

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 Happy New Year!

*Enjoy *Free Parking in Downtown Ephrata during the Holiday Season*

**Two hour limit*

Borough Offices will be closed Thursday, December 24th, Friday, December 25th and Friday, January 1st

Historic Ephrata Cloister "Lantern Tours" December 26th through December 29th 6:00PM—9:00PM

BOROUGH WINS AMP AWARDS & BOARD SEAT

The Borough of Ephrata began its relationship with American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) in 2007. AMP is a non-profit corporation that provides its member municipal electric systems with opportunities to participate in power generation projects, contract power supply alternatives, and technical services support. Borough Council has been actively pursuing change to existing Pennsylvania law in order for the Borough to take advantage of the AMP hydroelectric, wind and coal-fired generation projects.

With the Borough's increasing attention to the wholesale electric power market, Gary Nace, Borough Manager, recently attended the 2009 AMP Annual Conference where the Borough of Ephrata was elected to an AMP Board of Trustees seat. Mr. Nace was appointed by Borough Council to represent the Borough and all Pennsylvania members of AMP on the AMP Board.

Also at the AMP Annual Conference the Borough was recognized with four specialized awards. The Public Power System Improvement Award was given to the Borough for upgrading 10,400 feet of overhead primary cable at a minimal cost of \$28,550. According to Electric Division Superintendent Tim Zimmerman, "by increasing the conductor size we will reduce system losses and provide the capability to tie circuits together and restore service in a timely manner in the event of a power outage."



A second Public Power System Improvement Award was presented to the Borough for completing installation of Wildlife Guards on approximately 800 transformers and underground terminations at a cost of \$18,000. This project began in 2006 and was completed in 2009, without disruption of power to customers. By installing the guards, animal-related service interruptions were reduced from 33 in 2006 to only 3 in 2009.

The Borough was also recognized with a Public Power Innovation Award for a project that resulted in replacing a 300kVA with a 150kVA high efficiency transformer and a 1000kVA with a 750kVA transformer. These replacements have already saved an estimated \$40,000 in equipment and energy costs.

Lastly, the Borough was presented with the Public Power Environmental Stewardship Award. This award was given for the Borough's endeavors in instituting a Magazine & Glossy Paper Recycling Program. Removing these recyclable materials from the waste stream will reduce the Borough's trash disposal costs but more importantly allow for reuse of material that was previously considered a waste product. Any money raised through sale of this recycled material supports the Ronald McDonald House of Hershey.

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EPA Sets Local Expectations for Chesapeake Bay Requirements

In recent requirements mandated to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided expectations which call for accountability in local water quality restoration efforts. These mandates impact one of the two Borough's wastewater treatment facilities by requiring the plant to improve its effluent and limit the amount of nutrients discharged into the Cocalico Creek by October 2012. As part of the EPA requirements, the Borough is required to identify measures to reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous discharged into the Cocalico Creek to ensure water quality standards are met.

Currently, the Borough manages and operates two wastewater facilities that receive and treat wastewater generated from Akron, Denver and Ephrata Boroughs as well as Clay, Ephrata and East Cocalico Townships. The Wastewater Treatment Plant 1 facility, built in the 1930's, was upgraded in the 1960's and again in the 1980's. Plant 1 must undergo extensive construction to modify the treatment process to meet the new limits. The design of the project will begin in late 2009 with construction taking place in 2011 and completion in 2012. During construction the existing treatment plant will continue to treat the wastewater it currently receives. The cost of the project is approximately eight million dollars, which includes design. While no new capacity will be added, at the conclusion of this project Plant 1 will deliver higher quality effluent to the Cocalico Creek. Wastewater Plant 2 was constructed and placed in service in 1995 and currently meets the discharge limits without any further improvements.



Ephrata Police Department Releases Crime Prevention Tip for Upcoming Census

WARNING: 2010 Census Cautions from the Better Business Bureau

During the 2010 U.S. Census, households will be contacted by mail, telephone or visited by a U.S. Census worker who will inquire about the number of people living in the house. Unfortunately, people may also be contacted by scammers who are impersonating Census workers in order to gain access to sensitive financial information such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers.

Law enforcement officials in several states have issued warnings that scammers are already posing as Census Bureau employees and knocking on doors asking for donations and Social Security numbers.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? The Better Business Bureau offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a hand-held device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.



While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.

- Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they **will not** contact you by e-mail, so be on the lookout for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.bbb.org

Please don't drink and drive ~ Pass the keys to a designated driver

Krimes Wins Safety Award

Borough of Ephrata First Class Electric Lineman, Doug Krimes, was awarded the 2009 Hard Hat Safety Award for safety consciousness at the recent American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) Annual Conference. Doug is shown being congratulated by Gary Shultz, AMP Safety Consultant.



Doug began his career with the Borough in 1975 and has been serving as a Lineman in the Electric Department since 1986. The AMP Hard Hat Safety Program, established in 1991, was developed to reduce accidents by encouraging better use of safety equipment, preventing serious injuries and giving electric system employees a better awareness of safety precautions.

Doug was nominated by Electric Superintendent, Tim Zimmerman, for his active role in safety. "In his years with the Borough, Doug brings a tremendous amount of knowledge to the Department as a lineman and his efforts to apply safety measures in the field is very valuable" stated Zimmerman. Doug also assists in planning work to reduce exposure to energized equipment, keeps a watchful eye on the other linemen while they work on the ground, in the air and alerts them of potential hazards. Superintendent Zimmerman also acknowledged Doug for his role in serving on the Borough's Electric Department Safety Team.

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

It won't be too much longer until you find yourself singing, humming or whistling the above recognizable tune. However, with snow or ice covering everything the beauty of the land takes on a whole new view when your "walk" turns you upside down. Once familiar landmarks, sidewalks, curbs, ramps, crosswalks even the street, now snow-covered, seem to disappear under a blanket of white turning the well-known territory into an alien landscape for pedestrians.

It is important to be continually aware of the dangers that pedestrians encounter due to slippery surfaces from snow and ice. This winter before taking one step onto that proverbial slippery slope or sidewalk, consider the following safety tips:

- * Plan your route and give yourself sufficient time.
- * Wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow or ice.
- * Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles; use the vehicle for support.
- * Walk in designated walkways as much as possible. Taking shortcuts over snow piles and areas where snow and ice is can be hazardous.
- * Look ahead when you walk; a sidewalk completely covered with ice may require travel along its grassy edge for traction.
- * When given no choice but to walk on the ice, consider taking short steps or shuffle for stability.
- * Finally, when entering buildings, remove snow and water from footwear to prevent creating wet slippery conditions indoors.



To perform a Personal Energy Assessment, an online tool to help you understand and manage your home energy use, visit www.ephrataboro.org

Please remember to clear a minimum two foot wide path of snow & ice from sidewalks within 24 hours after snow/ice ceases to fall

Borough of Ephrata Newsletter

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
William Harvey

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

Christmas Tree Recycling at Your Curb

Borough of Ephrata residents who would like to have their Christmas tree(s) collected as part of the Borough's Christmas Tree Recycling Program may prepare trees for curbside collection the following weeks on the same day as your recycling collection day.

- ◆ Monday, January 4th through Thursday, January 7th
- ◆ Monday, January 18th through Thursday, January 21st



To prepare your tree for collection all lights, tree stands, ornaments and bags must be removed from the tree.

If you miss these scheduled collection dates, you may purchase a \$4.00 oversized tag at

the Borough's Business Office. Place the tag on your tree and place it curbside the same day as your recycling for pick up.

If you have any questions or need additional information, stop by the Borough at 124 South State Street, call the Business Office at 738-9222 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM or visit our website at www.ephrataboro.org

Commercial Recycling Information

It's almost that time of year again for all Commercial, Industrial, and/or Institutional businesses to complete and submit annual recycling reports. These reports are important because they allow the Borough of Ephrata, County and State to determine success in meeting waste reduction goals.

As a reminder, this valuable information can be collected and reported two ways. The reporting method depends on how the recyclable materials are marketed. The following summarizes the two methods and how to ensure that your recycling efforts are properly documented.

1. If you **DO NOT** rely on your waste hauler to transport some or all of your recyclables, Ephrata Borough will send a request in January for you to complete a **2009 Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Annual Recycling Report**. You will need to provide verification of the weights reported. Verification can be provided either by receipts, bills of lading, weight tickets, or your Market Broker or End User can sign the report.
2. If you **DO** rely on your waste hauler to transport your recyclables, your data should already be reported through the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority's manifest system.

Look for your letter, instructions and annual report in January. If you do not receive this information or have any questions about the report, please contact the Borough's Recycling Coordinator at 738-9202, Ext. 127. Your cooperation in this effort is appreciated.

Residential Refuse & Recycling Information

There will be no collection schedule changes for Borough of Ephrata customers in the collection of refuse and recycling during the Christmas and New Year Holiday's.