

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 Events

Second Annual Car Cruise
Downtown Ephrata
Saturday, June 17th
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

29th Firecracker Run
War Memorial Field
July 4th at 8:30 AM

Ephrata Community Fireworks
Lincoln Outdoor
Recreational Area
July 4th at 9:30 PM

Ephrata Merchant Association
Family Fun Night
Downtown Ephrata
July 14th 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Concerts in Grater Park
Each Sunday at 7:15 PM
June 18th through August 6th

33rd Annual Arts & Crafts
Festival and Restaurant Fair
September 9th

Inside this issue:

National Survey	1
Electric Division	2
Officer Quinn Awarded	3
Street & Alley Program	3
Pool Rates	4

Ephrata Police Officer Paula Bright is County's Officer of the Year

In a ceremony honoring National Police Week held on May 21, Ephrata Police Officer Paula Bright was recognized as the Lancaster County Outstanding Police Officer of the Year.

Each year, a selection committee representing the Lancaster County Chiefs of Police Association review nominations for awards including Bravery, Investigator of the Year and Outstanding Officer of the Year. The competition is tough with more than 28 police departments serving Lancaster County. This is the second time Officer Bright was nominated and selected for her community service work establishing the "Cops for Tots" Christmas giving program.



Police Officers see a side of our community that many of us tend to overlook in our day-to-day lives. These experiences leave an indelible mark in their memories and cause officers to reflect on their own families and how fortunate they have been. It also moves them to try and lend a hand by reaching out to those who are truly in need.

Knowing that behind many of the doors in the Ephrata area are children less fortunate, Officer Bright started the **Cops for Tots Program**. Working hand and hand with Ephrata Area Social Services, Officer Bright recruited other officers and together they reached deep inside their own pockets to raise funds to provide gifts to kids in twelve Ephrata area families. The Officers were touched by the children's requests. Many of the children asked for winter coats, socks, clothes, school supplies and modest toys. The Officers responded and Santa arrived at all the homes in the Police Command truck with the help of many uniformed police officers. Not only were the children thrilled with Santa's arrival, but they also saw a side of Police Officers that is not depicted in television shows of today.

This past Christmas, the program received requests from over fifteen families representing thirty-five children in need! Although they once again reached into their own pockets – Officer Bright coordinated community donations and sponsorships from the Ephrata Area Chamber of Commerce, Applebee's Restaurant and more than twenty other businesses, organizations and individuals. Officer Bright worked tirelessly to purchase the gifts, schedule the event and host a large "gift wrapping party" that drew participants in and outside the Police Department.

Continued on Page 3



National Survey on Borough Services Coming Soon

Beginning in September Ephrata Borough will be the first municipality in Lancaster County to participate in The National Citizen Survey™. Approximately 1,200 Borough households will be randomly selected to respond with feedback on the quality and usefulness of Borough services - your household may be chosen to participate by completing a basic questionnaire. The results will be included in a final report that will be presented to the public in December.

Continued on Page 4

ELECTRIC DIVISION ADDS VALUE (Part 2 of 2)

In the last Borough newsletter, the article entitled “Electric Division Adds Value” described the excellent reliability record of the Borough’s electric distribution system. The article also demonstrated that Borough electric rates are lower than the rates charged by the investor-owned electric utility in the surrounding area.

In addition to outstanding system reliability and low rates, operation of the Borough Electric Division provides many valuable services to the community that result in benefits to Borough citizens and services that are supported through consumer electric rates rather than through taxation.

First, the Borough provides electric energy to emergency services, parks, and community facilities at no charge. Examples include fire stations, Borough ball fields, community swimming pools, traffic signals and Borough buildings. The value of electric service to these accounts in 2005 was \$172,887. If the Borough did not operate its own electric system, a real estate tax increase of 17% would be required just to pay for these electric accounts.

