

Heidelberg Highlights

Volume No. 36

Spring 2012

Heidelberg's First Comprehensive Plan Gets Adopted

Borough Council and Mayor are proud to report that the Borough's First Comprehensive Plan was adopted on February 21st by unanimous vote. This plan is a multi-municipal effort between Heidelberg, Carnegie and Scott Township, and was paid for with over \$71,000 worth of grant assistance from the State and the Local Government Academy.

The Heidelberg, Carnegie and Scott Plan is a multi-faceted blueprint that will shape the next thirty years of the Borough's history. The HCS Plan outlines many improvements dealing with recreational projects and ideals on improving Chartiers Creek, elements of walkability, plans to redevelop the core commercial districts in Heidelberg, Carnegie and Glendale and other items aimed at improve the quality of life for our citizenry.

The HSC Plan was a thorough effort spearheaded by a special steering committee appointed by Council made up of members of each community. Heidelberg was represented by Mayor Ken LaSota, President of Council Ray Losego, Planning Commission Chairman John Mahalchak, resident Dawn Cindric and Borough Manager Joe Kauer.

Interesting projects in Heidelberg call for a comprehensive redevelopment of the east-side of Heidelberg focused on the area between Route 50 and Chartiers Creek. It is proposed to strategically invest in a development plan that would construct a series of new housing including both apartment and townhouse style dwellings, and a core mixed-use development to Heidelberg's east-side. The entire development would focus upon a greenway and trail along Chartiers Creek that would connect to the Borough's west-side. Another impressive project outlined within the plan is the creation of a waterfront area along Chartiers Creek in the proximity of First Street for fishing, canoe access and passive amenities to allow the community to sit and enjoy the creek.

The Borough strongly encourages the residents to check out the Comprehensive Plan. It is available for inspection in the Borough office or on the website, www.HeidelbergBorough.com on the "Borough Information" page. The next phase of this project is the total redrafting of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. The Heidelberg Zoning Ordinance has areas that need to be revisited to keep up with new technology, changes in development principles and areas of concern over the past twenty-some years. This project will continue throughout the summer with the new zoning ordinance aimed at being complete and adopted by year's end.

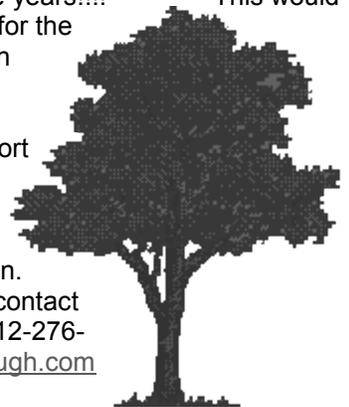
5TH ANNUAL LET'S REDD UP HEIDELBERG SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012 – 8:30AM

In effort to keep Heidelberg a beautiful place to live, work and play, the Borough will be conducting its fifth annual "Let's Redd Up Heidelberg". The event will take place on Saturday, April 21st, 2012 starting at 8:30 AM meeting at the Ellsworth Avenue Playground.

The goal of this event is to pick up litter, 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. We are excited to keep this community effort going for now five years!!!! This would not have been possible if it wasn't for the many volunteers who help out each year!

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



Earth Day - Every Day



PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

**TUESDAY
APRIL 24, 2012**

POLLING LOCATION

Heidelberg VFD Hall
456 First Street
7:00AM to 8:00PM

Voters Registration Forms Available at the Borough Office.

East Railroad Streetscape Project PROGRESS!!!!



There has been much progress made with the design of the East Railroad Streetscape Project along Route 50 in our central business district. Over the past few months the project was designed to stay within the grant budget and within the Borough's means. Heidelberg's portion of the construction budget will include approximately \$817,000 worth of improvements.

To keep the project in budget and also yet attractive and functional, the scope has been reduced to include the construction of a new sidewalk along the entire west side of Route 50 (from First Street to Collier Avenue within the present-day white fog line to curb area,) and a core streetscape project between Second and Fourth Streets. This section of East Railroad Street will have decorative street lights, trees, a monumental staircase connecting West Railroad Street to "Downtown Heidelberg", street furniture, concrete bump-outs, decorative crosswalks, painted out parking spaces, landscaping along the present-day Lamar hillside, new ornamental signage / posts and areas of sidewalk restoration.

