and want to encourage their development because we know that a thriving small business sector is essential to Pennsylvania's economic recovery. Our plan focuses on removing unnecessary impediments, competitive disadvantages and red tape, and providing additional resources to allow these companies to help themselves -- and our state's economy.

Job creation and economic development must be at the forefront of our legislative agenda this year. A strong economy is the best medicine for our Commonwealth and I pledge to work with my colleagues, in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle, to move the Commonwealth forward.

As always, I look forward to communication with you on this and other issues that are of interest and importance to you.

# Planning for the future in Heidelberg Borough

The Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for Heidelberg Borough, Carnegie Borough and Scott Township is moving ahead with planning and workshops. The project started with public meetings in Carnegie on September 15 and Heidelberg on September 20. You told us at the Heidelberg meeting that the following were the most important actions that needed to be taken:

- Improve appearance of downtown buildings in Heidelberg and to encourage new businesses
- Provide better connections to Chartiers Creek
- Enhance facilities (playground equipment, lighting, etc.) in Heidelberg Park
- Redevelop empty lots in residential areas for new housing

To better understand the issues and begin understanding the goals and strategies to address these concerns, a series of issues-oriented workshops have been held. In the fall, we met to discuss flooding and ways to enhance Chartiers Creek as a recreational amenity. We conducted a "Walkability" workshop to sort out three concerns, (1) access throughout the community, (2) trail opportunities and (3) strategies for addressing public health through exercise. This winter, we conducted workshops on strengthening business districts in Heidelberg and Carnegie Boroughs. This spring, we are looking for opportunities to enhance Carothers Avenue in Scott Township and strategies for improving housing in all three communities.

During the workshop focused on economic development for Heidelberg, one area of opportunity is for developing a mix of land uses including retail, services and new housing between Route 50 and Chartiers Creek. The former Ghelarducci's Garden Center site presents a unique opportunity for new development that can have a positive impact on the future of Heidelberg.

Once we complete the issues-oriented workshops, Pashek Associates will work with the steering committee from all three municipalities to further define priorities. Then we will invite residents this summer to join us in a careful review of the ideas generated by the working groups and consultant. It is important for residents to offer opinions on the future of the Borough. We look forward to talking with you as the plan evolves and positive changes take place.

## 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.**

## Public Works Department Acquires a Backhoe



The Borough Council is making great steps to expand public services and fully develop our Public Works Department. During 2011 Budget talks last fall, the Borough Council expressed a desire to purchase a backhoe for the Public Works Department. The idea was to start to complete many of the storm sewer repairs in house, allow for material storage such as stone, cold-patch, and mulch, have equipment for small excavation work, be able to complete emergency debris removal work during heavy snows or natural disasters, provide for an emergency salt storage pile should our main salt source at Scott Township be unavailable (i.e.: late callouts or fires), provide for miscellaneous lifting and unloading, and to assist with many park projects through bulk commodity purchases.

The Council shopped around all makes and models of equipment in search of the best piece of equipment for the Borough. A decision was made at the February Council Meeting to purchase a JCB Model 3C-14 Backhoe / Front-end Loader through the State's Costar's "piggy back" contract program. The backhoe is also coming with a special pickup broom attachment for small street sweeping projects. Through discussions of Council it is envisioned that this piece of equipment will save our Public Works time and the taxpayers' funds as we will not have to rent a machine, do more repair work in house rather than contracting it out, and we can get bulk commodities rather than making 100 trips to get mulch to complete park improvements. The goal is to have this machine for over 20 years. The purchase price was \$73,363.60, paid over five years at \$15,760 per year. Delivery of the machine is expected mid-April, and will be in-service come May once the Public Works Supervisor completes training on the machine provided by the equipment dealer.

## HEIDELBERG PARK PAVILION AVAILABLE TO RENT FOR PARTIES, GATHERINGS AND OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS

Just a reminder that the Heidelberg Park Pavilion is available to rent for your parties, gatherings and any other special event you may have. The pavilion has tables with a seating capacity of 65+ people, electric, water, and a barbeque grill. The rental fees are: \$75 for Borough Residents, \$100 for Non-Residents, \$25 for Alcohol Permits and there is a refundable Cleaning / Security / Key Deposit of \$50. Pavilion Rental Permits are given out on a first come, first serve basis for any date within the current calendar year, and are currently open for scheduling. The Borough also lends out a horseshoe set and bocce set with the pavilion rental at no charge. Applications and additional details about renting the pavilion are available on the Borough website, [www.HeidelbergBorough.com](http://www.HeidelbergBorough.com) on the "permits page" or can be picked up in the Borough Office during normal business hours.

