



The Borough Buzz

Borough of Markleysburg

July 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Borough Playground is For All to Enjoy

The Borough playground is open. Families, as well as individuals, are welcome to visit. Visitors bringing food, drinks or other items in should allow others the opportunity to enjoy a trash-free environment and are urged to clean up after themselves. For your convenience, there are two large trash cans located at each end of the fenced-in play area.

While all are encouraged to spend time in the playground, Borough Council has prohibited loitering in front of, beside, and on the porches of the Borough building. This measure was taken due to property being damaged, littering on the property and the biggest reason...*safety*.

With the gathering of people in front of the building; pop cans, food wrappers and other discarded items are constantly being left behind. Most times these groups consist of teens, pre-teens and elementary aged children — some of which are left unattended or unsupervised for long periods of time. Children are repeatedly observed riding skates, skateboards and bicycles on the porch ramp causing damage to it. They have also been seen riding from the ramp or sidewalk out into traffic. Although the Borough is small, Main Street is heavily used by tractor trailers and other large truck traffic. The speed limit through town is 35mph, but many vehicles traveling through do not obey it — including residents of Markleysburg.

The “No Loitering” signs posted on Borough property last summer have largely been ignored by many teens and young people. Attempts to deter the dangerous and destructive behavior have been made; the activities continue. These acts have caused Council to set limitations for using borough property.

Anyone caught loitering in the posted area will be directed to leave. If under 18, a notice will be sent to the parents/guardians about the violation. If offender is found loitering again, he/she will be banned from all borough property — including the playground — and a fine may be imposed. If the violation occurs a third time, the police will be called and violator cited for trespassing. Individuals are encouraged to take this policy seriously; it will be enforced.



The Borough Buzz is a publication produced to keep Borough residents and property owners informed about issues relating to the Borough of Markleysburg. It is our hope that this newsletter will be published at least twice annually.

From Borough Council

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS

First Monday of Month, 7:30pm
Borough Building
150 Main St., Markleysburg Borough
(in the event of a Monday holiday, meeting is held the following Tuesday)

Meetings are public.
All residents are invited to attend.

Borough office is not open for regular office hours.
Phone: 724-329-1459
Email: markleysburg@markleysburg.pa.us

SEWAGE PAYMENTS TAKEN

First & Third Saturday of each month
10:00am — Noon
Borough Building

NATIONAL PIKE WATER AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS

Third Monday of Month
7:00pm
NPWA Office
4922 National Pike, Henry Clay Twp

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
9:00am—2:00pm
Phone: 724-329-0649
Fax: 724-329-2418
Email: npwa@qcol.net

TAX COLLECTION HOURS

First & Third Saturday of each month
(Or by appointment, call 724-329-0350)
9:00am—Noon
Borough Building
Closed holidays

Payments may be mailed to
Lori L. Frazee
169 Main Street
Markleysburg, PA, 15459

We developed this newsletter with you in mind; to provide you with information about projects and potential projects Council is working on to make improvements in our community. We are always interested in hearing from YOU, the residents, taxpayers and business owners about issues of importance to you. Bring your comments, suggestions, and yes, complaints to our meetings. We're open to considering new projects and welcome your input.

Council strives to be good stewards of taxpayer money; spending frugally on worthy and useful endeavors. Every effort is made to serve the needs as well as some of the desires of our community. While some undertakings do not benefit every citizen of the Borough, we do our best to address the major problems and correct them.

The Borough has no full-time employees and the only part-time employee is our Secretary. And, although the Borough office is not open for regular office hours, we may be contacted by phone, mail or email. Feel free to call 724-329-1459 anytime and leave a message with your name, phone number and reason for your call. We monitor phone messages periodically throughout the day. Let us know if you'd like a call back. Letters and emails must contain the author's name to be considered legitimate. Anonymous correspondence will be disposed of without discussion.

As you read through this newsletter and become more aware of what is happening in our town, please let us know your opinion on the topics covered. We encourage you to join us in keeping our hometown a clean, safe and respectable place to live.

—Borough Council

(A list of Borough officials can be found on the back cover.)



