

Borough of Ephrata Newsletter

Ephrata Community Calendar of Events

Every "Third Friday's a Charm"
Ephrata Downtown Shops
Offer Something Special!
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Tour de Ephrata
Annual Bike Race
Sunday, April 25th

Ephrata Cloister
Community Days
April 30th, & May 21st
Education & Activities
Registration is encouraged

Make-A-Wish Foundation®
Mother's Day Truck Convoy
Sunday, May 9th

Ephrata Community Hospital
"Day in the Park"
Saturday, June 5th

Borough Offices will be closed
Good Friday, April 2nd &
Memorial Day, May 31st

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

Borough Council Welcomes New Members

"To work with and serve the Ephrata community," that was the answer given by the Borough of Ephrata's newest council members, Thomas G. Reinhold and Susan E. Rowe, when asked what the overriding factor was to seek public office.

Although new to the position of Ephrata Borough Council, the process will be quite familiar to Councilwoman Susan Rowe who for approximately ten years, has been attending council meetings and for the past five years has attended some committee meetings. Eagerly accepting the opportunity to serve when encouraged by others, Councilwoman Rowe also began attending all meetings where the budget was discussed. With those credentials and her enthusiasm to serve, Councilwoman Rowe's focus is to continue to offer Borough residents the services and amenities they currently enjoy while keeping spending under control. Rowe states "understanding this is a very big challenge," and she looks forward to working with the residents of the Second Ward to achieve a balance that will make everyone happy.



Rowe's community involvement includes the Ephrata Area Republican Committee and service as a member of the Board of Directors for Downtown Ephrata, Inc. (DEI). As a lifelong resident of Ephrata, Rowe describes the best attributes in the Borough as being a beautiful downtown and the pride of having a top-rate Police Department that keeps us living in a safe environment. Adding to those qualities, she also applauded the new owners of the Main Theater for having the vision to bring live music to downtown Ephrata and showcase our town.

Councilwoman Rowe resides with her husband Dennis and is employed by Standard & Poor's Financial Services, LLC in the Equity Research Division as a Compliance Production Manager.

Also a native of Ephrata, Councilman Thomas Reinhold seized the opportunity to serve the community. Not timid to take on the controversial issues, Councilman Reinhold views challenges as opportunities. Specifically, he looks forward to addressing issues and concerns on utility rates, the Ephrata Community Pool project and the Central Business District. With regard to the Community Pool, Reinhold aspires to see the project through to completion while being fiscally responsible. He further desires to keep taxes in check, continue the progress being made in the downtown district and promote Ephrata as a family-friendly environment.



Councilman Reinhold cites Ephrata's best attributes as being the Police Department, the Ephrata Performing Arts Center (EPAC), the Community Pool, and the Recreation Center. He also notes the Ephrata War Memorial Association, where he is a member, is a huge benefit to the Ephrata community and a showcase to those who visit this sports field.

Councilman Reinhold resides with his wife Lynn and daughters, Lexie and Lanie. He is employed by Windstream Communications as a Sales Engineer. Reinhold will represent the First Ward.

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Back by popular demand this summer at Ephrata's Grater Park ~ Concerts by the Creek!

Return Address Safety

A Safety Message from the Ephrata Police Department

Have you ever noticed how people 'recycle' or 'share' their favorite magazines with others in public place? You have seen them at the barber shop, the gym, the doctor's office, or the workplace. This gesture to share a good periodical with others, especially when we are waiting for an appointment or to share an interesting magazine article that has piqued our interest with someone has been a long standing practice.

However, a word of caution should be noted as your interests may tip off criminals of your collections and your address as well. For instance, if you subscribe to a golf magazine; a burglar can assume that you have golf equipment, an antique magazine that would make known you have historic valuable items in your home. Protect your hobbies and interests from criminals by removing your address on the cover of magazines and any order forms on the inside that might reveal where you live before placing them on the shelf or table for public viewing.



2010 CENSUS: BE COUNTED!

Every ten years a national Census is conducted to count every person in the United States. An accurate Census count is very important because Census figures are used in planning for transportation, community facilities, and land use, to distribute federal funding, and to determine our representation in Congress.

In March, every household in the United States will receive a census questionnaire in the mail. The 2010 Census form will contain only ten questions and will take less than ten minutes to complete. The confidentiality of all data you provide on your Census form is protected by federal law and cannot be shared with anyone, including federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Safety and Confidentiality

The confidentiality of all information respondents provide is protected by federal law; the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including IRS, FBI, CIA, or any other government agency. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data; they risk a fine of up to \$250,000 and jail time for breaking this oath.

The 2010 Census will only be sent via the mail; it will not be sent in an email or posted for respondents to fill out online. For reference purposes only, there is a copy of the Census form available on the Census website containing all of the Census questions.

The Census will never ask about the legal status of the respondent, or for information about credit card numbers, social security numbers, religion, or political affiliation. However, the Census will ask for the respondent's name, sex, age, date of birth, ethnicity, race, household relationships, and housing rental/ownership status. To view the questions as they will appear on the Census form, please look online at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/interactive-form.php>

Census takers may visit your residence if a Census form was sent to your address but was not returned. They will never ask to enter the residence. Census workers will carry identification cards with them. If you are unsure as to whether someone is truly employed by the Census, you can call the local Census Office at 717.666.2130 to confirm this.

Please help your community and protect your political representation: fill out and return your census form.

