



# The Borough of East McKeesport

## Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

SEPTEMBER 2013

VOL. 3 ISSUE 2 NEWSLETTER

### WASTE REMOVAL HOME PICK UP SERVICE

Not all trash is created equal. Please remember to call 1-800-449-7587 for instructions and removal of the following items: **garden chemicals, solvents, oil-based and latex paints, aerosols, cleaners, antifreeze, thermometers, batteries, metal polish, pool chemicals, adhesives, used motor oil and gasoline, as well as automotive batteries, fluorescent bulbs, televisions, computer monitors, and consumer electronics with circuit boards.** Working together, we can make East McKeesport a leader in greening America.

### NEW SEWAGE BILLING COMPANY FOR EAST MCKEESPORT

TCVCOG (Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments) will now be accepting sewage payments for the Borough of East McKeesport. We can mail or bring our payments to the TCVCOG, located in the Monroeville Municipal Building at 2700 Monroeville Boulevard, Monroeville, PA 15146. If you have any questions, please call 412-858-5115 (not our Borough building).

### HALLOWEEN PARADE



On Sunday, October 27, at 2:00 PM, the East McKeesport Borough Council will host its annual Halloween parade for residents 12 years and younger. Call

Connie at 412-824-2531 before October 19<sup>th</sup> to register your youngster for the parade – this guarantees that we will have enough candy for our participants. Costumed participants will meet at the East McKeesport Post Office between 1:45 and 2:00. The parade will proceed down Broadway, turn left at Chicora Street, cross 5th and end up at the Chicora Street Park, where participants will receive a trick or treat bag and vie for prizes in the categories of FUNNIEST, PRETTIEST, SCARIEST, BEST GROUP and BEST ALL AROUND. Plan to attend and please remember to call Connie by October 19 to register – **412-824-2531.**

### OFFICIAL BOROUGH FORMS

The East McKeesport Borough Website is a font of knowledge for our residents. We can see what events we've celebrated what we plan to celebrate in the future. We can educate ourselves on the ordinances of where we live. And we can get the following forms without making a trip to the Borough building: Public Record Request, Residential Property Maintenance Checklist, Affidavit of Buyer of Read Property, Dye Test Form, Building Permit Application Request, Non-Residential Occupancy Application, Zoning Certificate Application, Sign Permit Application Request, Residential Application Certificate of Occupancy and Request for Security Check. Please take advantage of this service and save yourself a trip to the office.

### OLD MUMS

It's that time of year when our beautiful blooms of summer begin disappearing, and our outdoor potted plants either are planted in ground or pitched out to be replaced the following spring. But we have another option!! If you have mums in pots, and you are going to just throw them out, please call Connie at 412-824-2531 and donate them to the Borough. Joe and his crew work hard to keep our Borough beautiful, but buying plants can be expensive. So give us a call and help us beautify with less expense to the Borough. (Keep in mind that when you are thinning perennials in the spring; we might be able to use some of those, too.) Thanks!

### TRIVIA QUESTIONS FROM EAST MCKEESPORT PAST

1. When we still had East McKeesport High School, 4<sup>th</sup> of July was always a little more exciting because a big truck would pull up beside the delivery ramp and distribute what goodies to the residents?
2. The first gravity-filled gas station in the United States was in East McKeesport. What was its name, and where was it located?

## **UVFR HALLOWEEN SUPER BINGO**

It's been a long time since we've had BINGO in this community, but it's back!!! Our United Volunteer Fire and Rescue (our East McKeesport fire department, as we all have known it) will be hosting BINGO just like #2 did in the 'olden' days. On October 6, the doors of our Senior Citizen's Center will open at noon, and Early Bird Specials will begin at 1 PM. (By the way, you won't be missing the Steelers if you come to BINGO because there is no game that day.) Each \$25 ticket will include 20 regular games, 4 specials, and 1 jackpot coverall. Only 200 tickets are available and will be presold – just call Cheryl at 412-770-5864 or Station 135 at 412-823-9654. Ticket holders MUST be 16 years or older, and no one will be admitted without a ticket. (Additional games will be available at the door if you feel that you need more.) It sounds like a lot of fun, and we are looking forward to seeing you there. This SUPER BINGO benefits the UVFR.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY RECOGNITION LUNCHEON**

Our Local Government Academy's Annual Recognition was held on August 8 at the Engineer's Society of Western Pennsylvania in downtown Pittsburgh. Among those recognized were two East McKeesport government workers: our summer intern, ELIZABETH KOZUB, was honored for her outstanding work in our battle against blight, and our borough administrator, CONNIE ROSEN-BAYGER, was honored for being an instructor at the LGA. Congratulations to both of these deserving candidates.

## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

The UVFR is celebrating September by having another delightfully wonderful PANCAKE BREAKFAST. Come help us celebrate our opportunity to take a day off from cooking on September 15 from 9 am until 1 pm at the Senior Citizen Center on Chicora Street. Choose from all you can eat blueberry, chocolate chip or plain pancakes, with a side of bacon or sausage, and coffee or juice. The cost for adults is \$7, and children 3-12 cost \$4. This is a marvelous opportunity to have some great food at a great price and support our local fire department all at the same time!!! I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

## **FACES OF EAST MCKEESPORT**

### **ERIC HESS POLICE OFFICER**



Eric Hess always wanted to grow up and be a policeman. Raised locally, he was one of those kids who was always helping someone. When he got to be high school age, his

father really wanted him to learn a trade, so, being the kind spirited young man that he was, and not wanting to disappoint his father, he went to Forbes and studied automotive, excelling in air conditioning and electrical work. He worked on cars until he was 28, but was still driven to be a policeman, so he changed his direction and went to the police academy. In April 2006, Eric was hired in North Braddock as a part-time officer, and in August 2006, he was hired in East McKeesport as a part-time officer, as well. In April 2009, Eric was hired to work full-time in East McKeesport. Eric has received Narcotics Training through the DA's office, and he is also trained as a Fire Arms Instructor, so he is very valuable to our police department. On July 13 of this year, Eric was married to Linda Kraft, and the couple resides in East McKeesport. Eric Hess, East McKeesport Police Officer, is driven to help kids in bad situations and to save animals in trouble, as well. He is a proven asset to our community.

## **THANK YOU, VETERANS**

Try as we might to be perfect, we always manage to fall a little shy of the goal – and we did it again. In our June newsletter, we inadvertently omitted several of our East McKeesport veterans: Richard Rudolph, who served as an Air Force medic in Vietnam from 1972-1974, Martin R. Napolitano, Sr., a Korean War veteran, who served as an Engineman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy from 1948-1952 and Joe Stark, a corporal in the Army during the Korean War. Thank you, Richard, Martin and Joe for serving your country and protecting the citizens of East McKeesport.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Last year we put out a feeler to initiate a community garden and there was no response. Perhaps you've thought about it and would like to involve yourself with a community garden next spring. We could even consider donating to Ma's Pantry or Meals on Wheels. Interested? Call Kathi at 412-823-8831.

## HIGHLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESS SPINELLI'S HARDWARE



Angelo Spinelli was born in Wilmerding, but he is far more famous for being Mr. Spinelli, founder and owner operator of Spinelli's Hardware in East McKeesport, the man with all the answers for repair work

around the house. Angelo's main interest from childhood was solving repair problems, so when he was 12 years old, he opened a workshop in his basement where he solved repair problems for his family and neighbors. In 1948 he opened his first real shop in Wilmerding, but, in 1968, that town went through redevelopment, and he bought a plumbing shop in East McKeesport, renamed it Spinelli's Hardware, and has been there ever since. It is the "oldest, most experienced store in the area to deal with repair problems. We have all the personal services that the other stores don't have," says Mr. Spinelli. But, after so many years in the business, the man who "always wanted to help people and

give them assistance" is looking to retire and is interested in selling his building and his stock. Thank you, Mr. Angelo Spinelli, for all the wonderful



years of service you have provided, and continue to provide, to this community. We hope that, when you sell your building and your stock, your retirement is as fulfilling as your career has been.

## SPOTLIGHT ON EAST MCKEESPORT RESIDENTS ALISHA FARRELL



Congratulations to Alisha Farrell, daughter of Ed & Jeanne Farrell, who graduated this past spring from Lebanon Valley College (LVC) near Hershey with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science. Alisha will continue her education at LVC for the next 2 years in pursuit of a Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree. Alisha was a 4

year member and letter winner on the Women's track and field team, serving as team captain her junior and senior years. The team won the school's first ever Middle Atlantic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship in 2012 and successfully defended their title again in 2013. Alisha was named the team's MVP (Most Valuable Player) for the 2010-2011 season. In 2012, Alisha qualified and competed in the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships in the long jump. Alisha broke 10 school records during her career. The indoor records include the 400 meter dash, 500 meter dash, 4 X 200 meter relay, 4 X 400 meter relay, distance medley relay, pole vault, and pentathlon. The outdoor records include the pole vault, 4 X 100 meter relay and 4 X 400 meter relay. The 4 X 100 and 4 X 200 meter relay records are also Middle Atlantic Conference records. Alisha has served as the manager for the Men's and Women's Cross Country teams, but traded in her clipboard for running shoes and will be competing as a runner this fall. The Borough of East McKeesport congratulated Alisha on her multiple successes and wishes her continuing success in the future.