The project is currently in final design-mode. This is where the retained project engineer's, Trans Associates, prepares the necessary bid specifications, contract documents and specifies the smaller details on the construction drawings. It is anticipated by PENNDOT to put this project out to bid by May with the project being awarded in hopefully mid-summer. It is hoped to have construction then begin by September of this year!!!

The Borough Council and Mayor are extremely excited about this historic project as it will aid as a catalyst to sustain and enhance our commercial district, improve pedestrian safety and will showcase Heidelberg to the 18,000 motorists who use Route 50 daily on how beautiful and special Heidelberg really is!

2012 Municipal Budget

The 2012 Heidelberg Borough Budget is composed of two main components, one being the operating budget made up of the Borough's General Fund, Sewer Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund and Rental Fund. The second component is the Borough's Capital Budget which mainly operates out of the Borough's capital savings accounts and with grant funds.

The 2012 Operating Budget is a balanced plan that is projected at \$1,253,767.39. The General Fund which provides all of the core municipal services such as public safety, public works, code enforcement, parks, tax collection, general government, debt, and insurances accounts for \$728,542.91. The General Fund was balanced for the seventh consecutive year **without** a tax increase. The Borough's Sewer Fund is projected to bring in and allocate \$413,700.16. The Sewer Fund covers the costs associated with wastewater treatment, operations and maintenance of the sewer systems (both sanitary and storm) and the necessary permitting / compliance required by the regulatory agencies. Liquid Fuels Fund totals \$44,255.03 and is primarily responsible for the operation of the Borough's street lighting system (annual operational costs of \$26,400), maintenance and operation of the traffic signals and it also allows for the purchase of various public works equipment. The last component of the Borough's operating budget is the Rental Fund. Heidelberg's rental funds is truly unique when compared to other local governments. This fund allows for the independent operation of the Borough's rental property on Industry Way and East Railroad Street. This rental fund sustains all of the necessary debt payments and operational costs while allowing for substantial public benefit projects in the community. The funds from the Rental Fund have historically aided in the construction of Heidelberg Park and the purchase of the new Public Works / Community Room facility.

The Heidelberg Capital Budget Plan is a multi-year blueprint that enables substantial public projects in our community. The 2012 Capital Budget is worth \$1,553,738.00. Projects scheduled for construction and to be paid through the Capital Budget this year include the following: the East Railroad Streetscape Project, the Public Works / Community Room Facility procurement and build-out, construction of the Heidelberg Park Comfort Station (restroom / field kitchen building), sidewalk ramp improvements and the 2012 road paving projects.



The 2012 Municipal Budget is available for public inspection on the Borough website, www.HeidelbergBorough.com on the "Borough Information" page and also in the Borough Office.

A MOMENT WITH THE MAYOR

Just a few items that may be of interest: To begin, it is with a good deal of pride that I convey two items of police business. First, Adam Helf, a full time officer in the Heidelberg Police Department (HPD) for over four years has left the HPD for a full time position in the Scott Township Police Department. While with the HPD, Adam received several commendations from me, and significantly, one from the Collier Township Police Department as well. Collier awarded Adam its Medal of Valor for his response to the L.A Fitness shooting that occurred in Collier a few years ago. Adam was the second officer to respond to the shooting and entered the scene when the disposition of the shooter was not known and the situation was a “shots fired, man with a gun situation”. On behalf of all Heidelbergundians, I wish Adam well in his new position. Secondly, I would also like to report that Adam Nida has joined the HPD as its newest full time officer. Prior to joining Heidelberg, Adam worked as a part time officer in McKees Rocks. Adam is a graduate of Kent State University and joins Sergeant Dennis Dixon, a graduate of Duquesne University, and Steve Minton, a graduate of Thiel College, as our complement of well trained and highly credentialed full time police officers.



Mayor LaSota Swearing-In Officer Nida

Moving on the Route 50 streetscape project, all signs point to the project getting underway this year. The new Route 50 corridor within Heidelberg should prove to be a signature statement for our town as people drive through. With new sidewalks, ornamental light poles, decorative benches and planters, and a three block long linear rain garden, the project should make Heidelberg an even more appealing and pedestrian friendly community than it already is.

Concerning my duties and contributions as Mayor, since the last newsletter, I was elected to a one year term as President of the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG). SHACOG is a collection of seventeen area communities that work together to make local governments work more efficiently and professionally for the betterment of the nearly 170,000 residents who live within the SHACOG communities. I was also recently appointed to a one year term as Vice President of the Heidelberg Planning Commission. As a member of the Planning Commission, I will be able to bring your voice to the table as Heidelberg considers and plans for its future development.

