

Borough of Ephrata Newsletter

Published by the Borough of Ephrata to Communicate With and To Inform Residents About Ephrata Borough News and Events

Ephrata Community Calendar of Events

Make-A-Wish Foundation®

Mother's Day Convoy
Sunday, May 11th

TNT Youth Ministries
The Extreme Event
Ephrata's Grater Park
Friday, May 23rd
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Hospital Day in the Park
Saturday, June 7th
7:00 AM—4:00 PM

Downtown Car Cruise
Sponsored by the Ephrata
Police Department
Saturday, June 14th
Noon—5:00 PM

Borough Offices
will be closed on
Good Friday, March 21st &
Memorial Day, May 26th

Ephrata Borough Council Welcomes Two New Council Members



Borough of Ephrata 2008 Council members (front row) Dale Hertzog, Bob Good, Tony Kilkuskie, Mary Schurr; (back row) Daryl Horning, Russell Shirker, Fred Thomas and Vic Richard

On January 1, 2008, veteran Borough Council members welcomed Dale Hertzog and Russell Shirker as two of their newest constituents. Mr. Hertzog serves Ephrata's 1st Ward and Mr. Shirker serves the 2nd Ward.

As an Ephrata native, Councilman Hertzog was eager to begin "learning the multi-faceted aspects of being a Borough Council member." As he reflected on past Borough Council leadership Hertzog is quick to give credit to these men and women stating that "we have been blessed by those in our past who were visionaries." With a goal of "continuing to do those things well that we do well and improve on those things that can be improved," Hertzog aspires to emulate those visionaries.

Councilman Hertzog and his wife Lisa are the parents of two children. He is employed by the Co-calico School District as a Middle School Technology Education teacher.

Councilman Russell Shirker is also a native of the Ephrata area graduating from Ephrata High School and now retired from Susquehanna Bank, formerly Farmers First Bank, after 42 years of service. Mr. Shirker is a member of the Ephrata Borough Authority, Lincoln Cemetery Board, the Ephrata Masonic Lodge and the Ephrata Golden Years Club.

Prior to running for Ephrata Borough Council, Shirker made a concentrated effort to educate himself by "reading everything about our Borough in the local newspapers." Councilman Shirker also attended council meetings and listened to the people of the Borough - a pledge of listening that he plans to continue. Shirker also cites the instrumental work of past council members and his desire to "build on that and do the best job he can in helping Ephrata be a great place to live."

Councilman Shirker and his wife Janice are the parents of three daughters and six grandchildren.

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Drivers are urged to use extra care and caution when approaching intersections where Crossing Guard's are posted. Crossing Guards are there for the safe crossing of school children.

EPHRATA BOROUGH JOINS AMP-OHIO

In May of 2007, Ephrata Borough joined American Municipal Power – Ohio (AMP-Ohio), a non-profit corporation formed more than 25 years ago to provide low-cost, reliable electric power supply and related technical services to municipal electric systems. While it may seem odd that a Borough in Pennsylvania joined a member organization with “Ohio” in its name, AMP-Ohio has 123 municipal electric system members in six states: Kentucky; Michigan; Pennsylvania; Ohio; Virginia; and West Virginia. Of the 35 municipal electric systems in Pennsylvania, 27 are members of AMP-Ohio.

Ephrata joined AMP-Ohio to take advantage of the power supply alternatives offered by this organization serving public power communities like Ephrata. We joined AMP-Ohio in preparation for finding the lowest cost power supply for Ephrata electric customers when the Borough’s current power supply contract with Reliant Energy expires at the end of January 2009.

Ephrata Borough has been in the electric business since 1902. The Borough generated its own electric power until the mid-1960’s at which time the Borough began buying part of its power supply and later all of its power supply from PPL. Since federal deregulation of the electric power industry in the late 1990’s, Ephrata has enjoyed favorable cost for electric power under two five-year contracts with private suppliers.

