

Borough of Ephrata Newsletter

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

Ephrata's Railroad Station Bustles Again!

The newly renovated Ephrata railroad station, which is owned by the Borough, is now home to the Ephrata Area Visitor's Center, Ephrata Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Ephrata Incorporated (DEI). The Historic Conservation Trust, having been the stewards of the railroad station, continues to maintain meeting and storage space.

Happy Holidays!

Ephrata Borough Welcomes New Councilmen

Beginning January 1, 2006 the citizens of Ephrata Borough will have two new Council members ready to learn and ready to serve.

Stating it is "a logical next step," Victor Richard will represent the fourth ward. With a thorough knowledge of the Borough, Vic is looking forward to learning and being part of government on a local level. Richard is a Business Development Officer for Susquehanna Bank in Ephrata for 32 years and is specifically interested in quality of life matters in the Ephrata Community. Seeing "good



things happening in Ephrata" he is eager to begin his service to the citizens of the Borough. Vic has served with the Ephrata Lions Club, Ephrata Farmers Day Association, Ephrata Chamber of Commerce, Ephrata Merchants Association and other local civic organizations over the years. A descendent of the Kachel/Zerfass family, Vic and his family lived on the Ephrata Cloister property until 1968.

Representing Ephrata Borough's first ward will be Daryl Horning. Called to serve as a result of the tragic loss of Thomas Mohr, Daryl states he "wants to continue the fine work others have started." "The increase in property values and people wanting to live in Ephrata is a high praise to the work of those who have served before me," stated Horning. Believing that what we enjoy in Ephrata doesn't just happen, Daryl states, "it takes hard work, insight and good leadership." Horning and his wife, Paula, are the parents of four children. Daryl is also a partner in Vogan Manufacturing in New Holland.

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Library Receives Funding from Borough

In 2005, the Borough gave generously in the amount of \$42,000 to the Ephrata Public Library. "The library appreciates the support of Ephrata Borough in assisting us to meet our goals," stated Jennifer Raimo, Director of the Ephrata Library. The demand for products and services rise each year as the library circulates 48,073 items to 8,397 Ephrata Borough cardholders. Services provided include computer and Internet access and a 58% increase in the circulation of Young Adult (Teen) materials.

According to Raimo, \$14,000 of the funding went toward the purchase of library resources such as books, subscriptions and audio/video materials and \$28,000 towards staffing costs.

Raimo also reported that Borough residents were able to attend a full range of adult and children programs including Summer Reading Programs and a preschooler Read Aloud Program, which was also funded in part by the Borough's Cultural Arts Grant. Over 1,300 youngsters enrolled in the programs.



Borough Purchases Versatile Equipment

Through a competitive bid process the Borough has purchased a Toolcat Utility Tractor manufactured by Bobcat (shown in picture). Because of its size, the Toolcat is street legal and adaptable to perform many functions. The Toolcat is also accessorized with attachments to perform, among other functions, snow removal, a rotary broom to clean sidewalks/parking areas, a bucket for debris removal and the application of mulch. The benefits of this new piece of equipment will support the Central Business District and other areas throughout the Borough.

School Resource Officer Becomes a Reality

After more than three years of work, the Ephrata Area School District and the Ephrata Police Department will finally have a Police Officer dedicated to the youth of the community.

On October 11, 2005, U. S. Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and U.S. Representative Joe Pitts presented both Borough and School District officials a check for \$125,000. The grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice COPS in Schools Program, is designed to pay for the bulk of the cost of the new School Resource Officer for the next three years. The Ephrata Area School District and all four of the municipalities within the district will share the difference between the cost and the grant funding. Those municipalities are Ephrata Borough, Ephrata Township, Clay Township and Akron Borough. The shared costs are based on the actual number of students that attend the High School and Middle School from each municipality.

“This is a great day for the Youth of Ephrata” said Ephrata Borough Mayor, Ralph Mowen. *“We have been working for years to get this program on board and I am very pleased that we were successful.”*

The School Resource Officer (SRO) will be a specially trained uniformed police officer that will work on a daily basis in both Ephrata Middle School and Ephrata High School. In addition to serving as a mentor to students, the SRO will provide counseling and coaching to teens and teach substance abuse awareness and civic responsibility classes. Much of the success of the SRO programs nationwide has come from the relationships the officers build with the students and the information that is shared. Many youth related problems are averted through this sharing of information.

Chief of Police Steven N. Annibali commented *“We have always done quite well with our DARE and other programs for the younger students, but after 5th grade... well they were on their own. This program is important because it picks up where we left off and follows the kids through those tough middle school and high school years.”*

The Ephrata Police Department was one of only fifteen police departments in the nation to receive the grant. The goal is to have the SRO in place by January 2006.

Maintaining Borough Properties

To maintain curbside appeal of Borough properties please do not park campers, boats or any other recreational vehicle or trailers in the front yard or driveway. The Borough defines the front yard as what is visible between the front of the house and street. Other items such as unrestored licensed vehicles or the storage of trash cans should be placed in the rear or side yard where they are less visible. Your cooperation is appreciated in maintaining all Borough properties.

Please control your pets for the safety of the Borough's meter readers

Ephrata Borough Budget and Program of Services Information

A recap of the past—2005

An exciting year for the Borough with the opening of many new ventures in the community.

