



The Borough of East McKeesport

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

MARCH 2017

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East McKeesport Open Streets Day

June 3rd 11am-2pm

Join us as we celebrate the Borough of East McKeesport by participating in Open Streets Day! What is Open Streets Day? 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. The intent of the event is to highlight our community's assets, provide healthy programming, promote existing businesses and solicit new investments. We will be closing streets in East McKeesport to allow residents and visitors to experience our community differently. Fifth Avenue, Chicora Street, and Pittsburgh Street will be closed on the day of the event. East McKeesport has received a grant from the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority to host our Open Streets Day but we need the help of our community businesses and residents to ensure it is a success! The Borough of East McKeesport council and staff have been working for the past two years to develop strategies and promote reinvestment in our businesses corridor and community. We hope this day will not only be a fun day out for the family but also spark some new investments by highlighting our wonderful community. The East Allegheny High School Marching Band will officially kick-off the day of activities with a performance at 11:00 am. Activities will include: Bike Rodeo, Exercise and dance classes, a child's community arts project, activities with the firefighters, activities in East Field, music, fun and more. A Pop-up Business District will be featured on Fifth Avenue. Vendors will be selling foods, crafts and specialty items. We would love for as many people in the community to come out to the event. Targeted efforts will focus on the East Allegheny School District communities but we hope to expand our outreach to other communities. If you would like to promote your business or give your business idea a test run sign up to be a vendor. Vendors will be selling goods on Fifth Avenue from 11am-2pm. They will be provided with tables, chairs and tents. Promote your studio or class while inspiring residents to get fit. We are looking for volunteers to host 30-minute exercise classes. These can be of varying levels of fitness and ability. You can also get involved by volunteering to engage with our communities' youth. We are looking for activities with a theme for health. It can be physical or educational. If you have an idea, propose it! We can accommodate the purchase of some supplies. If you are interested in participating, please call or email Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport Borough Manager at: 412-824-2531 or administrator@eastmckeesportboro.com

Bike Rodeo

Officer Scott Lowden will be holding The Bike Rodeo this year on June 3 from 11-2. It will be on the same day as our Open Streets day. This is something that he likes to do to make sure our kids are safe as they ride their bikes throughout town. They will be giving away free helmets for any children that need one. There will also be a raffle for new bicycles, an obstacle course and a bicycle technician who can check your children's bicycle to make sure they are safe for them to ride. Scott has been doing this Rodeo for about 15 years now. So bring your kids on up and have some fun at the rodeo. Thank you for thinking of our children's safety Officer Lowden.

Recreation

The Children's Easter party is just around the corner everyone. It will be on April 15th from 12-2 at the Senior Center. There will be an appearance by the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt. Make sure you call Connie at 412-824-2531 to let her know if you're coming. We also now have an email that you can R.S.V.P. to. The email address Recreation@Eastmckeesportboro.com. Ages 12 and under. Please R.S.V.P. by April 1st. No Exceptions.

Also the Children's Garden Club will be starting up again in just a few short months. I don't know about you but I can't wait for that warm weather to get here. Children ages 6-12 are welcome to come and learn about planting a garden. The meeting dates are: May 21st @ 3:00, June 7th @ 6:30, June 21st @ 6:30, July 21st @ 6:30, July 26th @ 6:30, August 9th @ 6:30 and August 23rd @ 6:30.

We also have the Community Picnic coming on July 16th from 2-6. There will be games, Music, Bingo and of course.....lots of food. Right now we are in the planning stages and need all the help we can get. We will be having meetings at the Borough Building on: March 23rd @ 7:00, April 27th @ 7:00, May 25th @ 7:00, June 20th @ 7:00 and July 11th @ 7:00

Recreation E-Mail Registration

We now have a new way to R.S.V.P. for all East McKeesport events. Besides calling to register you can now email us. The email for registering for events is: Recreation@Eastmckeesportboro.com. When you email please leave your name, phone number, address, the number of kids attending and the event you're attending. Hope this makes things a little easier for everyone.