Unfortunately, the cost of wholesale electric power for the next few years is expected to be more than double what the Borough is paying under its current contract. There are many factors that have resulted in higher wholesale power prices. One major reason for price escalation has been the increasing reliance on natural gas-fired generation and the tremendous increases in natural gas prices. A second concern is that wholesale electric prices in Pennsylvania are now based on a “market” price (the price set by the owner of each generator) rather than the typically much lower actual cost of generating electric power.

So how does Ephrata plan to manage its power supply portfolio to reduce the impact of spiraling increases in wholesale electric prices? First, Ephrata will participate with other municipal electric systems in building new generation plants through AMP-Ohio. Borough Council has voted unanimously to participate in two new coal-fired generation stations, the Prairie State Energy Campus in Illinois (already under construction) and the American Municipal Power Generation Station in southeastern Ohio. These generating plants will be on-line in about four years and will help stabilize Borough wholesale electric prices by charging cost-based rates (rather than market-based rates) for the next 50 years.

Borough Council has also voted unanimously to participate with AMP-Ohio municipalities in three hydroelectric generating stations at existing flood-control dams on the Ohio River. These projects, slated to enter service in four to five years, will help diversify the Borough’s power supply portfolio, and will provide the first “green” power for Borough customers. Once again, the cost of power from these projects will be available to Ephrata at cost-based prices rather than higher market-based rates.

Since it will be a few years until these generation resources become available, the Borough will continue to contract for all of its power supply needs. AMP-Ohio provides contract power supply alternatives to interested member municipalities by seeking bids from suppliers that meet its members’ supply requirements. The Borough will also seek power prices from private suppliers to make sure we are acquiring the lowest cost, reliable supply available for our customers.

We expect wholesale electric power supply prices to remain volatile but continue to increase as time moves on. All of us have been reading news articles in recent weeks about likely customer rate increases for the investor-owned utility customers in the Ephrata area. Those utilities are reacting to the large increases in wholesale electricity prices they expect to experience in the upcoming years.

Although it is anticipated that a customer rate increase will be necessary in 2009 as new power supply contracts are entered into, Borough Council has been investigating many alternatives with the goal of keeping customer rates as low as possible. Taking advantage of the power supply possibilities offered by AMP-Ohio is an important step toward achieving that goal.

When Borough Streets Are Cleaned...

- ◆ Sediment buildup and debris is removed
- ◆ The quality of water running off into storm drains and streams is improved
- ◆ It allows for the Borough to spray along the curb for weeds
- ◆ Enhances the streetscape

How Can You Help?

- ◆ Simply move vehicles from the curb line being cleaned
- ◆ Keep your storm drains cleaned



Zappacosta Named As New Library Director

The Ephrata Public Library has selected Joseph Zappacosta as the new Library Director. Joseph began his new role as the Library Director on February 18, 2008. Joseph looks forward to continuing the vision of the library as an integral part of the community



As a graduate of Kutztown University, Joseph earned his Bachelor of Science in Education with a concentration in Library Science. He later received his Master's Degree in Library Science from Drexel University. With a love of reading and history, Joseph is currently a member of his local historical society and enjoys historic reenactments and visiting historical places.

Joseph most recently served as the Assistant Director/System Administrator for the Reading Public Library.

Residential Rental Inspection Program Update

The Borough has recently made changes to the long standing rental unit inspection program.

As in the past, landlords will continue to request an inspection through the Borough Codes office each time a new tenant moves into a rental unit. This year, however, the Borough will also perform more frequent inspections of rental units. Meaning every residential rental unit, whether occupied or unoccupied, will be inspected at least once in a three year period.

The process, that the Borough will follow, is to notify property owners or landlords several weeks in advance that they need to contact the Borough Codes office and schedule an inspection and coordinate the inspection with the tenants. The inspection criteria will not be changing and will continue to be conducted by the Borough Codes office.

If you have questions regarding the residential rental inspection program please contact the Borough of Ephrata Codes office at 717-738-9202 – please select option 3 on the automated menu.

In-School Cameras Are Rolling at EHS

“It’s about keeping the students and faculty safe” said Ephrata Police Officer Pete Sheppard. Officer Sheppard, who is also the School Resource Officer, for the Ephrata School District was instrumental in acquiring a \$32,000 grant to purchase the 25 cameras which are installed on the inside and around the perimeter of the Ephrata High School. The grant, secured through the Department of Justice, was also matched by an additional \$32,000 from the Ephrata School District.

