



The Borough of East McKeesport

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

JUNE 2017

VOL. 8 ISSUE 5 NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS AND FUN! JUNE 3rd OPEN STREETS DAY ON FIFTH AVENUE!

On Saturday, June 3rd the Borough of East McKeesport will be hosting an Open Streets Day from 11:00am-2:00pm! Open Streets Day is a national movement to close down neighborhood streets and bring residents and the community together for a day of celebration and wellness. We will be closing Fifth Avenue, Chicora Street, and Pittsburgh Street on the day of the event.

There will be plenty of activities for all ages, including:

- Over 30 local vendors selling items and food
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Bike Rodeo with Helmet Give-a-Ways
- Face Painting
- Children's Activities hosted by the East Allegheny Soccer Association
- Zumba Classes
- Family Fitness Classes
- Pet adoption
- Street Hockey and Active play zones
- Music, fun and much more!

The East Allegheny High School Marching Band will officially kick-off the day of activities with a performance at 11:00 am. Stick around until 12:00pm for the official grand opening of the Chicora Street Playground Spray Park and welcoming of East McKeesport into the Live Well Allegheny program. We will be joined by State Senator Jim Brewster, State Representative Joseph Markosek, and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald for the grand opening. The East Allegheny Jazz Ensemble and Cat Fights Chorus will be performing throughout the afternoon. We will also have performances by local guitarists and other musicians. Information on how to better protect our streams and rivers from pollution will be available at the Open Streets Event. The Borough of East McKeesport Council and staff have been working for the past two years to develop strategies and promote reinvestment in our business corridor and community. We hope this Open Streets Day will not only be a fun day out for the family, but also spark some new investments by highlighting

our wonderful, walkable community. This event was made possible thanks to generous grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, the Allegheny County Health Department and the Richard K Mellon Foundation. We want to thank our community businesses and partners who are sponsoring this event: Gold - Lea's Floral Shop, Glenn Engineering, Daniel Beisler Attorney at Law, Farmers Insurance and Kutch Funeral Home
Silver - Duncan Financial Group, DataMatrix Systems Inc.
Bronze- TEC Benefits, The Moose, Allmor Corporation
Check out our Facebook event page for more information.

We hope to see you there!

COUNTY ANNOUNCES 2017 BANNER COMMUNITIES

County officials announced that 51 municipalities have been designated as 2017 Banner Communities. The program, sponsored by the Allegheny League of Municipalities in cooperation with the county, recognizes those communities committed to professional development, prudent fiscal management, transparency, accountability and proactive communications to engage community stakeholders. The Banner Community Program was implemented five years ago to challenge municipalities to implement best practices in municipal governance. Congratulations to East McKeesport for being a Banner Community!

LIVE WELL ALLEGHENY

The Allegheny County Health Department announced that East McKeesport Borough is designated as one of their "Live Well Allegheny Communities" for committing to the health of its residents. East McKeesport intends to develop walking maps as well as indoor and outdoor wellness trails, which will be accessible to residents of all abilities. The borough will provide employees incentives to walk or bike to work as a way to promote multimodal transportation and also host an Open Streets event on June 3rd from 11-2. Also, Smoke-Free environments are a priority for the borough.

EASTER PARTY

Once again, we held our annual Easter Party at the Senior Center. As always, it was a success. We had an egg hunt for the children, Easter baskets for all, a Chalk Talk (where stories were told while drawing pictures) and a very nice visit with the Easter Bunny. Winners of the portrait



were Brianna Angel and Alex Sciulli. Thank you to all who came.

Can't wait until next year! Special thanks to Officer Minnaji, Linda and Marty Nolan, Paul and Amy Rosa, Butch and Marie Howard, and Pete and Michelle McGinty and the Sciulli family and to our 2 student volunteers Santino Hartford and Patrick Kapral.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY KINGS KIDS BARBER!

Kings Kids Barbers celebrated their 1-year Anniversary back in February. We want to say "Happy Anniversary!" And thank you for being a part of our community. I sat down with Russell Spence, owner, and had a little chat. I asked him what his favorite part of his job was and he said, "Doing what he loves to do, making people



happy with the way they look". He also said that the hardest part of his job was finding committed personnel, who are licensed barbers. Currently Russell has four Barbers working for him. When asked

"In what ways have you grown over the year" he answered "I've learned a lot about the business side of things by trial and error, what to do and what not to do, learning to be ok if someone doesn't like something, and becoming more mature as an entrepreneur." He says his employees have been really important to his success over the last year. I also asked him "How do you build a customer base?" He mentioned that he has a Face Book Page, to stay in contact with his customers, doing his best and most important "Word of Mouth". He hopes over the next 5 years to have another shop and to keep growing. Finally I asked him "What thoughts come to mind when you think about celebrating your 1 year anniversary?" With a big smile, he answered "Wow! I didn't know it was going to be this successful . "

FACEBOOK PAGE

East McKeesport is currently working on a face book page for our Borough. If you want to find us and get information and register for upcoming events, please search for us on face book under Borough of East McKeesport . Remember we are a work in progress and we are doing our best to keep up with the times.

CLEAN UP DAY

Although the day started out quite dreary, clean up day was a success. We had one of the biggest turnouts



in years. Thanks to all who came and helped to make our community a little cleaner. It was especially nice to see that we had many little helpers this year.

If we show them when they are young how to take care of their community they will learn a life-long lesson and respect the earth, not pollute it! Here are only some of the volunteers that helped....