Smoke Detector Placement

It is recommended that smoke detectors be placed in every bedroom and on every level.



Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Place carbon monoxide detectors near the bedrooms, especially if fuel burning appliances (gas, oil, wood, coal, etc.) exist in the home.

UPDATE ON ELECTRIC RATES

Throughout the fall of 2009 the subject receiving the most attention in the news was the January 1, 2010 expiration of the “rate caps” affecting PPL electric customers. The expiration of the rate caps meant very sizeable rate increases for all PPL customers. The caps expired as part of the retail deregulation of the electric industry in Pennsylvania and the large increase in customer rates was due to higher prices in the wholesale electric power market.

Ephrata Borough also experienced increased prices in the wholesale electric power market, from a budget of \$7,800,000 in 2008 to a budget of \$15,200,000 in 2009. Ephrata began seeing those higher prices in February 2009 and raised electric rates for Borough customers in March 2009. As if the projected 100% increase in power supply cost was not enough, unexpected increases in the cost of transmission and other services the Borough must buy from the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM) resulted in pushing overall power costs in 2009 considerably higher than originally anticipated. However, Borough Council chose not to pass any of these unexpected costs to consumers and Borough electric rates are again competitive with PPL retail rates.

Because the cost of power supply is the single largest component of customer electric rates, Council wanted to ensure that its strategy for acquiring power supply would result in the lowest possible cost for Borough electric customers into the future. The Borough asked GDS Associates, a recognized authority in power supply for public power communities, to review the current power supply strategy and suggest improvements. GDS has indicated that this strategy should result in stable overall power supply prices through year 2012.

In the longer term, the Borough continues to seek opportunities to participate in power supply generation projects with other public power communities in the region. Borough Council voted in March to participate in two hydroelectric generation projects proposed by American Municipal Power, Inc. If this effort is successful, not only will the projects stabilize long-term prices for a portion of the Borough’s supply needs, but about 10% of the Borough’s total electric purchases will then be coming from renewable, environmentally friendly generation sources.



When Installing a Swimming Pool ~ Safety First!

When the hot summer sun beats down, a swimming pool is very appealing. But because pools are attractive and potentially dangerous to young children, the Borough of Ephrata’s building codes require pools to be fenced and gated, and sometimes equipped with alarms. If you’re considering purchasing a swimming pool, contact the Borough of Ephrata Zoning & Codes Department first to determine exactly what permits are needed and what requirements you must follow.



“In-ground and above-ground pools, including inflatable pools holding more than 24 inches of water, must be surrounded by a fence or other barrier at least four feet high,” said Nancy Harris, Zoning & Codes Administrator. Harris also notes that, “any gates in the fence must be self-closing and self-latching.”

If a home’s wall serves as part of the swimming pool’s barrier, doors with direct access to the pool must be equipped with an alarm. “These codes are in place for a reason,” said Harris. “They are added safety measures to protect you and your guests from swimming pool accidents. As a pool owner, you are responsible for anyone in your pool.”

Other things to consider when installing a pool include zoning requirements, electrical clearances and utility easements. Harris also suggests contacting your insurance agent before installing a swimming pool. Most insurance companies require additional liability coverage.

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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

Chief of Police
William L. Harvey

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 7:00 PM at the Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

Ephrata Borough Council

Thomas G. Reinhold	1st Ward	733-3111
Dale L. Hertzog	1st Ward	733-7741
Susan E. Rowe	2nd Ward	738-1859
Russell S. Shirker	2nd Ward	733-6853
A. Anthony Kilkuskie, President	3rd Ward	733-7607
Wendy L. Perillo	3rd Ward	468-9697
Robert J. Good	4th Ward	733-2520
Victor E. Richard, Vice President	4th Ward	733-8242
Mayor		
Ralph E. Mowen		733-6129

Keep Those Magazines Coming!

In the last few months of 2009 approximately 23,220 lbs. (11.61 tons) of glossy magazines, newspaper inserts, catalogs and glossy paper were recycled through the Borough's newest recycling endeavor. All the funds are used to support the operations of the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, a place that serves as a temporary home for families who have seriously ill children being treated at the Penn State Children's Hospital.



The magazine dumpster is located at the same place as the cardboard dumpster near the Borough's electric substation off Church Avenue - just below our Water Filter Plant.

Refuse & Recycling Holiday Reminder

Collection of refuse & recycling will be delayed one day during the week of Monday, May 31st due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Yard Waste Collection Begins April 5th

Yard waste collection will begin Monday, April 5th and continues through Thursday, October 14th. A \$2.00 tag for the collection of each bag of yard waste is required. With the purchase of each tag the Borough distributes a biodegradable bag. Yard waste in plastic bags or containers will not be collected. Tags are available for purchase at the Borough Business Office, 124 South State Street. Collection is the same day as recycling.

Tire & White Good Collection

Tires and large appliances weighing more than fifty pounds will be collected the same day as recycling during the week of May 3rd. Extra service tags are required—tire tags are \$2.00 each and white good tags are \$20.00 each. Tags are available for purchase at the Borough Business Office, 124 South State Street.



Recycle That Cardboard!

A cardboard recycling drop off site is located near the magazine dumpster by the Borough's electric substation off Church Avenue - just below our Water Filter Plant. The Borough accepts corrugated cardboard only - cardboard with a fluted lining. Residents are asked to flatten all cardboard and deposit it into the designated container. Please **do not** leave cardboard boxes outside of the container.

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