On a personal note, the First Lady, Rebecca Stanhope, had her left knee replaced on Friday the 13th of January. Far from an unlucky day, Rebecca is back home recuperating from the surgery and hopefully will be back to walking laps around the Heidelberg Park in no time.

Well, that is all for now. May God Bless and keep us all.

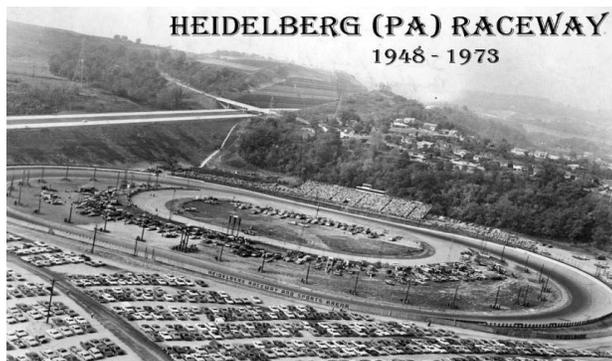
Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth A. LaSota, Ph.D., Mayor

We Need Your Help! Heidelberg Recreation Committee

Spring is planning time for the many wonderful community events made possible by the Heidelberg Recreation Committee. The “Rec-Committee” is made up of residents and Borough officials alike, and is responsible for organizing and coordinating Borough-sponsored community events. These events include: Family Nights in the Park, Memorial Day Ceremony, Cleanup Day, Halloween Parade and Party, Oktoberfest, Garage-sale Days, and Light-Up Night.

Help is always needed, and nevertheless appreciated, with both the planning and working the events. New ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Over the past couple of years we have heard many nice compliments from residents and visitor, and we have used this to build and make the events a little better each year. The Rec-Committee seeks interested residents, business owners, students to help continue the many wonderful programs here in Heidelberg. If you only have time to assist with one event or during certain months, please do not be confused, we value new input. The Heidelberg Recreation Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month, 6:15PM in the Borough Office Conference Room.

Roadside Historical Marker to Commemorate old Heidelberg Raceway



The Borough was successful in securing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission approval for a State Historical Marker that would commemorate the Heidelberg Raceway and the final act of the traditional circus under tent by Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1956.

The sign, which is funded 100% through donations received, is set to cost over \$1,800. The marker will be erected at the Borough line in the newly created small rock-garden created by Lowe's, between the King's Restaurant and Walgreen's Pharmacy. It is planned to have a dedication ceremony on Sunday, July 15, 2012. Details about the event will be forthcoming in the coming months. We would like to thank the following donors that funded the sign project: Walmart, Steinberger Floors, L. Thomas Towing, Pittsburgh Circle Track Club, Woltz and Wind Ford, Mr. David Kohler, Pittsburgh-Pennsylvania Motor Speedway, Lowe's, and a donation made in the memory of Mr. John McCarthy.

Heidelberg Raceway, located in both Scott Township and Heidelberg Borough opened in 1948. It was sanctioned by the Pittsburgh Racing Association, and home to four NASCAR races. To this day Heidelberg Raceway still holds many national records, including the highest finish by a female driver in NASCAR and first father / son – 1st / 2nd finish (Lee and Richard Petty). The raceway was home to many other venues, including the historic final act in our nation's history of the traditional circus under the Big Top when Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus decided to modernize on July 16, 1956.

SAVE THE DATE
MARKER TO BE DEDICATED
Sunday, July 15, 2012

Details to be Announced Shortly!!!!

Did you know....? *A Lesson on Early Heidelberg Disasters from the Heidelberg Historical Society*

On the site of the current-day Industrial Park at the corner of Ellsworth Avenue and Industry Way, the home to Heidelberg's largest employer, Collier Foundation's, was once the Aetna Chemical Company.

The Aetna Chemical Company played an important role in our Borough's and Nation's history. The Company manufactured explosives for the war-needs during World War I. On December 5, 1917 there was a massive explosion at this site where fifteen workers and a little girl were killed, and 20 more people both employees and residents of close proximity were seriously injured. According to the Pittsburgh Post from December 6, 1917, "(This event is) ...one of the most terrific explosions that has occurred in the Pittsburgh district in years, in the "TNT" house of the Aetna Chemical Company, at Heidelberg, at 3:12 o'clock yesterday afternoon." It was believed that a leak in blower pipe number one, which carried acid into one of the large kettles containing nitrate, was the cause of the explosion. At first response, it was a concern by the US Army that this was potentially a domestic attack during the on-going war effort.