## Mayor LaSota presents Larry and Annie Klein with 2010 Mayoral Service Recognition Award.

For all of their good deeds throughout the Borough including helping their neighbors out and shoveling snow away from countless fireplugs, around the parks, bus stops, public steps, etc. – Council and Mayor recognized the Klein's for their hard work. They were presented with a new snow shovel in addition to the Service Award proclamation at the February Council Meeting.

The proclamation from Mayor LaSota reads:

*To All Persons to whom these presents may come, Be It Known that Mr. Larry Klein and Mrs. Annie Klein of 1809 Walnut Street hereby are recognized by the Mayor of the Borough of Heidelberg for their contributions to the Borough and for their service to their neighbors during the 2010 calendar year.*

*From time to time during 2010, Larry and Annie did act on many occasions to help their neighbors in Heidelberg with their daily chores and the upkeep of their homes and property. They did on many occasions work with others to provide assistance to the Borough, her Police Department, and her Volunteer Fire Department to help undertake, organize, and run a variety of events, parades and activities. They did on many occasions during the winter snows, work to clear sidewalks and other public areas of snow. Moreover, as has been their pattern for the last several years, Larry and Annie did work diligently with the Public Works Department as part of the Borough's Annual Earth Day Celebration to help plant trees, clean the streets, and altogether make Heidelberg a cleaner, safer, healthier and more environmentally friendly community. These and other activities and contributions and services offered by Larry and Annie during 2010 have shown their love for Heidelberg and her citizens. It is caring and compassionate citizens such as Larry and Annie that add immensely to the quality of life and small town charm of the Borough of Heidelberg, and acts to truly make them deserving of recognition.*

*Therefore, as Mayor of Heidelberg, and on behalf of all of the Citizens of Heidelberg, it is with a great sense of gratitude and pride that I recognize Mr. Larry Klein and Mrs. Annie Klein with this Service Recognition Award for their Service to their Neighbors and to the Borough of Heidelberg.*



Mayor LaSota, Annie and Larry Klein receiving Award

## **NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM STATE REP. NICK KOTIK**

### **PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE**

Applications for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program are now available to senior citizens and other qualifying residents. The program provides state rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2010 to eligible Pennsylvanians 65 and older; widows and widowers 50 and older; and people with disabilities 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security, Supplemental Security, or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. The deadline to apply for a rebate is June 30. Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1. All residents who received rebates last year should have received applications in the mail by now. Applications are also available at any of my offices, online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) or by calling 1-888-222-9190.



### **NEW LAW CAN SAVE LIVES OF SENIORS AND VULNERABLE CITIZENS**

Late last year, a bill aimed at saving the lives of seniors and other vulnerable residents was signed into law. Act 126 establishes the statewide Missing Endangered Person Advisory System, which will alert law enforcement, the public and public agencies about vulnerable residents who become lost. With nearly 2 million senior citizens living in Pennsylvania, I believe this system will save lives, particularly senior citizens with Alzheimer's disease and other disorders. MEPAS is modeled after the successful Amber Alert system, which is used when state police determine a kidnapped child is in imminent danger. In fact, the success of the Amber Alert system led to this law. Lawmakers worked to forge a single notification system for cases other than Amber Alerts to avoid having a number of different alerts that could create confusion and weaken the effectiveness of all the systems.

If a loved one with a physical or mental condition or disability is missing, regardless of age, you will be able to call local law enforcement to activate the Missing Endangered Person Advisory System. Law enforcement agencies can request activation of the system when they believe public assistance is needed to locate missing, at-risk individuals. The Pennsylvania State Police is responsible for establishing guidelines for operating MEPAS, as well as educating local law enforcement agencies and the public about its availability.

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

## TAX COLLECTOR'S DESK

THE 2011 HEIDELBERG BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX STATEMENTS WERE MAILED AND SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2011.