Clean-up Day

East McKeesport will be having clean-up day on April 22nd from 10-12. We will be meeting at the Chicora Street Park at 9:45 am. We will supply gloves and garbage bags for all. We welcome all volunteers to help make this project a success. We want everyone to be proud of our town but we can't do this alone.

Spray Park/Ice Skating Rink

The contract for the spray park/ice skating rink has been awarded to "Sports and Recreation". Construction has already begun with a projected opening of June 3. We hope to have it up and running for Open Streets Day. Thanks goes out to Council and everyone involved in making this work so East McKeesport can have a fun place for the kids to go. The cost of the project is \$126,926.20, the Borough received a CITF Grant for \$123,750.00 with the Borough's share being \$3,323.20.

Changes with the Newsletter

Hi everyone! We are all very sad to report that Kathi Lipesky will no longer be doing the newsletter. We thank Kathi for starting our Borough newsletter and all her years of service. I will try to follow in her footsteps and keep it up to her standards. If there is anything that you would like to see more of or for that matter see at all in our little paper please feel free to contact me. Please be patient as I have never done this before. This is one of those learn as you go things. I hope you enjoy the first copy of the New Year. If anyone has any questions or suggestion my email is; Csciulli@eastmckeesportboro.com or you can call me at 412-823-1206.

East McKeesport Job Positions

East McKeesport Borough will be advertising for the positions of Part-time Public Works and Part-time office clerk. Watch for this in the Local Extra section that appears on Friday's in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for when the official advertisement will appear in the help wanted ads and also on Monster.com.

Attention college students looking for summer work!

We are looking to hire Spray Park/Playground Monitors for the summer season. Applications will be available at the Borough Manager's office beginning April 1st through the 28th.

Welcome Officer Walker!

Welcome to East McKeesport Officer Tim Walker. Officer



Walker was born in McKeesport, Pa. and raised in White Oak, Pa. He graduated from McKeesport High School in 1991. He then attended the police academy. He is also a graduate of IUP. If he looks familiar, that is because he has worked here before. Officer Walker's very first police job, straight out of the academy, was in East McKeesport in 1999. He worked as a part time officer until 2006. In 2005, he was offered a full time position in Versailles Borough where

he still works as a senior patrol officer. Officer Walker will be working for us part time. Officer Scott Lowden and then officer, now Police Chief, Russ Stroschein, trained Officer Walker. He says that a lot of what made him the police officer he is today was how he was trained and taught in our department. Officer Walker wanted to come back because of our personnel, the integrity of our department and he knows our little town well. Officer Walker has always had an interest in helping people and that it was his lifelong dream to be a police officer. He use to watch all the old police shows when he was a kid such as Chips, Kojak and Hawaii 5-0. Now he gets to live his dream. Officer Walker is married with three children. He has one daughter in the Navy (CB's) and two sons that go to McKeesport School Area School District. Welcome back Officer Walker!

Lock your Car Doors

There have been a few incidents where unlocked vehicles have been entered and items such as loose change and other valuables have been taken. The Police would remind everyone to lock your vehicles all the time and to make sure not to leave any valuables in your car or lying out in the open. Do not make yourself an easy target for this crime of opportunity. Also, if you see anything or anyone suspicious remember to call 911 and report it.

Vacation / Security Checks

If you are going out of town for vacation or any other reason, remember that the Police Department will do regular Security Checks of you property while you are away. Just come to the police station and fill out a form or go to the Borough Web Site and fill out the form and bring it to the station.

Firearm Training Simulator

The officers of the East McKeesport took part in training at the Allegheny County Police Training Academy using a Firearms Training Simulator. This training involved video's that simulated real life situations that the officers could encounter while on duty that involved "shoot / don't shoot" scenarios. The simulator provides real time feedback on the officer's decision-making without the risk involved in a real life situation. We always hope that none of our officers is involved in a situation like this but training like this will help them in the event that they ever are faced with this type of incident.

