

# Borough of Ephrata Newsletter

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

*Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe & Healthy New Year!*

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**Borough Offices will be closed  
Monday, December 24th,  
Tuesday, December 25th and  
Tuesday, January 1st**

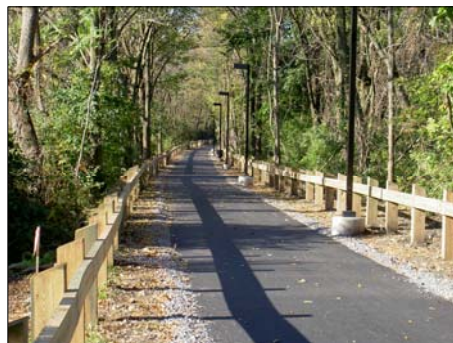
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## **LINEAR PARK BECOMES A REALITY!**

On Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new walking and biking trail in the Ephrata Linear Park took place. It was a beautiful autumn day when County Commissioners Dick Shellenberger deemed the Ephrata trail a “Cadillac” and Molly Henderson spoke of all the “time and effort” that was involved in bringing the trail to reality.

Ephrata Councilman Anthony Kilkuskie commented that the “credit goes to past and present Council members and the citizens” and Mayor Ralph Mowen declared that the trail “is something to be proud of.” Ephrata Borough Manager Gary Nace commended Borough Council and staff and expressed the hope that this trail continues into our neighboring Akron and Lititz communities.



However, it was what was occurring on this day, during the ceremony that spoke volumes without one word being uttered. Even before the ribbon fell to the ground, as far as you could see in either direction were people already enjoying a mid-morning stroll. In fact, on any given day you will find dozens of people walking, riding bike or just relaxing on one of the benches located along the trail.

The trail, which is just less than one mile in length, was supported with Federal and Lancaster County Grants, and the cooperation of residents who live along the trail. The trail runs from Fulton Street to Pointview Avenue. Walking along the paved asphalt surface, this leisurely trail boasts lighting for evening enjoyment, as well as benches and trash receptacles made from recycled material.

The next phase of the trail which will continue from Fulton Street to Main Street is scheduled for construction in 2008.

## **Cops for Tots ~ Tis the Season for Giving!**

When a little boy was asked what he wanted from Santa, it was a new bed pillow, tee shirts and a puzzle. When a single mom had \$200 stolen – money she was going to use to buy Christmas gifts for her children – she was distraught. She wondered how she was going to bring any joy to her family over the holiday season.

In 2006 the Cops for Tots program reached out to 17 families and over 47 children with gifts of clothing, school supplies and toys. Ephrata Applebee’s Restaurant joined the cause and hosted a Christmas meal for all the families.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Ephrata's Customer Appreciation Day Goes Green!

For fifteen years the Borough of Ephrata has celebrated our customers. This year, on the first Friday in November, our customers were treated to more than cookies and other light refreshments as they stepped to the counter to select that special thank you gift. In the spirit of "thinking green" one of the items our customers selected from was an energy saver fluorescent light bulb.

These *Energy Saver* lights last up to ten times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs while continuing to provide the same soft white light you've come to expect. Here are a few most frequently asked questions about these lights:



Q. Can I put a compact fluorescent lamp into my existing light fitting?

A. Yes. Compact fluorescent lights come with bayonet or Edison screw bases, so they can be used instead of incandescent light globes in existing fittings. Note that the higher wattage fluorescents are longer than globes, so you need to consider this.

Q. Do low voltage lights cost less to run?

A. No. You pay for electricity by the wattage of the lamp not its voltage. It will therefore cost the same amount to run a 50W low voltage lamp as it does to run a 50W normal voltage lamp.

Q. Is it more expensive to turn a fluorescent lamp off than leave it on?

A. It costs more to start a fluorescent lamp than it does to run it. However, this increased start-up current is only microseconds long and therefore the first second the lamp is off will more than pay for the start-up. Frequent switching on and off of a fluorescent light will reduce its lifetime and therefore should be avoided.

Q. What lighting do I need for my house?

A. In general, areas which require lighting for longer periods, such as kitchens and living rooms, are best lit with fluorescent lights. For areas such as bathrooms and other places where lighting is only used for short periods, your best option is a normal incandescent globe (although fluorescent lights can still be used).

Although deemed environmentally responsible because of their long life, there are special instructions when disposing these lights due the mercury and phosphorus powder inside them. If a light breaks in your home, open nearby windows to disperse any vapor that may escape, carefully sweep up the fragments (do not use your hands) and wipe the area with a disposable paper towel to remove all glass fragments – do not vacuum. Place all fragments in a sealed plastic bag and contact the nearest disposal site that accepts a mercury recycling or disposal method. Bulbs that have lost their life or are broken are considered hazardous waste and should be handled by a trained Household Hazardous Waste Facility. In our community the nearest Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility is located at the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, 1299 Harrisburg Pike. For hours of the HHW operation call the Authority office at (717)397-9968 or visit [www.lcswma.org](http://www.lcswma.org) for additional information.

