

COMMUNITY BUILDER

A bi-annual
Myerstown Borough Newsletter
Spring 2021

Welcome!

Dear Residents, Business Owners, and Members of the Myerstown Community,

On behalf of the Council of Myerstown Borough, I would like to welcome you to the "Community Builder," your bi-annual community newsletter! In this publication you will find news and information about the Borough, and our wonderful community. For more information, please visit our award-winning webpage at myerstownpa.org or our facebook page at facebook.com/myerstownpa.

Best Regards,

Michael R. McKenna, MPA
Manager, Myerstown Borough

Community Pool

The William L. Derr Community Swimming Pool will be OPEN for the 2021 season!

Our highest priority is ensuring the safety of all pool patrons by promoting a clean, healthy, and safe environment in and around our pool. The PA Dept. of Health has determined that public pools may open during the pandemic provided they follow CDC guidelines for public pools. We will adhere to the CDC guidelines, and all state regulations for businesses operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. Important items to note:

- Masks WILL be required in the facility, but NOT WHILE SWIMMING
- Staff and patrons will be encouraged to social distance both in the pool and out of the pool
- COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses states we may operate at 75% occupancy, or 328 patrons.
- Season Pass Holders WILL NOT BE TURNED AWAY

Season Passes Are Now On Sale!

Season Passes may be purchased at the Borough Office. Accepted Payments: Cash, Check, Debit Card and Credit Card. For more information on the Community Pool, including rates, go to myerstownpa.org/our_community/community_pool.php

Community Block Party

**Saturday, September 25th from 10:00am to 7:00pm
Main Avenue and Railroad Street**

The Myerstown Community Block Party is returning for 2021! This event is sponsored by the Myerstown Vitality Partnership, and organized by residents Victoria Layser and Vince Podolski, who organized the incredible events in 2018 and 2019!

The event will include:

- Craft Vendors
- Food Trucks
- Live Music by "Sidetracked" and "Blind Theory"
- Beer Garden
- Car Show
- Chili Cookoff

For more information about the Block Party, visit facebook.com/Myerstown-Community-Block-Party

Spring Yard Waste Collection

Springtime means cleaning up our yards after the winter storms. The Public Works Department will collect yard waste every Monday and Friday during the month of April and the first two weeks of May. Here are the remaining dates:

April 16, 19, 23, 26, and 30
May 3, 7, 10, and 14

Yard waste consists of leaves and small sticks, and must be placed in a CLEAR plastic bag at your curb by 7:00 a.m. on any of the above collection days. Clear bags are available for purchase at the Borough Office for 25 cents each.

If you have yard waste after the above dates you may arrange for collection by calling the Public Works Department Highway Garage at 717-866-6948. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

Elected Officials

Mayor

Gloria R. Ebling

Council Members

Bryan L. Rittle, President

Park W. Haverstick, II, Vice President

Dana Reich, President Pro Tempore

Jeffrey L. Thomas

Ronald L. Ream

Stacey A. Hackman

Dane W. Bicher

Contact Information

Borough Office

Myerstown Community Center
101 S Railroad St
Myerstown, PA 17067
Phone: (717) 866-5038
info@myerstownpa.org
Open M-F from 7:30a – 4:00p

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Dispatch Number	9-1-1
Non-Emergency Police Dispatch	(717) 865-2194
Public Works Highway Garage	(717) 866-6948
Wastewater Treatment Facility	(717) 866-5826
William L. Derr Community Pool	(717) 628-1505
Myerstown Water Authority	(717) 865-2194

Public Works Department News and Notes

David Fake, Public Works Supervisor

Recreation Area

The Public Works Department maintains the wonderful park that is part of the Myerstown Recreation Area for the enjoyment of all community members. Please note the following:

- Pavilions may be rented for special occasions. For rental rates and reservations visit the website or call the Borough Office.
- Park bathrooms are open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. April through Thanksgiving.
- Fishing is encouraged in the pond and creek. Please help us keep the pond area clean and well-kept by cleaning up your debris before you leave. There are trash cans and portable toilets for your convenience.