Tax Q & A's

When do taxes come out?

Borough tax year starts April 1st. There is a 2 % discount period until May 31st, Face until July 31st afterwards 10% penalty. January 1st taxes are delinquent and sent to Keystone Collections.

When are we going to see the gambling money from the Casinos?

If you own your home in the district and live in it you must apply for the Homestead Reduction for this property. The slot machine revenue from the Casinos is given to the Pa. Department of Education. East Allegheny gets their share, which is divided among the people on the roles of the Homestead Act, which lowers your taxes.

Why isn't there a Homeowners Rebate? There is. You need to get Pa Form 1000 to see if you qualify. Rebate is based on income.

How do I get a receipt for my paid taxes?

Each tax bill that you receive is you receipt along with a payment stub. If you need a receipt, you must bring the receipt to be validated along with the payment stub. By mail, it is the same procedure along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. I don't get a receipt. My tax bill goes to the Mortgage Co. Your receipt is your escrow statement that the mortgage Co. is required to send you for income tax purposes.

Why don't you have evening or weekend hours?

If you need to visit the office, which is in council chambers in the Borough building, and it's not regular office hour's call to make arrangements and I will try to accommodate you.

Can a senior get a tax break?

If you own and occupy a home in the Borough and meet the requirements of age, ownership and income, you can receive a 10% tax reduction in your Borough taxes.

Can I pay taxes with my credit card? No. Although it does not cost the Borough, it does cost the taxpayer to pay by credit cards. Some like the idea to get points from their cards or extra time to avoid penalty taxes.

Tax Q & A's Continued

***NOTE OF CAUTION**

On the senior discount and Homestead reduction, these are one-time applications. They carry over from year to year. If any information on your application changes you have 45 days to remove yourself from the programs. Failure to do so can result in penalties and fines.

I hope this answered some of your questions. **I will be on vacation from June 19th to the 27th.** If you need a question answered call Bob at the office at 412-829-7991 or you can stop in or send a note to Bob Ferrainolo, tax collector at the Borough Building.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

April 2nd at the Moose. The Women of the Moose are sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner for Irene (Twiggy) Alvarez who is battling Colon Cancer. So please stop in between April 2nd from 2-6 for Spaghetti and Meatball, Salad, and a roll with butter. There will also be a Chinese Auction and a bake sale. For more info call: 412-841-2573

Emergency Responder Seminars

Have you ever thought about being a first responder? Have you ever wanted to help others in need? Did you know that anyone can be a first responder? You could be a mom, a dad, a neighbor, a friend, a policeman, fireman, EMT, or paramedic. St. Robert's Church will be hosting Emergency responder seminars the 1st Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the school classroom. The classes are FREE and have been approved by the state for con-ed credits for our public safety personnel. The 1st class will be March 6th. The topic "Fainting- causes & treatment". Instructor- Pam Edwards, EMT-P, EMS instructor.

United Fire/Rescue

United Fire/Rescue is currently seeking volunteers. We provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical response to East McKeesport and Wall, and to our neighboring towns as needed. All of our training is provided free of charge and is an excellent gateway into the health care or protective services field. Residents of East McKeesport and surrounding towns ages 14 and up are invited to actively participate with our company. One of our biggest needs is daylight hours. If you are around during those times and have a willingness to serve, please contact: UVFRDC135@yahoo.com for more information.

Things that impact your day!

How would you like to be notified when things are going on that may impact your day? Our borough is part of the NIXLE Network. NIXLE is a free service that when an emergency or some other event is occurring in or around our Borough you can receive either a message sent to your phone or your computer. You can do both if you wish. These messages are sent from Emergency Management and can alert you to street closures, water disruptions or weather events. To sign up for this all you need to do is text our zip code to 888777. You can also go to Nixle.com to sign up.