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## Important Snow & Ice Removal Information

The Borough Code of Ordinances requires the owner, occupant or tenant of every property fronting on or alongside any street to remove all snow and ice from public sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow or ice has ceased to fall. Remember to clear at least a two-foot wide path for the safety of pedestrian traffic. You may be cited and fined up to \$600 for failing to clear your sidewalks or for depositing snow and ice in the traffic lanes of any street.

Following heavy snowfalls, please consider clearing areas around fire hydrants near your property so that, in the event of a fire, our volunteer fire fighters can more easily identify and connect to the hydrant.

## Cops for Tots ~ Tis the Season for Giving! *(Continued)*

Applebee's employees not only contributed to the gifts, but also volunteered their time to prepare and serve a wonderful Christmas breakfast.

With their bellies full and excitement in the air, Santa soon arrived in a limousine provided by Landis Luxury Coaches. Mayor Ralph Mowen, our Police Officers and all the volunteers helped Santa deliver gifts to all the children, and the restaurant was full of gleeful cries of joy and piles of torn wrapping paper. 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. A perfect day was topped off when one lucky family received a free limousine ride around town provided by Landis Luxury Coaches.

When Cops for Tots began in 2004 it brought Christmas to 12 area children. Working hand and hand with Ephrata Area Social Services, the Officers and other caring people continue to reach deep inside their own pockets to raise funds to provide gifts to some of Ephrata's less fortunate. The Cops for Tots program continues to grow with the help of the Ephrata Area Chamber of Commerce, Applebee's Restaurant, other area businesses and volunteers who provide their service or financial support.

This Christmas, the Cops for Tots program has received requests from over 20 families including 50 children in need! As each Christmas approaches the Ephrata Police Department looks forward to promoting the Cops for Tots program and giving back to the community.

*Best Holiday Wishes from the Ephrata Police Department!*

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## How Does a Traffic Signal Detect Vehicles?

In Ephrata Borough there are two devices that are used to detect vehicles at traffic lights, inductive loop detection and microwave detection. Inductive loop detectors are imbedded into the asphalt surface and triggered based on a magnetic field, in this case, the metal contained within a vehicle. These loops are laid in the asphalt just before the stop bar and detect a vehicle that travels above the loop. By traveling over the stop bar the loop detector does not sense the vehicle and may not work efficiently. Therefore, it is important to understand that the detection is most effective when a vehicle stops at the stop bar without going past it but not too far before the bar so the signal can activate.

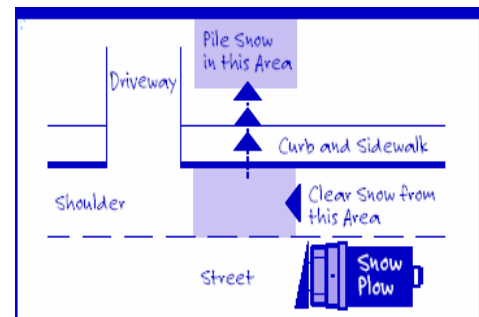
A Microwave detector works in a similar way; however, these detectors are placed high on poles at an intersection. These detectors are then aimed at the vehicle traveling lanes and calibrated at the stop bars. Again, stopping at the stop bar ensures that the detector "senses" your vehicle and keeps the crosswalk clear for pedestrian safety.

If you experience a malfunction or believe the system is not functioning properly, please contact the Borough Engineering Office at 738-9202.

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## Helpful Hints on Winter Maintenance

- \* Clean driveways after the street has been plowed as multiple passes by the snow plow may be necessary – do not clear snow onto streets
- \* 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.



## Borough of Ephrata Newsletter

124 South State Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
[www.ephrataboro.org](http://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](mailto: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

Bryan J. Foard	1st Ward	721-6345
Daryl L. Horning	1st Ward	733-6226
Mary E. Schurr, President	2nd Ward	733-6411
Brian N. Rohrbaugh	2nd Ward	733-1029
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
<b>Mayor</b>		
Ralph E. Mowen		733-6129

### BOROUGH OF EPHRATA REFUSE & RECYCLING HOLIDAY COLLECTION REMINDER

Due to the Christmas holiday there will be no collection for Borough of Ephrata recycling and refuse customers on Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. If your scheduled collection day is Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday during this week your collection will be delayed by one day.

Likewise, the New Year holiday on Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> will also be a no service day. Customers normally scheduled for collection on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday will be delayed one day.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING FREE AT YOUR CURB

Borough residents wishing to have their Christmas tree collected as part of the Borough's Christmas Tree Recycling Program may prepare trees for curbside collection during the following dates:

Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

To prepare your Christmas tree for collection remove the tree stand, all lights and ornaments. Also, please do not place trees in bags. Trees must be placed at the curbside for collection on the same day as your recycling.

If you miss the above scheduled collection dates you may purchase a \$4.00 oversized tag at the Borough of Ephrata Business Office. Affix the tag to your tree and place it curbside on the same day as your recycling collection day.

For additional information on the Borough's Christmas Tree Recycling program please call 738-9222, stop by the Borough Business Office at 124 South State Street or visit our website at [www.ephrataboro.org](http://www.ephrataboro.org)

*Enjoy two hours of free parking in downtown Ephrata through the holiday season!*