The little girl that perished as result of the explosion was Sophie Wykowich, aged 6, who lived across the street from the site, was killed instantly when struck by a piece of flying metal, which came through a window in her home. Reports state that many people had miraculous escapes from death and injury. Even a street car loaded with men and women, standing at the entrance of the Heidelberg Bridge on East Railroad Street were jolted so that it was raised from the tracks, according to Edward Alexander, trolley conductor.

A later incident in 1928 when the mill was working as the Carnegie Refining Company is similar to the 1917 explosion, when a series of explosions caught fire to the plant. Two firefighters from Stowe Township were killed responding to Heidelberg to assist our firefighters put the fire out. The fire damage was estimated at \$500,000.00 and the loss was fully covered by insurance. According to reports the plant was fully reconstructed.

The Heidelberg Historical Society is seeking community input and volunteers to help organize displays in the new community room that is currently in the works in the new Public Works facility. If you are interested in helping with the Borough's Historical Society or donating artifacts to the cause, contact Borough Historian and Councilman, Bob DeBar at 412-735-6897.



From State Senator Wayne Fontana

A Word on Small Games of Chance

Recently, legislation passed the General Assembly, and was signed into law by the Governor, that will increase prize limits for

small games of chance for the first time in 23 years. Under House Bill 169 (HB 169), the maximum cash value for a daily game would increase from \$500 to \$1,000 and a weekly game from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Monthly raffle limits will also increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

During these hard economic times when most local organizations' budgets are being cut, the changes to the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act will help many of Pennsylvania's nonprofit organizations raise needed funding. Whether it be veterans' or fraternal organizations, religious groups, or civic or service associations, the new limits will help keep them afloat as most of the money will be returned to the community with an effect that can benefit us all.

HB 169 will also allow a volunteer fire, ambulance or rescue organization that is not a club licensee to be eligible to receive 10 special permits. In addition to the \$100,000 yearly prize limit for special permits, these particular organizations will be able to award up to \$50,000 from raffles which will not be subjected to the total aggregate limit.

The legislation does require that organizations use 70 percent of the proceeds for activities and operations and the remaining 30 percent to pay property taxes, utilities, mortgages or insurance. The proceeds cannot be used to pay wages or purchase food or alcohol.

You can stay informed about legislation, issues and other events throughout the district by signing up to receive my weekly News & Views. To receive the News & Views, please visit my website at www.senatorfontana.com and provide your email address on the home page.

Senator Wayne D. Fontana, 42nd Senatorial District



NEW HOME FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNITY ROOM PLANNED FOR 2012

The Borough Council has just recently procured the property at 1639 and 1643 East Railroad Street for the purposes of creating a new home for our Public Works Department and also the creation of a small community room.

Through a comprehensive study to determine the feasibility of reconstructing the current public works garage that is located behind the Borough Building, it was determined that project which would cost in excess of \$210,000 would limit the space of the proposed building to the current footprint of the very-cramped existing facility. At this same time, through discussions with our neighbor on East Railroad Street, the Borough Council made an offer to procure the two properties for \$270,000. The site was the home to the former South Hills Engraving and is a two story office building and a single family house on the adjoining lot.

The purchase of this property was made possible through \$115,000 of rental funds accrued over the past years through the rental operations at the Mabey Bridge and Shore property owned by the Borough on Industry Way and a \$155,000 note through Fidelity Bank. The house at 1643 East Railroad Street will continue to be rented out to help offset the monthly debt payment, as well as the entire second floor of the office building at 1639 East Railroad. This purchase and newest community amenity was completed without any Heidelberg tax-dollars!

The first floor of the "Public Works / Community Room Facility" is to be renovated in-house by Borough staff. Approximately 60 percent of the ground floor will be the new Public Works Garage, leaving the remaining space to be developed into a small community room. The community room will have a meeting space for roughly 40-50 people and will be a great location for smaller events such as our Council Meetings, community group affairs and small family get-togethers. This room will also enable a site for the Heidelberg Historical Society to display their artifacts and treasures.