**THE TAX MILLAGE RATE FOR 2011 (8.5 MILLS) IS THE SAME AS 2010.**

PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR STATEMENT, AND BELIEVE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SENT TO YOUR RESIDENCE. **I DO NOT KNOW IF YOUR STATEMENT IS MISSING UNLESS YOU CONTACT MY OFFICE**

**ALL STATEMENTS ARE SENT TO THE ADDRESS OF RECORD (RESIDENCE OR MORTGAGE COMPANY) AS PROVIDED BY ALLEGHENY COUNTY.** HOWEVER, IT IS STILL THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER TO OBTAIN AND PAY THE TAXES ON TIME. I DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE PENALTY OR INTEREST CHARGES THAT OCCUR AFTER THE DUE DATES.

*2011 HEIDELBERG BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENT SCHEDULE:*

1. DUE AT DISCOUNT - ON OR BEFORE 5/31/2011
2. DUE AT FACE— 6/1/2011 TO 7/31/2011
3. DUE AT PENALTY - AFTER 7/31/2011, A 10% PENALTY MUST BE ADDED TO THE FACE AMOUNT.

My office is continuing to work on delinquent accounts to bring them up to date and eliminate the need to pursue legal action with the Magistrate. **This program has been successful and continues to save our residents the additional burden of court costs by settling delinquent tax years with my office.**

We understand that many are facing difficulties. The Borough and Tax Collector are willing to work with these accounts to not only collect delinquent taxes but eliminate additional costs. Our goal is to bring delinquent accounts up-to-date before the property must be lien-ed. If you are behind, please contact me immediately to review your Borough Tax Account and establish a reasonable payment schedule.

### **2011 ALLEGHENY COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN TAX RELIEF (ACT-77)**

If you are a Senior Citizen and have not participated in this program which gives a flat **30% discount off your gross County Real Estate** you have until **JUNE 30, 2011** to apply.

Forms are available in my office or you can contact Allegheny County Treasurer John Weinstein's office directly at (412) 350-5901.

To qualify:

1. Applicants or their spouse must be 60 years of age or older.
2. Have a combined total household annual income of \$30,000.00 or less using 50% of Social Security to determine that amount.
3. Must be the owner/occupant of the property seeking relief.
4. Owned and occupied a primary residence in Allegheny County for the previous (10) years or more.

SHOULD YOU HAVE A QUESTION ON YOUR CURRENT TAX STATEMENT, PRIOR YEARS STATEMENTS OR RELATED MATTERS, PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE AT (412) 276-5413.

TED R. GAZDA, REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR

## American Community Survey Estimates for Heidelberg Borough

Mayor LaSota would like to pass on some interesting data he received from the US Census Bureau about the Borough that were generated through the most recent American Community Survey. All figures are the most recent estimates in regards to our demographics. Please be minded that there are various areas of range as it relates to this data. The full report is available for review at the Borough Office.



Population of the Borough – 1,249  
Veterans living in Heidelberg – 154  
Foreign Born Citizens – 15  
Married Males – 49.6%  
Married Females – 46.6%  
People who speak other than English at Home – 36  
Average Household / Family Size – 2.92  
Population that is 25 years old or older – 877  
Percent bachelor's degree or higher – 17.3%  
Total housing units – 576  
Owner Occupied – 390 / Renter Occupied – 142  
Median Value of Owner Occupied Unit - \$85,000  
Median Family Income - \$52,321  
Percentage of People below poverty level – 13.3%  
Number of people who are in the labor force – 684  
Mean travel time to work – 18.2 minutes  
Median Age of Resident – 38.90 years old  
Population that is 65 years and over - 183  
Number of White Race – 1,195  
African American – 14

## Regional Earned Income Tax Collection Update

Heidelberg Borough through directive of the Pennsylvania State Legislature is now part of the Southwest Allegheny Tax Collection District. What this means to you is that starting January 1, 2012 – earned income tax that was collected by Berkheimer on the behalf of the Borough and School District are going to be collected through the new regional tax collector of the Southwest Allegheny Tax Collection District. The Tax Collection District is a new effort within the Commonwealth and is made up of delegates from each municipality representing their Borough's interest in the now regional collection of Earned Income Tax. The District's delegates from Heidelberg include the Borough Manager, Joe Kauer and Council President, Ray Losego. The District has appointed Jordan Tax Service as the new earned income tax collector for the area. This means that if you live in Heidelberg, Scott, Mt. Lebanon, to even as far out as Jefferson Hills, West Mifflin or Duquesne – it's the same tax collector. Jordan Tax Services currently works for the Borough as our lien-ed real estate tax collector.