If you have a success story regarding an East McKeesport resident, please send it to [kathi722@aol.com](mailto:kathi722@aol.com), or deliver it to Connie at the Boro Building, so we can consider it for publication.

## FALL LEAF COLLECTION

Fall leaf pick up will begin October 10 and continue every Thursday and Friday until November 22. All residents need to do is rake the leaves to the curb and call the borough garage (412-824-3550) telling Joe where to pick up the leaves. Joe Clemenic, Public Works, is pleased to provide this service; just call to tell him when and where!

## **UNSIGNED CORRESPONDENCE**

Lately, I have been receiving unsigned correspondence in my Borough mailbox or through Connie at the office. It is important to sign all correspondence, whether it be suggestions, that once implemented, should be acknowledged, or criticisms, which I would like to respond to personally.

## **CLEAN UP DAY**

Volunteers are not paid because they are priceless – I recently heard that quote and thought it was absolutely on target. We had a marvelous turnout on our last Clean Up Day, and I'm sure that I wasn't the only one who had an absolutely fabulous time! Picking up the crap (oh, excuse me, scrap) around the borough can be a fun-filled event if it is done in the company of others – and enjoying some pizza together at the end can be fun, too. PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT THE BOROUGH BUILDING so we can successfully clean up the Borough again – and this time we will be joined by some volunteer Pitt students, so we can accomplish even more. Please give Kathi (412-823-8831) a call if you plan on attending, so we can be sure to have enough food and drinks (but even if you decide at the last minute, come on out and join in the fun).

## **VOLUNTEERISM IN AND FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

You know, at one time the Borough of East McKeesport, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, had a team dedicated to helping our neighbors when disaster struck? Well, the Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross has asked if we could start up again. So, if the thought of helping not only our neighbors but also maybe yourself intrigues you, give the Borough Office a call and leave your name and number with Connie (412-824-2531).

As a volunteer, what will you need to do? First, you will need to spend some time at a Red Cross "Boot Camp." There you will learn the ins and outs of opening and operating a shelter during an emergency. Then, when and if something should occur and our neighbors may need to be evacuated, you'll have the real challenge, that of caring for folks who may be at the lowest point in their lives, and to do that with the compassion that East McKeesport is known for. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Stacy Mays, East McKeesport Emergency Manager

## **DEAR EAST MCKEESPORT BUSINESS OWNERS**

East McKeesport Council will host business owners and managers for coffee and donuts on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10am until 11:00am. The coffee hour will be held at the East McKeesport Senior Citizens' Center on Chicora Street. All business owners and managers are invited to come and meet the Borough Council and staff as well as network with other business owners. Managers, this will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about our community and give you a chance to talk about how we can work together to help your business flourish. Watch for your personal invitation in the mail in early October or call Peter McGinty at 412-823-3017. Thank you, Peter McGinty

## **TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. Everyone would get slices of watermelon from the truck. (contributed by Lois Hebda)
2. The Gulf Station at the corner of Route 30 and Broadway.

## **NOTES TO YOU, OUR RESIDENTS**

WE NEED MORE TRIVIA – PLEASE CALL KATHI AT 412-823-8831 OR EMAIL TO [kathi722@aol.com](mailto:kathi722@aol.com) TO CONTRIBUTE. THANKS

PLEASE CONTINUE USING OUR SINGLE CONTAINER RECYCLING BIN UP BY THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER – AND IF YOU HAVEN'T STARTED YET, PLEASE DO IT NOW. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED TOO SMALL TO RECYCLE – NOW WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECYCLE – PLEASE DO IT!!

OUR LAST NEWSLETTER REMINDED YOU TO PUT 4 INCH HOUSE NUMBERS ON YOUR RESIDENCE SO THAT EMERGENCY VEHICLES CAN FIND YOU QUICKLY, SHOULD THEY NEED TO. THIS IS NOW AN ORDINANCE. YOU HAVE UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER TO COMPLY.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CUT YOUR GRASS AND BUSHES BEYOND YOUR FENCES AND ALL THE WAY TO THE ROAD. AND IF YOU ARE ABLE TO PULL UP THE WEEDS BETWEEN THE CURB AND THE ROAD, EVERYTHING LOOKS MUCH BETTER.

YARD SALES IN EAST MCKEESPORT ARE LIMITED TO 2 PER YEAR PER RESIDENCE AND REQUIRE A FREE PERMIT, WHICH MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE BOROUGH BUILDING.

## **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Residents are always invited to attend council meeting in the Borough Building (upstairs), scheduled for Thursdays, September 12, October 10 and November 14. We're looking forward to seeing you there!