Margie and Kristen Bauer, Carol Smith, Eric Hess, J. Balf, Vanessa Saez, Derek Browne, Scott and Allyson Lowden, Anna and Venicia Leonard, Linda and Marty Nolan, Pauline Kraly, Jennifer, Brian and Kasey Beresford, Butch Howard, Judy Sokowloski, Paul, Amy and Kaylee Rosa, Pete McGinty, Sophia Sciulli, Bill Hampshire.



SAYING GOOD-BYE

We are sorry to say that our Fire Chief Shane Spielvogel has left us....not forever, just as chief. He is still a firefighter at 135 and we are very thankful for that. Shane started in 1992 at the Wall Fire Department. He switched stations and started working out of East McKeesport Station 135 when Wall and East McKeesport merged back in 2000. He was a Lieutenant and Deputy Chief for years but was elected to the Chief position in 2010. We just want to say Thank You for all the years you have given us and continue to give us. You were a great chief!

WELCOME CHIEF ROGOWSKI!

Hey Everyone! Let's welcome our new Fire Chief of East McKeesport, Chief John Rogowski! I got the chance to sit down with him and talk the other day. Here's a few facts about our new chief. Our new Chief has been a Fireman since 1982. He is originally from East McKeesport and is currently living here. He started his training way back in high school. I asked him if he had certain expectations for our fire company and he said, "To keep the company going, working with other companies, training, and making sure the company is well run". Our new Chief is also a member of Allegheny Mountain & Rescue Group where he is a Training Officer. Chief Rogowski also works a full time job at CMU in Hardware and Software, has 3 kids and a wife (Cheryl) who is also a fire fighter. How awesome is that!



COMMUNITY PICNIC

This year's community picnic will be held on July 16th at the East McKeesport Field. You must be registered by July 3rd. We are hoping to bring our residents together for some Good Old Fashion Fun. There will be games from 2-4, Dinner from 3:30-5:30, and Live music from Soulios and Duquesne Slag (local bands) from 2-6. There will also be a dessert contest which you have to sign up for (just let them know when you register). Looking forward to seeing everyone there! You can register by email at Recreation@eastmckeesportboro.com, or by calling Connie at 412-824-2531. Please leave your name, address, phone number and number of people attending.

RECREATION

There are only 2 more committee meetings left to help plan the picnic. They are on June 20th and July 11th at the borough Building. If interested in helping please stop by. Also, remember we have the Children's Garden Club coming up soon. The next is June 7th @ 6:30. To see a complete schedule visit our face book page.

WELCOME CLOUD HOUSE VAPE LOUNGE!

In April of 2011, Curtis Detweiler opened up his first business in East McKeesport, Redz Signs. Then a few years later, he opened Redz Transport. Now he is opening his 3rd business Cloud House Vape Lounge, located on 5th Avenue. Congratulations Curtis! The grand opening will be on May 26th.

Hours of operation are:

M-T 12-9 • F-S 12-12 • S- 12-11

He will also have online sales. Curtis says he would like to employ locally and to give residents who have issues with transportation an opportunity to become employed. I asked Curtis why he decided to open another business and he said that he wanted to see life on 5th Avenue again and maybe if people see new businesses opening up that will make a difference and others will follow suit. He said even if 1 storefront at a time could be revitalized that it would breathe life back into the Community. I asked him what the future looks like for him, if there were going to be any more businesses opening up in his future. He answered, if I find another idea, I'll open another business. Here is an interesting little fact I found out researching vape shops. Within the next decade, experts speculate that it is a possibility that the vaporizer industry could blow up to a 50 billion dollar industry.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Shoot for the stars with us at this year's VBS: GALATIC STARVEYORS! July 19-21, at New Life Fellowship, 541 Chicora St. East McKeesport To register and for more info Visit our website: newlifepit.org Find us on Facebook: New Life Fellowship of Pittsburgh

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Broadway Alliance Church will hold their annual Vacation Bible School June 12th - 15th from 6-8 pm, for children ages 4-11. To pre-register please call 412-824-3198.

TRAFFIC RELATED ISSUES

As many of you may be aware there are many large tri-axle dump trucks traveling up and down 5th Avenue through town. It was brought to the attention of the police department about the use of their braking system and the amount of noise that it causes in the residential neighborhood. While we know that it is loud and can be an annoyance, the use of that braking system is permitted by these vehicles to keep them from proceeding down 5th Avenue too quickly and possibly causing accidents if they were not used. Please know that you can always bring your traffic related issues to the police department and they will check to see if there is something that can be done to correct the issue. With the warm weather upon us, another complaint is about speeding vehicles on various roadways throughout the Borough. The police department will be heavily monitoring the known problem areas for speeders as well as other violations such as stop signs and school bus violations. Also, if you are going on vacation remember that the department will do vacation checks of your home while you are away. You can get a form on the Borough web site or at the police station.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER!

With summer time just around the corner, we want to remember that there are a few things to keep in mind.

Garbage- Please remember to put your garbage in containers with lids. It's that time of year again and animals are tearing into the bags.

Curfew- There is a curfew for minors that states that any child under the age of 18 years is not allowed to wander about the streets after the hour of 10 p.m. unless accompanied by a parent or other adult guardian having legal custody of minor.

Fire burning- No person may burn any materials in the open except readily combustible rubbish and only in a suitable metal or masonry container or receptacle. Combustible rubbish includes domestic refuse, which can be readily burned, such as paper, wood, leaves and similar material.

Noise- No loud or disturbing noises after 9 p.m.

Fireworks- Fireworks are not permitted in East McKeesport or the State of Pennsylvania unless it is a public display for which a permit was obtained by a qualified person(s).

Pets- It is unlawful for any resident(s) to house more than 5 domestic animals. **Dogs-** must be under control at all times. Make sure your animal is licensed. Please do not leave your pet outside all day unattended. Last but not least, please pick up after your dog!