

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

90th Annual
Ephrata Street Fair
September 23rd to 27th

Ephrata Fair Parade
Wednesday, September 24th

Apple Dumpling Day
Ephrata Cloister
October 11th
Beginning at 9:30 AM

Jack Frost Parade
October 29th at 7:00 PM

Halloween
Trick or Treat Night
October 31st
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Borough Offices
will be closed
November 27th & 28th

Future of Electric Power Costs

All of us have been experiencing the unprecedented increase in fuel prices in the past two years. We've wondered about the causes of gasoline rising to over \$4.00 per gallon and then falling to \$3.60 in a few short months. If we have gotten a delivery of home heating oil recently at well over \$4.00 per gallon, we may be concerned about how much we will pay to heat our house this winter.

During the time of these dramatic increases in fuel prices, the Borough has been entering the wholesale electricity market to acquire power supply contracts to replace the current power supply contract that expires January 31, 2009. We found that electric prices have risen just as steeply as other energy prices have risen. It is anticipated that these higher prices will be passed on to Borough electric customers in February of next year.

Borough Council is concerned about increasing energy costs and has taken a number of steps to address future cost increases. First, the Borough is assembling a portfolio of electric power supply contracts ending in different years. As each contract expires, the Borough will contract for replacement power as needed. This is safer than having to replace all the power needs of Borough customers at one time and risk finding very high prices such as those we are finding in the market right now.

A second way Council is working to minimize future electric power costs is by participating with other municipal electric systems through American Municipal Power-Ohio (AMP-Ohio) in the construction of generation plants to serve the needs of those municipal participants. Studies have shown that power supplied by these generation facilities will be about 20% lower than power bought through the wholesale market. Borough Council has voted to participate in a hydroelectric project and in a new coal fired plant.

Having small generators available during times of peak electricity usage would help avoid the need to purchase electric energy from the wholesale market when prices are the highest. Borough Council is also working with AMP-Ohio to examine the potential for locating peaking generators right here in Ephrata.

Finally, Borough Council has begun working on energy efficiency measures that will help customers reduce their energy usage. For the past two years during Customer Appreciation events, the Borough has distributed compact fluorescent light bulbs to residents at no cost. The Borough recently added a web-based residential energy audit link to its website which will provide tremendous insight into the actual energy usage patterns in your home. We encourage you to visit our website at www.ephrataboro.org and click the link to the residential energy audit to identify ways you can reduce your use of electricity.

Thomas Applauded for Service to Borough Community

Fred Thomas, Councilman in Ephrata Borough's 3rd Ward, recently resigned after serving since 2000. Thomas has served the people of Ephrata Borough as a Councilman, past President and Committee Chairperson. With much appreciation, Borough Council recently commended Thomas for his support and commitment to the Ephrata community.

Inside this issue:

Doing Our Part to Reduce Runoff	2
Lighten Up Program Begins in October	3
Using Home Heating Devices Safely	3
Recycling, Refuse & Leaf Program Update	4

What Can We Do to Reduce Runoff in Streams?

Ask the above question and more than likely we might hear answers about soil erosion from fields and yards upstream that might seem, at first glance, to be the culprit of the muddy runoff. However, all too often what may seem the obvious may be only part of an equation. Pondering this question was Jay Snyder, the Borough of Ephrata's Environmental Resource Manager who set off after a recent heavy rain in search of some answers. As he surveyed the Cocalico Creek, from Ephrata to the Blue Lake area, Jay found no muddy water flowing into it. Snyder then turned his attention to the Cocalico Creek itself by studying its stream banks, low flowing nature and bed erosion. He quickly discovered that after the storm, the flow of the Creek substantially increased causing a more serious concern involving the scouring of the banks and streambed. This "wearing away" of the stream banks became Snyder's focus with a concentration in what we as residents can do to help.



Going back to nature – Things we can do:

Although some would advocate less development, which may lessen more runoff into our streams, we certainly can't begin to dig up our homes, parking lots and roads, so perhaps a compromise is in order. Things we could do include but are not limited to:

- Increase the water absorbing landscape you have and infiltrate as much storm water as practical.
- Plant more trees.
- When planning a driveway expansion, use porous paving surfaces.
- Divert downspouts into your yard, away from your neighbors yard, in doing so you will remove runoff from the street.
- If you have a garden, consider using a rain barrel for irrigation.
- Terrace your yard to slow runoff and encourage infiltration.

If you have no room in your yard, support offsite projects like stream restoration projects designed to widen floodplains and remove steep stream banks or stream silt. Ephrata Borough participated in two projects, one along Church Avenue and the other in Grater Park along Queen Street.

For more information on Polluted Runoff there are eleven fact sheets available from the Environmental Protection Agency at the <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/facts/> website. For other environmentally friendly alternatives please visit <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/inyourbackyard.aspx?menuitem=16888>.

The Cocalico Creek Watershed Association is developing a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Cocalico Creek Watershed. This plan will identify additional sites along the creek for potential restoration. All are welcome to the monthly meetings held the first Monday of each month at the Cocalico Sportsman's Association Club building, 585 Sportsman Rd, Denver, at 7:00 pm. Contact Dave Weidman at 336-4271 or email super45mom@yahoo.com for more information.

Air Quality Partnership

Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority is a partner of the Air Quality Partnership of the Susquehanna Valley, a public/private coalition of volunteers dedicated to improving air quality in the south central region of PA.



This year's focus is the "Share the Ride Challenge" to encourage everyone to share the ride by carpooling, or using public transportation 10 times before September 30, 2008.

Everyone that signs up is eligible to win a number of great prizes including: a digital camera, an iPod, a Blackberry, a weekend getaway for two, or a "Night Out" package that includes movie tickets, dinner for two and more!