It is a goal of the Borough Council and Mayor to have the Public Works Garage and Community Room all built-out come mid-summer this year. The 2nd floor office space is available to rent immediately. It includes approximately 2,980 square feet of spacious floor space, its own kitchen, restrooms, and a conference room. All of the utilities are separate from the first floor. If you are interested in renting the second floor space, please contact the Borough Manager, Joe Kauer at 412-276-0363 to arrange a tour.

<<<— **New Heidelberg Public Works & Community Room Facility**

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

THE 2012 HEIDELBERG BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX STATEMENTS WILL BE MAILED AS SOON AS AVAILABLE AND SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2012. **THE TAX MILLAGE RATE FOR 2012 (8.5 MILLS) IS THE SAME AS 2011.** 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.

2012 HEIDELBERG BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. DUE AT DISCOUNT | ON OR BEFORE 5/31/2012 |
| 2. DUE AT FACE | 6/1/2012 TO 7/31/2012 |
| 3. DUE AT PENALTY | AFTER 7/31/2012, 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.

2012 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, 2012** 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

BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW TAX COLLECTOR FOR ACT 511 TAXES

The Heidelberg Borough Council has appointed Jordan Tax Services as the Borough's new Act 511 Tax Collector, replacing long-serving Berkheimer Associates. Effective with all 2012 due taxes, outside of Real Estate Taxes collected by Ted Gazda, they will be collected by Jordan. These taxes include delinquent Earned Income Tax, Local Services Tax, Business Privilege / Mercantile and Per Capita Taxes. Your current Earned Income Taxes will be collected by Jordan through the Borough's participation in the Southwest Allegheny Tax Collection District.

Final payments for **fourth quarter 2011** (4-2011) are to be sent to Berkheimer by April 15th.

Business residents will be contacted directly by Jordan Tax so that appropriate accounts can be set up for your business taxes. Should anyone have any questions regarding the transition of Act 511 Tax Collectors, they are urged to contact the Borough Manager's office.





Rep. Tim Murphy **Fighting To Save The** **911th**

The 911th Air Force Reserve Station is one of the most valuable bases in our nation's network of defense sites, both in terms of mission support and cost effectiveness. But shockingly, under a recent budget reduction proposal released by the Pentagon, the 911th in Moon Township could be closed.

I am doing all I can to stop this closure because of what the base delivers for our region and our nation.

The 911th employs hundreds of civilians and pumps \$113 million into the local economy in furtherance of its mission to operate eight transport planes known as C-130s. More than \$50 million has been invested in the 911th on medical training and aircraft maintenance facilities recently. The Pentagon plans to build a \$13 million Navy Operational Support Center on the 911th grounds, and just this past December, we received final approval to construct a new commissary one-half mile from the gate of the 911th. This will bring even more jobs and economic opportunity right here in our own backyard.

The Air Force revealed the decision to close the 911th was made without any cost-benefit analysis showing closure would be in the best interest of the taxpayer or part of a bigger military strategy.

We need to be cutting the waste at the Pentagon, not taking away vital resources and equipment from our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines across the country and overseas. Cost-cutting can start in Washington, DC to keep our local bases open. The Project of Government Oversight found that Defense Department would save \$300 billion over the next ten years just by cutting service contractors and consultants by 15 percent. I going to keep working to cut waste at the Pentagon in Washington, so we can keep open the 911th and not close one of the most cost effective military bases in the country.

Towards that end, I introduced H.R.3911, which would block the relocation of seven C-130 aircraft at the 911th. This bill ensures the Air Force must provide more information for Congress to make decisions about the nation's defense based on data, not politics.

There's a long way to go before this fight is over, and I am going to give everything I have to keep the 911th's military capabilities, 1,300 reservists and 318 civilian jobs right here where they belong in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

