

Borough of Ephrata Newsletter

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

**Happy
Holidays!**

Free Parking
During the month of December enjoy free parking while shopping Downtown Ephrata!

Did you know the Farmer's Almanac is predicting a White Christmas?

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Police Services for the Entire Ephrata Community

With a projected start date of January 31, 2005, the Ephrata Borough Police Department will begin providing contract police services to Ephrata Township. The consolidated "Ephrata Police Department" will now serve the entire community of Ephrata providing cost efficient and responsive police services.

More than three years ago the leadership of Ephrata Borough and Ephrata Township began to explore the value of joining their police departments to better serve the community of Ephrata. What transpired from these explorations are contracted police services the Ephrata Borough will provide to Ephrata Township.



What is Contract Police Services?

Instead of staffing, training and maintaining an individual police department, a municipality can choose to pay a neighboring police department to provide law enforcement services to their community. The contract police services project is a full cost recovery program designed not to cost Ephrata Borough residents more money and in fact provides for some increased revenues for Ephrata Borough, along with long-term savings for Ephrata Township.

What are the benefits?

Communities that share common borders and have traditionally worked together have recognized the benefits of consolidating their police services. Some of the general benefits include reduction in the cost of duplicate administration, specialization and equipment; providing improved public safety and response times through a larger labor pool; providing both municipalities with a stable and well equipped workforce; providing the contracting municipality with cost efficient and predictable public safety services and providing the contractor with increased revenues. Citizens of both Ephrata Borough and Ephrata Township will experience professional and responsive law enforcement services.

What happens to the Township Police Officers?

Under an agreement for law enforcement services, the former Ephrata Township police officers will become Ephrata Borough employees and serve in the new, larger police department. The new department, staffed with 30 sworn officers and five civilians will provide services to the community through a central location in the Ephrata Borough Hall at 124 South State Street in Ephrata.

How will I contact the police after the merger date?

Following the merger citizens of Ephrata Borough and Ephrata Township alike will use the general business number 738-9200. For emergencies always dial 911 and calls will be automatically routed directly to the Ephrata Police through the Lancaster County Emergency Management System.

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Storm Water Requirements for Residential Properties

In April of this year, the Borough adopted new Storm Water Management Regulations in response to Pennsylvania's Act 167. In this Act, municipalities now require regulation of land use for flood control and storm water management purposes.

We know that rain and groundwater enter our storm water system and flow rapidly into the creek and its tributaries. During this process, it is vital to manage the amount of water that flows into the creek in order to protect the homes and properties that are downstream in flood-prone areas.

We also need to manage the quality of the storm water to protect our wildlife that use the creek. Soil, grass clippings, sand, and de-icing salts pollute the storm water. The new regulations require that storm water controls be added to improve the quality of the water run off. These controls may include different ways of discharging downspouts and ways to hold the water on your property by slowly allowing it to drain into the yard and filter into the soil.

These regulations apply to all properties in the Borough, including residential, commercial and industrial, that add more than 1,000 square feet of new impervious improvements. As a property owner part of this process will require you to have a storm water management plan prepared by a licensed architect or engineer. Impervious surfaces are typically anything that isn't green space and restricts the storm water from being absorbed by soil – that includes buildings, macadam, sidewalks, stone areas, decks, patios, and pools. This 1,000 square footage is cumulative with each project added to a property.

For other related questions or the planning of projects affecting storm water, please consult the Borough of Ephrata Codes division at 738-9202 for assistance.

Borough Meter Readers Walk the Extra Miles

When we asked our full-time meter reader, Kathy Firestone, to wear a pedometer for one month who knew that she would log approximately 130 "walking" miles. Along with the Borough's part-time meter reader, Bill Hensel, they travel the neighborhoods, backyards, roads and alleys driving by car to further distances but mostly getting the job done on foot.



Reading in excess of 6,400 electric meters and more than 7,200 water meters each month, Kathy and Bill trek through Ephrata Borough, Ephrata Township and Clay Township. While meters are read monthly there are times that readings are estimated typically due to inclement weather conditions. Meter readings are entered through an automated meter reading process that interfaces with the Borough's utility billing system.

Other services our meter readers are responsible to conduct are final readings for all customers moving in and out of the Borough. They also deliver recycling bins to customers who cannot pick one up at the Borough office. If you would like to assist our meter readers this winter, it would be greatly appreciated if you could shovel a pathway to your meters. If you would have any questions, please contact our Business Office at 738-9222.

FREE Christmas Tree Pick up for Borough Residents

The Borough offers **FREE** curbside pick up of Christmas trees for our residents. Simply place your tree(s) curbside the same day as your recycling during the week of January 3rd through January 6th or January 17th through January 20th and the Borough's hauler will pick it up.

Missed the scheduled collection dates? Simply purchase a \$4.00 oversized tag at the Borough's Business Office. Fasten the tag on your tree and place it curbside the same day as your recycling is collected.

Please prepare your tree by removing all lights, tree stands, ornaments and bags. If you have any questions or need additional information, call 738-9222 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.

