

sausage, a bag of goodies to take home, a crafting activity that captivated all our kiddos, and the Easter bunny (live and in person) to enthrall and thrill all of us – and, after all the dancing, playing, eating and crafting, our marvelous Easter bunny made herself available for you to take your own holiday pictures and save yourself all that money you would have spent at the mall.

Keep in mind that our Halloween parade is on *Saturday, October 29*, and our Christmas party is on *Saturday, December 17*. Mark your calendar and plan now to bring the kids and join in the festivities – Call Connie at 412-824-2531 two weeks prior to each event to sign your kiddos up for the fun (we always need a sign up to ensure there are enough goodies for everyone)!



SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR EAST MCKEESPORT KIDS

Jessica Edwards, Shayla Wilkens and Jennifer Myers, of Cadet/Senior Girl Scout Troop #51560 have volunteered to run an arts program for our boys and girls between the ages of 6-11. The Arts Camp will be held July 26-29, from 10 a.m. until Noon at the East McKeesport Senior Citizen Center. It will be loads of fun and a great way for our kids to stay active in the summer. Each child is being asked to bring a white t-shirt for a craft. Please call Connie now, at 412-824-2531, to sign your child(ren) up for this wonderful summer event. If you need more information, please contact Jessica at babydoll_jess@comcast.net.

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Alisha L. Farrel of East McKeesport was named to the dean's list at Lebanon Valley College for the spring term – Congratulations, Alisha!

Do you have something special to report about your children? Please contact kathleen@eastmckeesportboro.com, and we'll be sure it gets in the next newsletter.

BOROUGH WEBSITE

For those residents who might not be aware, the Borough has a website available at www.eastmckeesportboro.com. Our website is filled with pertinent information regarding East McKeesport Borough: Borough events and activities, e-mail addresses of your local elected officials, information from all Borough departments. Please check out our website and save it as one of your favorites!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

East McKeesport Borough has 7 Council members, which is not nearly enough people to accomplish everything we would like to do for our community – CAN YOU HELP??? Many boroughs have a Clean Up Day, usually a Saturday when more people are available, and, together, we could

all join up to beautify our neighborhood, collecting the litter and enjoying each other's company. (Kids Welcome) Interested???

Also, we are coming up on the 125th Anniversary of our Borough, and wouldn't it be fabulous to have a celebration to honor the event? I can only imagine all the work involved, but if we all joined together, with both ideas and elbow grease, we could have a Festival that would knock everyone's socks off!! Interested???

Are you interested in a covered dish block party to get to know you neighbors better? We could do that, too, with a little help. Maybe you have some ideas for projects to enhance the beauty or sense of community in East McKeesport – we could all join in to have *your* neighborhood project ideas come to fruition. Please be interested – and let's give it a try together! Contact Kathi Lipesky at 412-823-8831 or at kathleen@eastmckeesportboro.com. Do it now, and let's get the party rolling!!!

SIDEWALK GRASS BORDERS

One project that we can all participate in right now is to beautify our borders. Most of us have an area between our front sidewalk and the curb where grass grows, and most of us keep it mowed – it surely adds to the beauty of our residential community. Some of us, though, may not have realized that keeping that border clean is the responsibility of the homeowner. If you were not aware that you needed to mow that small section, please start now. You will be amazed how much that little bit of effort will perk up the look of our Borough. If you have an elderly neighbor who can't get the mower to the street, why not help that person out by mowing his/hers when you do your own? Thanks!

PARKS

This tiny community is fortunate to have 3 parks for our children and families to enjoy, and as the summer season is upon us, our parks get a lot of use. Please remember that these areas are for everyone, including the youngest residents. With that in mind, there are a few rules that will enhance the enjoyment for all. NO DOGS, please, as some children/adults are fearful. NO SKATEBOARDS or BIKES, as they can be dangerous for others. NO PROFANITY, NO ALCOHOL, and NO DRUGS, and the reasons for those go without saying. Thanks for your support, which will make this a more pleasant community for all of us. (And if you see litter while you're there, how about putting it in the trash? Thanks.)

COMMUNITY CENTER

Do you have an event to celebrate?? We have just the place. The East McKeesport Community Center, located on Chicora Street, is available for rental (\$175) for your events. The Center can comfortably hold 175 people, has refrigeration, a stove and oven, and is air conditioned to make summer events comfortable for all (nicely heated for winter events, as well). Just call Connie at 412-824-2531 to sign up and get all the details.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meets on the second Thursday of every month. Mark your calendar (July 14, August 11, September 8) and plan to attend – bring your ideas, questions and opinions and let yourself be heard.

SUMMER INTERN TACKLES VACANT PROPERTIES

East McKeesport has acquired an intern for the summer, thanks to a grant from the Local Government Academy. **Sarah Stroney** is a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College and is working on a Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Management. Her project in East McKeesport is a **Land Inventory and Analysis of Vacant, Abandoned and Delinquent Properties**. The community seeks to improve its records, designate more green space and create a plan for dealing with foreclosures and other abandoned or delinquent properties. Don't be surprised if you see her walking around the community looking at properties in the Borough!