Please respect the park area, pavilions, and bathrooms. If you find damage or observe a person damaging park property notify the Public Works Department.

New Pole Building

A new pole building has been erected to house vehicles and equipment. This project has been planned for several years. This new building will help to preserve our equipment and keep everything in better condition. This building will also be the new home of the Goodwill Fire Police.

Standing Water and Mosquitos

The Public Works Department would like to remind folks to drain standing water during the summer months. This will help to reduce mosquito breeding and activity. Mosquitoes are a threat to the health of our community, and it is up to all of us to try to get rid of them.

On-Street Handicapped Parking Spaces

If you are in need of a handicapped parking space on the street in front of your residence, the Public Works Department can take care of that for you. Please call the Borough Office for more information.

Street Lights

It is important to have our street lights well-lit for the safety of our community. If you see a street light that is not working, please report it to the Borough Office. Please note the number on the yellow marker for identification of the pole. If you cannot find the pole number, note the address of the house nearest the pole. Please be patient if it is not repaired immediately. Met-Ed is responsible for the repairs, and it takes about a week or so for them to complete the repair.

Baseball

The Borough is proud to host our local youth baseball leagues on the Myerstown Legion Fields. They can be seen practicing and playing games throughout the week. Starting last year, the Borough began hosting Elite Baseball tournaments on the weekends. The teams in these tournaments are made up of outstanding players of various ages from throughout Pennsylvania and neighboring states. Some of our local players play in this league, as well. If you enjoy baseball you should stop by and watch these young players. It is a great family activity and there is no admission fee. You can also enjoy visiting the new concession stand built this past winter.

No Mowed Grass in Streets

Please remember there is an ordinance against blowing and/or throwing mowed grass onto the street. This is because when it rains the grass will be washed into the storm drains causing them to get clogged which, in turn, can cause the streets to flood during a rainstorm. That can cause property damage or basement flooding.

Winter Snow Plowing

The Public Works Department would like to say a big "Thank You" to residents who moved their vehicles during our winter storms. This makes plowing and salting much easier for the road crew. It also makes it possible for us to get closer to your curb so that you can park in front of your house more easily. Check the Borough website or the Newsletter in the Fall for a listing of where you will be permitted to park during snowstorms and snow emergencies.

Stormwater Management

According to the EPA, polluted stormwater runoff is the leading cause of impairment to nearly 40% of impaired bodies of water in the United States. To address this, Congress passed legislation under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) for municipalities that own and operate Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) requiring them to reduce pollution and sediment entering waterways via stormwater runoff.

Later this year, the Borough will be completing a stormwater management project to meet its federal requirements for reducing pollution and sediment entering the Tulpehocken Creek. A bioswale will be constructed at the Myerstown Recreation Area extending from the Fish dam to the Tulpehocken Creek. Bioswales are vegetated, shallow, landscaped depressions designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff as it moves downstream. This project was identified in the Borough's Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) developed in 2017, and will provide the majority of the Borough's required reduction and enhance the landscaping of the park.

The Borough encourages everyone to participate in reducing the amount of pollution and sediment that enters our waterways. There are many ways residents and property owners can help manage stormwater runoff:

- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies and paint. Never pour such materials down any part of the stormwater system.
- Use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff.
- Report pollutants such as debris and chemicals that you see in stormwater runoff or tracked into roads.
- Install innovative stormwater practices on your property such as rain barrels or rain gardens.
- Report any discharges from stormwater outfalls during dry weather--this is a sign that there could be a problem with the stormwater system.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly, even on your own property.
- Store materials that could pollute stormwater indoors and use containers that do not rust or leak for outdoor storage.