Say "CHEESE"

If you haven't seen them already...check out the new security cameras on the Church Street side of the Borough Building. Special 'thanks' to VITALink for supplying and installing them.

Water, Water, Everywhere?

The Borough has been awarded a \$295,000 CDBG grant for waterline extensions. Water service will be extended to Friendsville Road, Mud Pike Road and Spear Lane. Property owners in those areas will be subject to a mandatory water tap. Construction is expected to begin later this summer. Property owners may not be required to pay a tapping fee, but will be responsible for all associated costs for installing a lateral water line from their home/structure to the main line.

At their June meeting, Council voted to implement a borough-wide mandatory water tap contingent on the National Pike Water Authority agreeing to the following:



- 15% discounted monthly water rates for all borough customers
- Eliminate monthly fees for vacant lots and vacant structures
- No well capping
- Eliminate monthly bill for Borough Building and Sewage Treatment Plant
- Invalidate water user agreements signed by current customers

If a Borough-wide mandatory tap goes into effect, Council hopes to use CDBG grant money to cover tapping costs for property owners who did not tap into the original water project. This would provide either a low cost or no cost tap fee for new hook-ups by property owners in the currently existing service area.

A Borough-wide mandatory water tap may be implemented.

Grants and low-interest loans are available for assisting with installation costs to qualified property owners through the following agencies:

Fayette County Community Action
Phone: 724-437-6050

USDA Rural Development
Phone: 724-853-5555



National Pike Water Authority *Speaking of Water*

The National Pike Water Authority recently acquired a \$250,000 grant through Congressman Bill Shuster's office. Monies were used to extend waterline on Flat Rock Rd just past the Thomas Rd intersection. Upon completion of the section, the Authority had funds left over. The remaining grant money is currently being used to install waterline on Thomas Rd. NPWA's desire is to bring the line full circle to the Borough line.

NPWA recently received approval of their application for H2O PA grant money. The Authority is being awarded \$1million for a waterline extension on Route 40 in Wharton Township. This project will provide public water service to areas that currently do not have access to public water.



Borough Police: Is It Possible?

Council is interested in participating in a free study to determine the feasibility of developing a police department. The likelihood of a small town like ours being able to afford even one part-time police officer is minimal. Grants are available for Regional Police, but they require at least two municipalities who have agreed to regionalize police operations and apply for funding together. Applicants for this type of grant may be eligible for up to \$99,000 for a period of up to 3 years. Borough officials have inquired with neighboring municipalities about joining together and so far, there has been little interest.

Unless or until the Borough has it's own officer, the State Police should be contacted to report illegal activities.

Brown Hill Road Intersection Addressed



The intersection of Main St. (Rt 281) and Brown Hill Rd has been the scene of many accidents and other traffic-related problems over the years and has become of great concern to Borough officials. Council sent a letter to PennDot asking for assistance in making the intersection safer.

Suggestions Council made included redesigning the road, adding a flashing stop ahead sign, installing additional signage alerting drivers to the congested area and pedestrian traffic,

painting a crosswalk on the road and painting white edge lines. Copies of the letter were sent to local politicians and the PA State Police. PennDot's response indicated that most of Council's suggestions could be done — at the Borough's expense—with State approval and appropriate permits.

Sen. Richard Kasunic's office has been in contact with Council and assisted with a grant application for \$10,000 to be used for the purchase and installation of a flashing "Stop Ahead" sign. The application was submitted; Council is waiting to see if it is awarded.

Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan

Markleysburg Borough has been one of seven mountain area municipalities involved with the development of a Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. Other participating municipalities include: Henry Clay Twp, Ohiopyle Borough, Salt Lick Twp, Springfield Twp, Stewart Twp and Wharton Twp. Mackin Engineering has been instrumental in the process and through the course of two years has assembled a Design Guide tailored to the needs and desires of each municipality involved.

The Comprehensive Plan will be of great assistance when applying for grants to fund community projects.

One project of interest for the Borough is a streetscape design which would incorporate sidewalks throughout the Borough, lamp posts and landscaping. Other projects on the "wish list" include a Community Center and Walking Trail. Borough Council welcomes other community improvement ideas from the public.