Opening of the Hampton Inn and Suites and Applebee's at the Mountain Springs site.

Lancaster Weeklies renovates downtown facility.

Renovations of the Railroad Station with public restrooms and a visitor's center as well as offices for the Ephrata Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Ephrata Inc.

These major improvements in the community have encouraged many smaller entrepreneurs to open their businesses in this great town. From books, to pet supplies to day spas, we have it all.

The year ahead—2006

The Borough will continue to provide the best service at the greatest value for our customers.

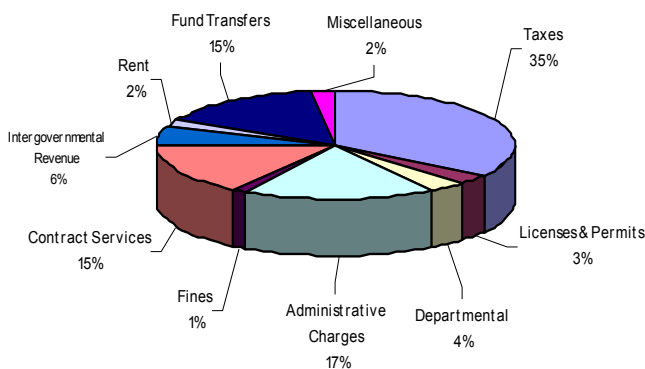
There is **no real estate tax rate increase** necessary to balance the General Fund budget.

Refuse and recycling rates will remain the same.

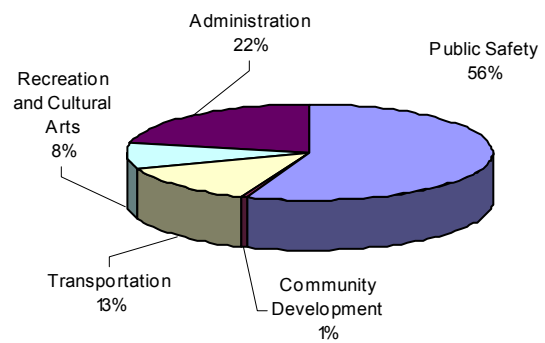
Despite the current volatility in fuel prices, **electric utility rates will not increase.** The borough is in the third year of a five-year contract with Reliant Energy.

The Police Department will add a School Resource Officer with federal funding and support from the Ephrata Area School District and surrounding communities.

General Fund Sources of Revenue



General Fund Expenditures by Program



2006 Street Program Improvements

Storm Water Abatement—total cost of improvements—\$382,250

West Chestnut St. from Church St. to Terrace Ave.

West Fulton St./West Main St. intersection

Street Program—total cost of improvements—\$600,000

Cold in Place Recycling

East Chestnut St. from North State St. to Lincoln Ave.

South Maple St. from East Main St. to East Fulton St.

Mill and Overlay Treatment

West Chestnut St. from Terrace Ave. to Church Ave.

South Oak St. from West Main St. to West Fulton St.

Reconstruction

Spruce Alley from West Chestnut St. to Locust St.

Full Depth Reclamation

Ephrata Ave. from Martin Ave. to Third St.

2006 Tax Revenue by Type

	Rate	Amount
Real Estate (in mills)	1.504	\$1,010,000
Earned Income	0.50%	\$1,230,850
Real Estate Transfer	0.50%	\$256,000
EMST* (each employee)	\$20.00	\$190,000
Total Tax Revenue		\$2,686,850

Expenditures by Fund	2005	2006
General Fund	\$7,371,060	\$7,793,374
Electric Fund	\$11,621,482	\$12,008,472
Sewer Fund	\$3,440,118	\$3,595,590
Sanitation Fund	\$603,580	\$619,881

*Emergency & Municipal Services Tax

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Ephrata, PA 17522
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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	738-3982
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

Ephrata Borough Vehicle Donations Aid Public Safety

Ephrata Borough Council came to the aid of the Lincoln Fire Company and the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center with the recent approval of three vehicle donations.

The Council moved to donate the former Police Department Community Service pick up truck to the Lincoln Fire Company to be used as a utility – support vehicle. The value of the retired truck is about \$2,100.

Additionally, the Council approved the donation of two former Chevrolet Impala patrol cars to the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center to be used for their Emergency Vehicle Operations driving course. The Ephrata Police Department uses the Training Center classrooms, firearms range and driving track at no cost to the Borough. The former patrol cars are worth approximately \$4,000 each.

Ephrata Mayor Ralph Mowen serves on the Advisory Board of the Training Center and said the cars will be put to good use. *“Our police department, fire companies and rescue services all have the opportunity to use this training center at no cost. This donation was a much needed and appreciated gesture.”*

Energy Conservation Tips

This winter please consider using one or more of the following tips to conserve energy in your household:

- Close draperies at night and on cloudy days and open them on sunny days.
- Seal doors with draft-reducing weather stripping and door sweeps.
- Lower your thermostat to 65 degrees while you are away during the day.
- Use an extra blanket at night to stay warm without warming your whole house.
- Replace furnace filters regularly.
- Dress warm by wearing layers of clothing ~ this insulates the air trapped between the layers.
- Lower water heater thermostats to the lowest level that meets your hot water needs (midway between the “low” and “medium” settings on most units). Each decrease of 10 degrees saves five percent on water heating costs. Source: PA DEP

Have a Safe & Healthy 2006!