HEIDELBERG BOROUGH POLICE **HIGHLIGHTS**

At the start of this New Year, 2012 Heidelberg is on the verge of many new endeavors including the change in traffic patterns on Rte 50 as well as the Rte 50 project soon to be underway in the spring transforming the overall look and driving patterns through Heidelberg. Keeping that in mind everyone needs to pay particular attention to the new traffic signage, traffic lanes and patterns and more importantly have a greater deal of patience with drivers whom cut you off, block intersections and fail to observe the changes in lanes and traffic patterns. Those simple hand gestures, verbal confrontations and racing to cut people off so you can confront them has already hit home here in Heidelberg with a number of road rage incidents where drivers came to blows and in one case serious injury to the point where things will never be the same for that driver, his wife or family ever again. Also lets not forget the potential consequences that the other party whom engaged in this shoving and wrestling match in the middle of the street, who now has to deal with the fact that knowing he in a moment of rage and frustration decided to follow that vehicle and escalate the situation more., thus changing his life drastically forever more. In this day and age where you never know who is carrying a gun, who's drunk, on drugs or just doesn't care if they hurt someone as long as it feeds their temper and anger, it's just not worth the risk or effort in getting mad over careless and reckless drivers. Get a plate number, description of the vehicle and driver and call 911, let the police deal with these driver's. It's time to curb our tempers, slow down our driving and think about what everyone has to lose from a simple moment of anger and rage that can turn into a tragedy in seconds just because someone loses their temper. Life is way to short for you to put yourself and your family in jeopardy or have to do without you if you are seriously injured or killed. We all need to stop and ask ourselves if it's worth taking that chance in today's society. The Heidelberg Police are aware of the issues as well is the Borough Council, Mayor and Manager Kauer. We have requested additional signage from Penn DOT to indicate the changing traffic patterns, officers have been stopping violators on Rte 50 and Collier Ave for failing to obey the traffic signs and blocking that intersection. Police have been monitoring these areas more closely and issuing both warnings and citations depending on the nature of the violation.

Parents need to be aware of the new laws pertaining to learner's permits, teenage texting while driving, the ages and number of people under the age of eighteen whom aren't immediate family members that will be allowed in vehicles with junior drivers. Lots of changes for everyone to take note of and make sure your young drivers are aware of. It's a new year, it's time we all develop new habits and new attitudes when it comes to driving and how precious life really is.

Remember Buckle Up, It's the Law.
Chief Vernon Barkley

Helping You Be Prepared Heidelberg Emergency Management

The Heidelberg EMA encourages each household to have a basic disaster supplies kit on hand should disaster strike. A basic supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrenches or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell Phone with charger, inverter or solar charger



Residents and business owners alike are encouraged to visit www.Ready.gov for additional information on how to develop a disaster kit and plan for your home or business.

Heidelberg's Community Evacuation Shelter Team is seeking additional members. The Shelter Team, which is a regional program based here in Heidelberg, sponsored by the American Red Cross, is composed of 19 members that are equipped and trained to operate a community shelter in time of disaster or need. The team is composed of members of the Heidelberg VFD Ladies Auxiliary, residents, Borough officials and firefighters. We could use some more help. The team meets quarterly with the American Red Cross to keep the staff on our toes. The position is voluntary, not-demanding and you would be of great help during time of disaster. If interested in participating with us, contact Joe Kauer at 412-276-0363.

Public Safety – A Community Initiative Councilman Patrick Ferris

Heidelberg has taken great strides to improve public safety over the past 5 years. As many of you may have seen in the Signal Item, we just hired our newest full time officer, Adam Nida. This brings Heidelberg back up to 4 full time officers. Over the past 5 years, the borough has added officers, vehicles, equipment and a K-9 unit to its police force. In addition the borough has added camera systems to all its parks and borough building. Several residents have also installed camera systems and given the police access to these systems. In total, the police have remote, 24hr access to over 20 cameras throughout Heidelberg. Working with Duquesne Light, the borough manager was able to find darker areas and add street lighting to brighten things up.

Simply watch the news on any given night and you'll understand the need for these safety improvements. Keeping Heidelberg safe for residents has been a prime objective of the police force, mayor, council and manager. Whether you're an elderly resident looking to live out those golden retirement years or a new family trying to raise your kids, we hope you find Heidelberg a safe place to call home.

HOUSE FOR SALE!

Through a partnership between the Borough of Heidelberg, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development and Action Housing, there is a new single family home at 1606 West Railroad Street for sale. The house is being built in the lot across from Target Cleaners.

The house will have three bedrooms, 1 and ½ baths, detached garage, whole house air conditioning, wall to wall carpeting, all new appliances, gas heat and meets all energy efficiency requirements. The estimated sales price is \$100,000 with a deferred second mortgage. There are income eligibility guidelines to meet to be qualified. Additional information about the program and pre-application forms are available at the Borough Office. Construction is anticipated to be complete by mid-summer.