The camera’s, which have had a careful eye on things since January, have been a welcomed sight to students, faculty and parents. Signage around the school indicates to those inside that cameras are being used and they are being filmed.

Every attention to detail was considered when purchasing the equipment. From the type of camera, the placement of the cameras and the monitoring of the system. The Ephrata Police Department along with personnel from the school district was careful to place cameras in traffic areas with high volume and the ability to monitor the cameras at the school district office and the police department. “The cameras act as an extra set of eyes in the event they are needed” said Officer Sheppard.

“The students and staff have taken the cameras in stride” notes Officer Sheppard “I have talked with students that have stated they feel more secure, safer.” When asked if the cameras will be placed at other Ephrata Area Schools Officer Sheppard said that every school in the district has cameras at the entry doors to allow staff to observe people entering the buildings, however, consideration has been given regarding adding additional cameras at the middle school.



Planning a Garage or Yard Sale this Year?

Beginning in 2008 Borough Council authorized a \$5.00 fee for all garage/yard sale permits. The limit remains at two garage/yard sales per year for a maximum of two days per permit. To obtain a permit please stop at the Borough office at 124 South State Street.



Residents ~ please do not deposit any grass clippings in Borough park areas

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124 South State Street
Ephrata, PA 17522
www.ephrataboro.org

Borough Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

Phone: 717-738-9222
Fax: 717-733-4062
After Hours: 717-733-1277
Email: custserv@ephrataboro.org

Borough Manager
Gary A. Nace

Ephrata Borough Council meets for its Work Session on the first Monday each month at 7:00 PM and for its Regular Meeting on the second Monday each month at 7:30 PM at the Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

Ephrata Borough Council

Daryl L. Horning	1st Ward	721-6226
Dale L. Hertzog	1st Ward	733-7741
Mary E. Schurr	2nd Ward	733-6411
Russell Shirker	2nd Ward	733-6853
Anthony Kilkuskie, Vice President	3rd Ward	733-7607
Fred M. Thomas	3rd Ward	733-0421
Robert J. Good, President	4th Ward	733-2520
Victor E. Richard	4th Ward	733-8242
Mayor		
Ralph E. Mowen		733-6129

REFUSE/RECYCLING ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION **FOR EPHRATA BOROUGH RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES**

Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste collection begins Tuesday, April 1 and continues through Thursday, October 16. Yard waste must be in biodegradable bags provided by the Borough. Tags are \$2.00 each and are available for purchase at the Borough Business Office, 124 South State Street. Collection is the same day as recycling.



Refuse & Recycling Holiday Reminder

Collection of refuse & recycling will be delayed one day during the week of Monday, May 26th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Tire & White Good Collection

(Large appliances weighing more than fifty pounds)
Collected the same day as recycling during the week of May 5th. Extra Service Tags Required: Tire Tags—\$2.00, White Goods—\$20.00

Please keep trash and recycling containers at the side or rear of a building except at collection time

Commercial Recycling

Did you know in Pennsylvania, municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more are required by law to establish and provide a recycling program to its residents? Did you also know that in these municipalities commercial and institutional businesses are also required to have an in-house recycling program?

Commercial establishments are those engaged in manufacturing or processing businesses, and other industries that produce municipal waste. These businesses include, but are not limited to, stores, markets, office buildings, restaurants, shopping centers and theaters. Institutional establishments are those engaged in services such as hospitals, schools, medical facilities and other similar organizations.

Items that are recycled in commercial/institutional environments are: Aluminum cans, steel & bimetallic cans, clear & colored glass, corrugated cardboard, high-grade office paper (i.e., bond, copy, letterhead, and computer paper), newsprint, leaves & yard waste, tires and white goods.

There are many benefits to recycling. Recycling conserves energy and natural resources, reduces the need for landfill space and may reduce waste disposal costs.

For assistance and information on recycling in your commercial or institutional organization please contact the Borough Recycling Coordinator at 738-9202 Ext. 127.