To make the process easier for both the taxpayer and the municipalities, the new law requires all employers to withhold and submit accordingly the 1% local earned income tax from its employees within its payroll. The only exception would be for self-employed folk. Additional details will be following in subsequent Borough newsletters as we get closer to the Berkheimer-Jordan Tax transfer. Details such as delinquent Earned Income Tax and the other Act 511 taxes such as business privilege, per capita and local services tax still need to be negotiated.

## Residential Electricity Savings Program

You may have heard or read about the Residential Energy Program that Energy Savers, Inc. has designed to reduce electric bills on the Duquesne Light system. Energy Savers, Inc., has done all the work of comparing prices and selected TriEagle Energy as the preferred supplier in the Heidelberg area. Energy Savers is launching a program, which will offer a discounted rate of 7.17¢/KWH, a 24 month term, for a limited time only. This represents a savings of almost 20% below Duquesne Light's Price to Compare (PTC); most households will realize savings in excess of \$100 per year.



Everything you need for enrollment can be found on your Duquesne Light bill. Enrollment is easy and can be completed online. Simply enter a small amount of information about yourself from your electric bill, select the length of contract, read a plain language "Disclosure Statement", and with a mouse click agree. Enrollment is complete and savings will commence with your next meter read. You will continue to receive a single bill from Duquesne Light, but at a substantial discount.

To sign-up, follow the link to the ESI/supplier's website: <http://www.energysaversinc.com/HEIDELBERG>

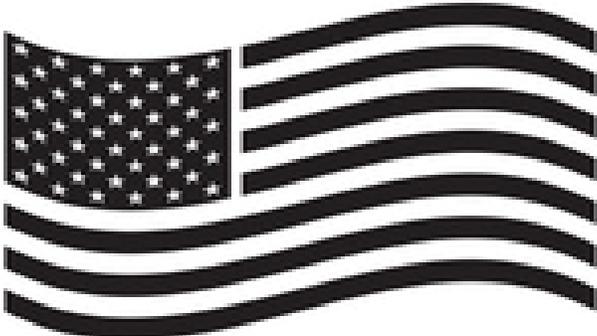
For households without computer access or who are otherwise unable to sign up online, registration forms are available in the Borough office. The entire program is designed to simplify a complicated selection process and avoid the confusion of shopping or being pressured by sales people. This program provides the lowest price available and is an unpublished private-offering only available to municipalities through Energy Savers, Inc. The program is **100% voluntary** and no one is under any type of obligation to participate.

## Heidelberg Borough Council recognize the recent achievements of both Mayor Ken LaSota and Tax Collector Ted Gazda.

In recent months, Mayor LaSota has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Local Government Academy and has been elected as the Vice President of the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG). The Local Government Academy (LGA) is an independent non-partisan organization that promotes excellence in local government. The LGA spearhead many training programs for municipal officials, offers various planning grant programs and helps support good government in our region. SHACOG is a voluntary organization of municipalities located primarily in the South Hills corridor of Allegheny County. SHACOG's purpose is to meet at regular intervals to discuss and study community challenges of mutual interest and concern. Members seek, by agreement, solutions to common problems for their collective benefit. We are proud of the Mayor's recent accomplishments and service to Heidelberg. These appointments will truly help aid in the Borough's pursuit to better the quality of life for our citizens.

Members of Borough Council would also like to congratulate our Tax Collector, Ted R. Gazda in becoming a "Qualified Tax Collector" in Pennsylvania for 2011. To become designated "qualified", Ted had to complete many training hours in various courses including: Procedures for Collecting Taxes, Act-25, Auditing, Accounting, Ethics, Computerization, Recent Court Decisions, and Local Tax Collection Laws. He also had to pass a certification exam that he took back in November in Meadville that was given by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services in consultation with the Pennsylvania Tax Collectors Association.

As of January 1, 2011 – there were only 382 "qualified collectors" certified in the entire Commonwealth. We are proud of Ted's achievements as through his extraordinary efforts the Heidelberg Tax Office is an efficient operation that truly upholds the highest values of integrity, accountability and community service.



## Primary Election Day

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\***

**Remember to Vote – it's our Right!**

Heidelberg Polling Location – HVFD Hall, 456 First Street  
Voters Registration Forms as well as  
Absentee Ballot Applications are available  
at the Borough Office.