We will be looking for community engagement throughout the project. Please fill out the **attached survey** and mail it in (or, if you'd rather, go to our Website – www.eastmckeesportboro.com, and fill it out there). If you have further interest in the project, please call 412-824-2531 and ask to speak to Sarah – your input is appreciated.

EAST MCKEESPORT BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

We hope you have enjoyed this first installment of the East McKeesport Borough Newsletter – look for our next newsletter in September. If you would like to save us a few cents in postage, you may receive your issue via email. Just contact rosemary@eastmckeesportboro.com



The Borough of East McKeesport Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Newsletter

June 2011

VACATION SECURITY CHECKS

Did you know that the East McKeesport Police Department will perform security check on your home while you are on vacation? Simply come to the police station and fill out the Vacation Check card, or go to our website at www.eastmckeesportboro.com and print it out there. Our officers will perform routine checks of your property while you are away, and, if something is found, either you or your contact person will be notified of the problem. What an easy way to travel and have peace of mind about the home we left behind.

RECYCLING

Every city, township and borough pays for garbage pick-up based on tonnage. We are no exception; therefore, it makes good sense to recycle. East McKeesport is fortunate, as the East Allegheny Athletic Association has already begun recycling for us by placing two bins (one for **paper** and one for **aluminum**) by the **athletic field**. The money they get for recycling these items earns money to sustain their athletics, and the paper and aluminum we and our neighbors put in the bins reduce our tonnage (thus saving us money and helping to keep our taxes down). We are currently investigating the possibility of setting up additional bins (for the Borough) at the same location to collect plastics and other metals. If we can succeed at this, not only will the Borough earn the recycling money, but we all will be able to participate in reducing our tonnage for trash collection. Please take the time to recycle your paper and aluminum now to show your interest – you could even get together with a neighbor to share the responsibility of carting it there – if it is impossible for you to transport your own paper and aluminum to the bins, call Kathi at 412-823-8831 - I'll help you get it there. Also call if you are well-informed about recycling and would like to help us work on adding to our recycling services – thanks. We can reduce the waste in landfills, help the environment, and save some money in our refuse collections by supporting this effort.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Did you bring your kids and grandkids to our Easter Breakfast last month? We sure hope so!!! What a grand time it was – a luscious breakfast of French toast and

NIXLE

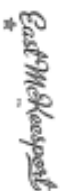
Ever heard of NIXLE??? Me neither – but what a wonderful project it is! We have the opportunity to join with other communities to move into the future and be **immediately** notified of important things going on in our community – Borough news and information, road closures, special alerts from our Police and Fire Departments. We all like to know what is going on, and by signing up at www.nixle.com and clicking on the yellow button in the middle of the page, we will not only avail ourselves of immediate notification in an emergency, but we become part of a network of information that lets us know what is going on around us. As soon as you fill out the information requested, you will begin receiving the messages – we are assured that our information is secure and will NOT be released to anyone. Join us. Join now. Be informed. You'll be glad you did, and it will keep us all up-to-date on what is happening in our neighborhood. Thanks.

EMS NEWS

Effective July 1st, 2011 Eastern Area Prehospital Services will become the primary EMS provider for East McKeesport Borough, replacing the ambulance unit from United Volunteer Fire/Rescue. If residents enrolled in the 2011 Ambulance drive with United, Eastern Area will honor that agreement. Further, Eastern will offer a similar Ambulance enrollment plan to East McKeesport residents in the coming years. This transition will be seamless to the residents of our town and there will be no interruption in service.

The members of UVFR will undertake a new EMS project, which will be providing a 'quick response service' to the residents of East McKeesport and Wall Borough. Basically, on high priority incidents, personnel and equipment from UVFR will be sent to assist the responding ambulance. This will result in better patient care and a better overall response to emergencies in the towns that we serve.

Any resident with a concern about this change can contact United Fire Chief Shane Spielvogel at 412-823-9654.



Community Property Questionnaire June 2011

How long have you lived in the community? _____

Do you own your property or rent? Own Rent

Please read the following statements. Circle the response that best reflects your opinion about each statement. Please use the space at the bottom for any comments especially any ideas.

VACANT / ABANDONED PROPERTIES: Vacant Buildings are a problem in East McKeesport

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree
Our community has an effective plan for dealing with vacant properties.

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree
I would be interested in purchasing vacant land (no structures)

FORECLOSURE: Foreclosures are a problem in East McKeesport

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree
Our community could benefit from educational programs on how to prevent foreclosures

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

BEAUTIFICATION:

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree
East McKeesport could benefit from beautification programs

Our businesses could benefit from loan programs such as a façade improvement program

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

GREENSPACE: Our community has enough access to parks and greenspace

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

Our community could benefit from access to community gardens

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Our community has an effective plan for marketing itself

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

Our community offers ample activities for residents and opportunities to get involved

Strongly Agree Agree Don't know Disagree Strongly disagree

Please use the space below for additional information you would like to share with the Borough. If you would like to be involved in this project, please include your name and contact information.

Please detach and 1) mail to the Borough at 907 Florence Ave. East McKeesport, PA 15035 2) return it to the drop-box at the Borough building or 3) go to our website to fill it out online!