Secondly, the Borough’s Electric Division provides an abundance of street lighting to the community at no charge. The annual cost under the PPL tariff for the 1,908 streetlights in place would cost the Borough \$336,965. The Borough Electric Division actual out-of-pocket expense in 2005 for the street light program including electric energy and maintenance was only \$92,000, a savings against a would-be PPL tariff of almost \$245,000.

The operation of the electric distribution utility provides direct financial benefit to the community. Under Borough Financial Management Policies, 10% of electric sales revenues are transferred to the General Fund each year. In 2005, the General Fund received \$1,132,250 via this transfer. This transfer is larger each year than the total Borough real estate tax of \$984,000 collected in 2005.

The Electric Fund has also been the financial support for many capital projects in the Borough. An annual transfer of \$1 million is made from the Electric Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund to support the infrastructure, recreation and building needs of the community. This transfer allows the Borough to accomplish almost all capital projects on a pay-as-you-go basis rather than borrowing money through the municipal bond market.

Borough Council today as in the past wants to keep these funds working here in our community rather than sending them to an investor-owned utility for distribution of profits to shareholders. This is the greatest benefit of operating a municipal electric system – the dollars paid here stay here in our community.

Finally, the Electric Division adds value to our community by providing services for special events and for downtown aesthetics. Special activities include community events in Grater Park, concerts at the Library, and various events in the downtown area. The Division regularly changes the downtown banners and is responsible for holiday lighting of trees in the Central Business District.

The citizens of Ephrata receive tremendous value through the continued operation of our electric distribution utility. Great reliability – low rates – reinvestment in the community – low cost street lighting – free electric service to emergency services and recreation areas – A WINNING COMBINATION!

Borough Reminds Pool Owners...

The Borough would like to remind residents who have pools to keep a few requirements in mind as the summer of 2006 begins.

If you have an in-ground or above ground pool please know that Borough Codes regulate any pool that can hold 24 inches or more of water including inflatable pools. These regulations include setback, fencing, and permit requirements for pools whether permanent or temporary. For further information please contact the Borough Codes Department by calling 738-9202.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Officer Graeme Quinn Receives National Award

Approximately 70 percent of all serious crime involves a motor vehicle and law enforcement officials nationwide acknowledge that license plates are critical crime-fighting tools used to track and identify offenders.

To recognize law enforcement officers whose observation of a license plate resulted in the apprehension of a suspect or solution of a crime, the Traffic Safety Systems Division of the 3M Corporation developed the "Looking Beyond the License Plate" award program. The program was designed to substantiate and document the importance of license plates and is co-sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Ephrata Police Officer Graeme Quinn was nominated and selected as a 2005 "Honorable Mention" in the national award program.

"Officer Quinn represents some of the best qualities in a police officer. He is bright, professional and focused. Graeme is a "digger" and has successfully used his skills on numerous occasions to uncover criminal conduct and arrest violators. He also knows how to utilize the many tools at the disposal of patrol officers, including observing license plates and any irregularities that might indicate something beyond the license plate," said Chief Steve Annibali.

Here is an account of just one of those incidents:

On December 29, 2004, at approximately 1:12 AM, Officer Graeme Quinn was on patrol in a marked patrol vehicle when he observed a silver Honda Civic with six occupants in the car. He also observed that the Pennsylvania license plate was affixed to the car with duct tape. Officer Quinn conducted a records check on the license plate and discovered the car was listed in the National Crime Information Center as a stolen vehicle. Officer Quinn, with the assistance of cover officers, stopped the car and took all the occupants into custody without incident.

As a result of the license plate observation and subsequent stop, all six occupants were arrested resulting in 16 misdemeanor charges of receiving stolen property and conspiracy and one felony charge of fugitive from justice. In addition to these charges, one of the suspects were turned over to a neighboring county on a parole violation and a second was extradited to Florida for his involvement in the shooting of a nightclub operator during an armed robbery. It was also discovered that these suspects were involved in multiple vehicle thefts in several counties in Pennsylvania.

Officer Quinn is to be commended for this outstanding recognition and his continuing efforts to keep Ephrata safe.