Mine Subsidence

During the beginning of the last century, our whole area was mined for coal. Now while the mines have been abandoned the shafts are still there. While the possibility of these old shafts and their supports failing are remote in East McKeesport it could still happen. Because this is a possibility anywhere in the Commonwealth, and it is not something normally offered by insurance companies, the Department of Environmental Protection has arranged for property owners to get insurance for their homes and property. For more information go to DEP website at: www.dep.state.pa.us/MSI.

East Allegheny Youth Football Association

Football sign-ups are right around the corner. If you have a child who lives in the East Allegheny School District and is in grades k-6th who would like to give football/cheerleading a try, come on up to sign-up. Sign-ups will be at the East McKeesport Senior Center, 539 Chicora Street, East McKeesport, Pa. Between 6pm-8pm.

Wednesday, April 5th, Wednesday, May 3rd

Wednesday, June 7th *Must have copy of birth certificate

Registration fees: Cheerleading- \$130 includes 2 Bingo tickets, each additional sibling \$110 include 1 Bingo ticket
Football- \$150 includes 2 Bingo tickets, each additional sibling \$130 includes 1 Bingo ticket

Mandatory Fundraiser is a Bingo held on 8-15-17. You are required to buy 2 tickets per child. Each ticket is \$20 which is included in registration fee. You can sell more tickets. All fees must be paid in full before 6-7-17 to be able to participate in games. Like us and follow us on Facebook [eayouthfootball](https://www.facebook.com/eayouthfootball).

Any questions please contact EAYFA @ 412-229-7111 – Voice mail only.

EastAlleghenyYFA@gmail.com – Preferred method.

North Versailles Public Library

National Library Week April 10-15, 2017

Monday, April 10- Fine Amnesty Day

Bring in up to 5 canned goods or non-perishable items and receive \$1.00 of a fine for each item, Waived fines will not exceed \$5.00 per card. All items will be donated to a local food bank.

Tuesday, April 11- Mystery Book Day

Check out a book by your favorite genre without seeing the cover!

Wednesday, April 12- All Day Refreshments

Enjoy cookies, lemonade, and coffee provided by the staff in the community room.

Thursday, April 13- All Day, All Ages Legos

Build your favorite character or scene from a movie or book.

Saturday, April 15- Basket Raffle

Winners (1 child and 1 Adult) for the raffle will be called today. Stop by any day this week to enter! Movie Matinee (Adults Only) Once a month we'll feature a movie matinee just for adults. Visit our website or call the library to find out which movie! 1:00-3:00 p.m. On Friday, March 24th; Friday, April 21st; Friday, May 19th

PaperProm, Sharpen your origami skills. Make a paper bowtie, flowers, or flower corsage to wear to prom or anywhere! Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Christmas Party

We had a great Christmas Party back in December. Everyone from kids to adults had fun. Santa even stopped in for a visit. The kids played games and made a cool craft (thanks again Home Depot). A



big thank you goes out to all who volunteered to help make the day a success for the children. Without all of your hardwork,



none of this would be possible.

Thank you!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who contributed the food items donated to Ma's Pantry last November before the Thanksgiving holiday. The 500 project was an idea New Life Fellowship (on Chicora St.) came up with to help out Ma's pantry before the holiday season. We dropped off 500 empty grocery bags door to door, and the following weekend returned to collect them. We then delivered them directly to Ma's pantry. But you, the members of our community, are the real heroes for the generosity you showed. We estimate out of the 500 empty bags we distributed, we collected approximately 270 bags back with food! We think that's pretty good for our first time trying this! Because of your generosity people in our community who benefit from Ma's Pantry had an easier time choosing between eating and heating their homes. You helped make it easier between getting food and getting the medication they need. So once again thank you for donating. New Life Fellowship of Pittsburgh is proud to be part of the East McKeesport community, and we're looking forward to doing the 500 project again next Thanksgiving. Let's fill all 500 bags up this time!

God Bless –Pastor Jim Capets