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

On Saturday, April 21, 2012, the Borough will make available and provide three 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 at each park: Ellsworth Avenue Playground, Zero Street Tot-Lot and Heidelberg Park. **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 5th 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.

STATE REP. NICK KOTIK *explains some of the State's* SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS

LOW-COST PRESCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH PACE/PACENET

PACE, PACENET and PACE Plus Medicare are Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, offering low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents 65 and older.

PACE – Who is eligible:

To be eligible for PACE, you must be 65 or older, a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days before applying, and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit. For a single person, your total income must be \$14,500 or less. For a married couple, your combined total income must be \$17,700 or less.

PACENET – Who is eligible:

To be eligible for PACENET, you must be 65 or older, a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days before applying, and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit. A single person's total income can be between \$14,500 and \$23,500. A couple's combined total income can be between \$17,700 and \$31,500.

DON'T FORGET YOUR SENIOR DISCOUNT!

Retail stores and restaurants aren't the only places offering valuable discounts to seniors these days! The Commonwealth provides discounts to seniors for a variety of state services, ranging from driver services to recreational activities. Here are just a few that you should take advantage of:

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Some of the best experiences our state has to offer happen in the great outdoors. The state Fish and Boat and state Game commissions make it a little easier on the wallet for seniors to fish and hunt. Older Pennsylvanians may purchase yearly hunting and fishing licenses at reduced rates of \$13.70 for a hunting license and \$11.70 for a fishing license. Lifetime licenses are also available at \$51.70 for hunting or fishing. If you purchased a senior lifetime license before Jan. 1, 1991, you are not required to purchase a trout stamp. If you purchased one afterward, a trout stamp is \$9.70. You can find more information on how to purchase a fishing license online, the latest stocking guides, fishing information by your region and much more, by visiting the Fish and Boat Commission website at www.fish.state.pa.us. Game news, state game lands maps, and other helpful resources are also available on the Pennsylvania Game Commission website, www.pgc.state.pa.us.

Pennsylvania State Parks

Do you enjoy getting away in the great outdoors? Looking for something fun to do with the grandkids? Pennsylvania has 117 state parks that are considered the best in the nation and many include electric sites and modern bathhouses. Seniors 62 and older are eligible for a \$4.50 discount off the normal campsite price. You can find your closest state park, prices, and other frequently asked questions, as well as make a reservation at www.dcnr.state.pa.us. Reservations can also be made by calling 1-888-PA-PARKS.

Reduced Automobile Registrations

PennDOT offers retired Pennsylvanians earning less than \$19,200 annually a reduced automobile registration rate of \$10, compared to the normal \$36. Seniors older than 65 also may purchase a two-year license renewal for \$19. For motorcycles, a two-year license renewal is \$29. You can find more information and renew your registration and license online at www.dot.state.pa.us or call the agency's customer care center 1-800-932-4600 for further information.





BOROUGH OF HEIDELBERG

1631 East Railroad Street
Heidelberg, PA 15106

Borough Office Phone: 412-276-0363

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8 – 4

Emergency: Dial 911

www.HeidelbergBorough.com

Email: info@HeidelbergBorough.com

Facebook- Friend us at Heidelberg PA

2012 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Raymond Losego, President

John Duda, Vice President

Robert DeBar

Patrick Ferris

Albert Kosol, Jr.

OFFICIALS:

Kenneth A. LaSota, *Mayor*

Joe Kauer, *Borough Manager*

Vernon Barkley, *Chief of Police*

Joe Wissel, Jr., *Fire Chief*

Michael Kaleugher, *Solicitor*

Robert Koch, *Building Official*

Ted Gazda, *Tax Collector*

Mark Turnbull, *DPW Supervisor*

Richard Minsterman, *Engineer*

MEETING INFORMATION

All meetings, unless otherwise posted and advertised, are conducted at the Borough Building, in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Workshop / Agenda Meetings

2nd Tuesday of Each Month, 6:30 PM

Voting Meeting

3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 7:00 PM

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meet – 3rd Tuesday of Each Month, 6:15 PM

ZONING HEARING BOARD,

PLANNING COMMISSION,

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND

NUISANCE PROPERTY APPEALS BOARD

Meet as Needed

PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 1149

BOROUGH OF HEIDELBERG
1631 Railroad Street
Heidelberg, PA 15106