A public meeting to present the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan will be held:

**Monday, August 22, 2009,
6:00 pm**

Markleysburg-Henry Clay VFD Social Hall

Plan to attend!

Grant Application for Renovations

Will the Borough Building be getting a makeover? Possibly. Borough Council has applied for a USDA grant that will enable some pretty noticeable renovations. Depending on the amount of funding awarded and actual costs for construction, the building may be seeing a new roof, change in exterior façade, and a 300 sq ft addition.

USDA officials recently met with Council representatives and have shown a great deal of interest in funding this much needed project. Engineering for the renovations is being performed by McMillen Engineering.



2009: It's A Municipal Election Year

If you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years old or older and not registered to vote, you have until October 5th to do so.

Voter registration may be done in person at the Fayette County Election Bureau located in the Public Service Building, 22 East Main St., Uniontown. Mailable voter registration forms are available at your local post office and various other government offices. Forms are also available for downloading online at VotesPA website (www.votespa.com).

The ballot for the upcoming election on November 3rd enables voters to cast votes for Justice of the Supreme Court, Judges, County Row Offices, School Directors and local government officials such as Council, Tax Collector and Auditors.

Registered voters who are unable to vote in per-



son on Election Day, may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Voters should contact the Fayette County Election Bureau at 724-430-1289 to check criteria for eligibility and to request an application for an absentee ballot. Application requests must be made on or before October 27, 2009. Voted absentee ballots must be received by the Election Bureau no later than October 30, 2009.

All Fayette County municipalities, including Markleysburg Borough, use the E-Slate and E-Scan voting

machines. These voting machines are not 'touch screens' but use a dial to move around on the ballot. Voters who are apprehensive about using the electronic machine have the option of voting by paper ballot. Local Election Board officials will be on-hand during polling hours to assist voters

Election Day: November 3, 2009

**Polling Place: Markleysburg Borough Bldg
150 Main Street, Markleysburg**

Polls Open: 7:00AM—8:00PM



The Borough park is in need of fill around the playground equipment. Please contact Council if you have suggestions as to where wood chips or other suitable materials may be purchased.

Seven or Five?

Borough Council is currently made up of seven members. Throughout the past few years it has become increasingly difficult to fill all seven seats. Many times each year meetings are cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. In light of this, Council has decided to take action to reduce the number of seats from seven to five.

At the direction of Solicitor Jack Purcell, the ball started rolling with the circulation of a petition to reduce from a seven to a five-member board.

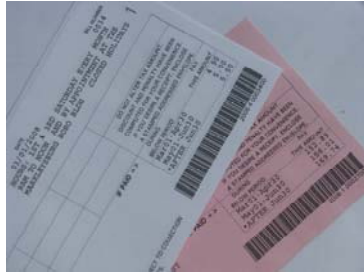
The needed signatures were obtained and Council will be submitting their request and petition to the Court of Common Pleas for approval.

Council also looked into eliminating the three Borough Auditors seats in favor of a single auditor, but discovered doing so would be much more costly. Anyone interested in filling an Auditor seat for next year is asked to contact the Secretary or any Council member.

From the Tax Collector

2009 REAL ESTATE & PER CAPITA TAXES

The 2009 Borough/County Real Estate & Per Capita taxes have entered the Penalty phase. Property owners who have not paid their real estate taxes were recently mailed a reminder.



All property owners should have received their 2009 School Real Estate & Per Capita taxes.

The Discount period for School taxes runs from August 1—September 30. Owners who qualified for the Homestead Exemption are permitted to pay real estate taxes in three equal payments beginning in September and ending in November.

Taxpayers are urged to keep their name/address information up-to-date with the tax collector and Fayette County Tax Assessment Office. Per Capita corrections should be made with the local tax collector, but changes or corrections to real estate taxes must be made through the Assessment Office. *Remember: Failure to receive notice shall not relieve any taxpayer from the payment of any taxes imposed by any taxing district.*

FEES

A \$25 fee is charged for all NSF checks. Taxpayers needing duplicate copies of tax bills are charged a \$2/bill fee. Payment must be made in advance.