Junior Council Member Zinner Serves with Genuine Interest

Ephrata Borough Council announces the appointment of Rebecca Zinner as its new Junior Council Member. As a student representative, Rebecca describes herself as “qualified, committed, hard working and active in the Ephrata community.” In her letter of intent to become a Junior Council Member, Rebecca described Ephrata as having “history, culture and heart.”

As a member of the Ephrata High School Junior Class, Rebecca is active in marching and concert band. An accomplished clarinetist Rebecca enjoys participating in the woodwind ensemble and woodwind quintet at Ephrata High and the woodwind ensemble at Franklin & Marshall College. Rebecca also volunteers her time at the Ephrata Public Library. Most recently, Rebecca was selected as a candidate for the United States Senate Youth Program, which is sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. As a candidate Rebecca is eligible for an all expense paid trip to Washington DC to meet with government leaders and may receive a \$5,000 collegiate scholarship.

As for her future endeavors, Rebecca enjoys the satisfaction of taking part in mock trials during an extracurricular class and says she is considering becoming an attorney some day.



Rebecca states “it is an honor to be selected as a Junior Council Member” and believes serving in this capacity is meaningful for the student representative program. As a Junior Council Member, Rebecca’s term will extend during the 2004-2005 school year.

This Winter Your Assistance is Greatly Appreciated

With over 72 lane miles of streets that the Borough maintains, we welcome and appreciate the cooperation of our residents and businesses to make Ephrata a safe community during the winter months.

This year please continue to help us prepare for winter snow in the following manner:

- ◆ When snow accumulation reaches two inches, snow plowing begins. During this time please limit driving as snow removal efforts are adversely affected by packed snow.
- ◆ If possible, please make alternate parking arrangements in order to keep streets clear to enable plowing close to the curb line.
- ◆ Please do not clear excess snow from your sidewalk or property onto the street or neighboring properties.
- ◆ Snow being pushed by a plow will unload whenever it passes a cleared area. Providing a cleared area on the side of the driveway from which the plow will approach will allow the plowed snow to unload BEFORE it reaches your driveway.
- ◆ If possible, clean your driveway entrance after the street has been plowed as multiple passes by the snow plow may continue to deposit snow in the entrance area.
- ◆ Clear sidewalks within 24 hours after snow stops falling.

Virtual Ephrata ~ A Must Read!

If you are looking for a website that is a hub for all community-based organizations in the Ephrata community look no further. In a joint cooperation between the Ephrata High School Media Department and the Ephrata Public Library *Virtual Ephrata* provides residents of the Ephrata Area School District and those residing or relocating to our area with a centralized resource and an excellent tool of information about the Ephrata community.

Please visit *Virtual Ephrata* at www.virtualephrata.org for the latest on all community-based organizations, activities, education, events and other general information.

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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
Steven N. Annibali

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

John W. Berkes	1st Ward	733-3982
Bryan J. Foard	1st Ward	721-6345
Johann H. Freeseaman, Jr.	2nd Ward	733-4883
Mary E. Schurr, Vice President	2nd Ward	733-6411
Anthony Kilkuskie	3rd Ward	733-7607
Fred M. Thomas, President	3rd Ward	733-0421
Robert J. Good	4th Ward	733-2520
Paul S. Rauch	4th Ward	738-9912
Mayor		
Ralph E. Mowen		733-6129

New Refuse & Recycling Contracts Begin with Added Services

On January 1, 2005, the Borough will begin a new three-year contract, containing two one-year options, with Waste Management for refuse and recycling collection services. As a leader in its recycling program, the Borough continues to look for opportunities to reduce the amount of refuse that, in the past, may have gone to the landfill.

In 2005, the Borough persists in its endeavors by adding two additional components to its recycling program. The recycling of woody yard waste and corrugated cardboard. Woody yard waste is defined as tree trimmings, shrubbery and other vegetation such as twigs and sticks ranging in size from a quarter of an inch up to six inches in diameter and weighing no more than 30 pounds when bundled or tied. Woody yard waste will be collected from April 1 through October 15 and will require a tag that can be purchased for \$2.00 at the Borough office.

The anticipated addition of corrugated cardboard into the Borough recycling program will be a key benefit for customers. Corrugated cardboard is defined as cardboard which is ridged material with an inner fluted lining. This material does not include cereal, tissue, shoebox or other similar items. As part of this program, Borough residents may drop off flattened corrugated cardboard in the specifically marked container located at the Borough's Public Works facility on the corner of Church and Pine Streets.

As a refuse and/or recycling customer, you will continue to receive the same dependable service you've come to expect from the Borough and Waste Management. For any customer inquiries on the Borough's refuse and recycling programs, please contact our Business Office at 738-9222.

Police Services, *Continued*

Identification of the Ephrata Police Department

More than three years ago the "Ephrata Borough Police Department" changed its look by becoming the "Ephrata Police Department". Dropping the "Borough" name from the uniforms, cars and stationary reflected the strong community identity of Ephrata, not just one municipality. Now this look, which has become familiar in Ephrata Borough, will take on the same identity in the Township.

Through the visionary leadership of both Ephrata Borough and Ephrata Township the citizens of the entire Ephrata community will receive professional, responsive and cost effective police service for years to come.

Celebrate the Holidays by Not Drinking and Driving