To take the Challenge and learn more about the Air Quality Partnership of the Susquehanna Valley and the Share the Ride Challenge go to www.lcswma.org/events.asp.

“Lighten Up Ephrata”

Nutrition Wise and Exercise Starting in October

The Ephrata Recreation Center, the Ephrata Community Hospital, and the Borough of Ephrata are kicking off “Lighten Up Ephrata” a new program to promote exercise and balanced nutritional habits to Ephrata residents by providing information and activities for people of all ages.

According to baseline studies, over 64% of adults in Lancaster County are considered overweight, with 25% of the adults considered obese, that is 1 out of 4 adults. Unfortunately, making lifestyle changes to reduce obesity-related and chronic illnesses is becoming more difficult to fit into some of our daily schedules. In Ephrata, as in the nation as a whole, obesity is a significant and growing public health problem. Dr Julie Gerberding, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has identified obesity as the nation’s number one public health problem. By directly addressing this epidemic, we can have a marked impact on a wide range of health conditions including premetabolic syndrome, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and several cancers. Because of the significant morbidity and mortality risk associated with overweight and obesity, some have observed that unless we make significant progress in reversing the epidemic, today’s generation of children will be the first in over a century for whom life expectancy actually falls.

Healthy eating and active living is the compelling focus behind “Lighten Up Ephrata.” Our overall objectives are:

- ◆ Increase the percentage of adults who engage in moderate and vigorous activity.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of adults who eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day.
- ◆ Decrease the percentage of children classified as “at risk” or overweight.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of adults at a healthy weight.



Starting October 4th “Lighten Up Ephrata” will be kicking off the initial six week program at the Borough of Ephrata’s Linear Park on Fulton Street in conjunction with “America On The Move”, a national movement that encourages everyone to take steps towards a healthier way of life. Each week we will have a theme and programs promoting nutrition and exercise to correlate with America On The Move. Week #1 walks are Discover Ephrata, week #2 walks are Rise & Shine and Evenings, week #3 Walk Your Pet, week #4 Sports Week walks, week #5 walks are on the Firecracker Five Race course, and week #6 walks are based around Clean Up Ephrata.

A complete schedule of the six weeks can be viewed on www.ephratarec.com, www.ephratahospital.com, www.ephrataboro.org, and articles in the Ephrata Review. Also starting in October, memberships to the Ephrata Recreation Center will be reduced by 20% for all residents of the Borough of Ephrata. For any additional information please call the Recreation Center at 738-1167.

Please Use Alternative Home Heating Devices Safely

According to the United States Fire Administration, more than one-fifth of residential fires are related to the use of supplemental room heaters - wood- and coal-burning stoves, kerosene heaters, gas space heaters and electric heaters - so, before you put logs in the fireplace or plug in the electric heater, take some precautions. And never use an oven or stove to help heat your home.

Fireplace chimneys regularly build up creosote that can ignite. Chimneys need to be cleaned out frequently and inspected for cracks and obstructions. Never burn trash, paper, or green wood in your fireplace because these are difficult to control and cause heavy creosote buildup. And use a fireplace screen that is both big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks and heavy enough to stop rolling logs.



Only use heaters with the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) safety listing. Read and follow all instructions in the owner's manual. The heater should be placed on the floor, away from combustible materials, and out of high-traffic areas. Never put anything on top of your space heater. Never leave the heater unattended or with unsupervised children. Electric heaters should be unplugged if you go to bed or leave the house. Kerosene heaters should be turned off if you go to bed or leave the house. And use only crystal clear K-1 kerosene in your kerosene heater - never gasoline or camp stove fuel.

*This material was partly compiled from a variety of sources including the American Red Cross,
United States Fire Administration and American Gas Association.*

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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	733-6226
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
Wendy Perillo	3rd Ward	721-3177
Robert J. Good, President	4th Ward	733-2520
Victor E. Richard	4th Ward	733-8242
Mayor		
Ralph E. Mowen		733-6129

Yard Waste Collection

Yard Waste Collection will continue through October 16th – after this date yard waste is placed with regular refuse as part of your three bag limit.

Refuse and Recycling Holiday Reminder

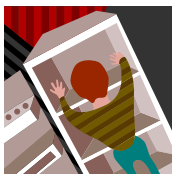
Service for recycling and refuse customers on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27 will be collected on Friday, November 28

Cardboard Recycling Available to Borough Residents

A cardboard drop off site located across from the Public Works Complex on Pine Street accepts corrugated cardboard – cardboard with a fluted lining. Residents are asked to flatten all cardboard prior to placing it in the recycling container at the drop off site.

Important Notice on Refrigerators & Freezers

Refrigerators and freezers must have the doors removed if they are placed outside of the home, even for short periods of time. It only takes a child a moment to get trapped in the appliance and suffocate.



Free Leaf Bags Available for Borough Residents

Distribution of free biodegradable leaf bags for Borough residents will be at Grater Park on Saturday, October 11 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Residents may also pick up leaf bags at the following locations beginning Monday, October 13:

- ◆ Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State St.
Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- ◆ Ephrata Recreation Center, 130 South Academy Drive
Monday – Friday 5:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Saturday – 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Sunday – 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Biodegradable leaf bags are for Borough residents only

Leaf Collection Dates

Leaves will be collected the same day as recycling on the following dates:

October 20 — October 23
November 3 — November 6
November 17 — November 20
December 1 — December 4

Leaves must be in biodegradable leaf bags provided by the Borough. Open containers and plastic bags will not be collected. Place the filled bags by the curb the same day as your recycling for collection.

Please contact the Borough Business Office at 738-9222 if you have any questions.

Daylight Saving Time ends on November 2nd ~ Remember to turn clocks back one hour