TAX RELIEF / REBATE

Homestead Exclusion forms may be obtained through the Fayette County Assessment Office or downloaded from Fayette County's website at www.fayetteproperty.org/taxrelief/taxrelief.asp.

A Senior Citizen Property Tax/Rent Rebate is available to qualified property owners 65 years and older (or 50 and older widowed). Additional information and rebate forms are available from state representatives offices, senior centers, online at www.revenue.state.pa.us/ptrr/site/default.asp or by calling 888-222-9190. The deadline for filing was recently extended from June 30 to December 31.

Don't have internet access?

You may request Homestead Exclusion, Senior Citizen Rebate or Reassessment Appeal forms from the tax collector.

2010 Reassessment

- ◆ The Fayette County Assessment Office has mailed new assessment valuations for 2010.
- ◆ New values were determined based on sales from 2006-2008 and new costs of construction.
- ◆ If you disagree with your appraised value and wish to file an appeal, you must do so before July 31, 2009.
- ◆ To request an appeal form, call the Assessment Office at 724-430-4028 or download the form online from the www.fayetteproperty.org website. Assessment appeals hearings will be held at the Fayette County Reassessment Office,

253 South Mount Vernon Ave., Uniontown and not at the courthouse. Formal hearings will be scheduled beginning the first week of August and run through the end of October. You must attend your scheduled hearing or be represented by counsel. Failure to appear will abandon your appeal.

Be sure to take supporting evidence to your hearing to assist in showing why your assessment is incorrect. Items you can use to substantiate your claim include: appraisals, building plans, repair estimates, lists of comparable sale in your neighborhood and photographs.



Hey Mom & Dad!

Since parents of children under the age of 18 are legally responsible for their children's behavior, Council urges parents to monitor their kids at the playground — at least periodically. Or better yet, join them in a game of basketball or have a family picnic.

Our community park does not have an attendant or guard on duty. The only adult supervision that is guaranteed for your child is what is provided by YOU.

Do you know what *your* child is up to?

Make it a point to find out.

Is your child a troublemaker?

Is your child being bullied?

Is your child cleaning up trash?

Is your child loitering where he/she is not supposed to?

You cannot be responsible for the behavior of other children, but you are responsible for yours.



The playground should be a safe and enjoyable place for everyone.

If you see children misbehaving, let their parents know about it.

If you witness illegal activity, call the State Police.

VOLUNTEER

 It's the "V" in Markleysburg-Henry Clay VFD

Hope you never need them, but be thankful they are there!

Support Our Local Fire Department

YEP...



It's almost THAT time again!

In the Dark?

Streetlight outages or other malfunctions may be reported to Allegheny Power by phone at 800-255-3443 or online at www.alleghenypower.com/CSC/CSHome.asp

If you prefer, you may report problems to the Borough Secretary who will contact the electric company.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Youth Center Open on Friday Nights 6:00pm—10:00pm

Located in the Basement of the
Borough Building



MHCVFD Community Days September 11 –13

Mark Your Calendar & Plan to Attend.
Come Out and Show Your Support
for our Local Volunteer Fire Dept

Parade—Chinese Auction—Food
Community Church Service—and More!

Watch for details!

FREE Clothing & More

Location: Gospel Center Church
Dates: July 11, August 1, September 5,
October 3, November 7 and December 5.
Times: 8:30am—12:30pm
(Donations Accepted)

Church Softball League

Friday & Saturday Nights
Season Ending Tournament: Aug 14/15
Mountain Fellowship Center

Military Care Package Project

Markleysburg Union Church
Packages are mailed to military men and women
approximately every six weeks.
Contact Darlene Lint to submit names of deployed
Soldiers or Marines.

Borough of Markleysburg

150 Main Street
PO Box 25
Markleysburg, PA 15459

Phone: 724.329.1459

E-mail:

markleysburg@markleysburg.pa.us

Mayor

Doug Friend

Council Members

Brian Frazee, President

Darren Hersom, Vice Pres

William Knight

Jeffery Frazee

Edward Hoffman

Tara Hoffman

Donna Welch

Secretary-Treasurer

Lori Frazee

Solicitor

John Purcell

Markleysburg Borough Resident
or Property Owner