2006 Borough Street & Alley Program Underway

The Borough of Ephrata 2006 street and alley program has begun. The following is a list of projects throughout the Borough community:

Reconstruction projects:

East Chestnut Street – North State Street to Lincoln Avenue (Cold-in-place)
Ephrata Avenue – Martin Avenue to Third Street (Full depth reclamation)
Spruce Alley – West Chestnut Street to Locust Street (Reconstruction)

Overlay projects:

South Maple Street – East Fulton Street to East Main Street
South Oak Street – West Fulton Street to West Main Street
Spruce Street – Washington Avenue to North State Street
West Chestnut Street – Terrace Avenue to Church Avenue



Ephrata Police Officer Paula Bright is County's Officer of the Year, Cont'd. - The result was a Christmas party breakfast for nearly forty of Ephrata's less fortunate children and their families. Of course, the highlight of the party was a visit from Santa and the opening of gifts. Best of all was the impact the program had on Police Officers, the children and their families. The effect of the program will pay dividends in positive community relations for years to come thanks to Ephrata Police Officers and Lancaster County's Officer of the Year Paula Bright.

Borough of Ephrata Newsletter

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Ephrata, PA 17522
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Borough Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Phone: 717-738-9222
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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

Bryan J. Foard	1st Ward	721-6345
Daryl L. Horning	1st Ward	733-6226
Johann H. Freeseaman, Jr.	2nd Ward	733-4883
Mary E. Schurr, President	2nd Ward	733-6411
Anthony Kilkuskie	3rd Ward	733-7607
Fred M. Thomas	3rd Ward	733-0421
Robert J. Good, Vice President	4th Ward	733-2520
Victor E. Richard	4th Ward	733-8242
Mayor		
Ralph E. Mowen		733-6129

Swimming Season is Here!

The Ephrata Community Pool, located in the Grater Community Park, is open now through Labor Day. Pool hours are Monday through Saturday 12:30 PM to 8:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Daily general admission rates are as follow:

Preschool - \$2.00; Students - \$4.00; Adults/Seniors – \$6.00. Admission after 5:30 PM is half-off.

Season tickets for the summer of 2006 are also available at the following rates:

Ephrata Borough Residents:

Preschool – 5 years & under	\$ 27.00
Students – 18 years & under	\$ 59.00
Adult – 19 years & older	\$ 87.00
Family – includes children 18 & under or a full-time student	\$156.00
Senior – 60 years & over	\$ 59.00

Non-Residents:

Preschool – 5 years & under	\$ 35.00
Students – 18 years & under	\$ 71.00
Adult – 19 years & older	\$100.00
Family – includes children 18 & under or a full-time student	\$193.00
Senior – 60 years & over	\$ 71.00

For more information on pool operation, hours and rates please call 738-9268.

National Survey, Cont'd. -After the results are compiled the Borough will hold a series of town meetings early in 2007. These meetings are similar to the “Downtown Visioning” meetings held in 2002 that were successful in prioritizing action steps to improve downtown Ephrata. This new round of meetings will review our strengths and examine areas of potential improvement raised in the Citizen Survey and gather citizen suggestions for consideration to improve Borough services.

The International City/County Management Association in cooperation with National Research Center, Inc sponsors The National Citizen Survey™. The questionnaire and survey procedure were designed based on the experience of hundreds of local governments, ranging in size from small to large. Scientific sampling and weighting of the responses in each jurisdiction ensure accurate and reliable results. A great benefit of using this national survey system is that the survey results for Ephrata will be compared to the results of other municipalities, providing a measure of how well our local government is doing.

Borough Council would like to hear from a large cross section of Borough residents. The results of this survey and the suggestions coming from the 2007 town meetings will be used to guide the budget decisions of Borough Council for many years to come.

If your household is randomly chosen to complete the questionnaire in September, please take the time to respond.

Please keep bushes and weeds trimmed away from utility meters