For more information on the Borough's stormwater management program, and more ways you can help, go to myerstown-pa.org/services/stormwater_management.php

Communication and Transparency

Transparent Governance

The Borough of Myerstown is committed to transparent governance. This means that government officials act openly, with citizens having the opportunity to have full knowledge of the decisions the officials are making. To this end, the Borough has made sweeping changes to its website over the past few years to make available the following information:

- Audited financial statements from 2013 to present
- Manager's Budget Message with Approved Budgets for 2020 and 2021
- Council Meeting Minutes from 2012 to present
- Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from 2013 to present

- Listing of Citizen Rights under PA Law that pertain to local government
- All ordinances codified and available in a searchable format
- Recent news and announcements

The Borough believes that the availability of information on government policies and actions, a clear sense of organizational responsibility, and an assurance that governments are efficiently administered and free of systemic waste are important components of transparent governance. Every act of Borough Council, deliberation of any issue, award of a contract, adoption of motions/resolutions, and creation of local laws is documented and catalogued on our website.

Communication Awards

The Borough's efforts in improving communication have been recognized

by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, as we received three prestigious awards in 2020 in the "Boroughs with population 2,501 – 5,000 category":

- First place recognition in the Municipal Website Contest
- First place recognition in the Municipal Marketing Contest for the 250th Anniversary Yearbook
- Honorable Mention in the Municipal Marketing Contest for our social media efforts

While we are always working to improve our communication efforts, we are proud of the work we have done thus far, especially in comparison to other Pennsylvania municipalities.

Please visit our award-winning website at myerstownpa.org.

Road Projects

Recently Completed Road Projects

- Repair, reconstruction, and repaving of South Railroad St from Carpenter Ave to Center Ave
- Repair, reconstruction, and repaving of West Main Ave from College St to Railroad St
- Repair, reconstruction, and repaving of North Railroad St from Route 422 to Carpenter Ave
- Repair of South Broad St from Main Ave to Richland Ave
- Repair and reconstruction of Washington Ave from Locust St to the Borough Line
- Repair and repaving of North Locust St from Route 422 to Main Ave
- Repair and reconstruction of Madison Alley from Goodwill St to College St

Upcoming Road Projects

- Sealcoating and lining the community center parking lot and adding green space with trees to create more public parking and improve the streetscape (2021)
- Repair and replacement of ADA Curb ramps on North Locust St (2021)
- Repair and repaving of North Race St (2021)
- Reconstruction of Route 501 Bridge over the Tulpehocken Creek (PennDOT project set for 2022)

For more information on these projects, contact the Borough Office.

Wastewater Treatment Department News and Notes

Barry A. Ludwig, Assistant Manager and Director of Public Works and Utilities

A Reminder: Never Flush "Flushable" Wipes

Many of us, especially those with young families, have come to appreciate how useful and convenient wet wipes can be. And why not? Wet wipes are often perfect for performing simple cleanups, as they are easy to use, and according to the packaging, they are often labeled as "flushable" for easy disposal.

Unfortunately, wet wipes ARE NOT "flushable", and should NEVER be flushed down the toilet.

We admit, it is confusing and conflicting to hear that a product marketed as "flushable" should NEVER be flushed. The problem, however, is that even though wet wipes can be flushed down the toilet, the material does not break down easily or dissolve like toilet paper does. Since they do not completely dissolve, they can cause clogged pipes, blockages, and even clogged sewer systems.

Wet wipes are responsible for a large portion of the blockage complaints we respond to within the Borough. Municipal sewer management teams and plumbers are constantly battling this massive problem. Because of their tendency to stick together and then accumulate within your pipes, it is common to find pipes and traps packed tight with flushed wet wipes.

Backed by Research

Numerous municipalities and universities have published reports showcasing the testing of over 100 wet wipe products, of which 23 are currently labeled as "flushable" by their manufacturer. Results indicated that not a single wipe was able to fall apart or break down safely via the sewer system test, negatively impacting everything from household plumbing and municipal sewage infrastructure, to wildlife and even the environment.

What Should I Do?

Although wet wipes are not the "conveniently flushable" items their manufacturers make them out to be, that does not mean you need to stop using them entirely. If you use them, simply dispose of them in the trash, no harm done. Toilet paper is the only household item that is specifically designed to be flushed down the toilet drain.

Keep the Drains Clear

To sum it up, if you want a clear and functioning plumbing system, keep the trash out of your sewer drains. Wet wipes/baby wipes, condoms, feminine products, cigarette butts, dryer sheets, dental floss, cat litter, diapers, etc. are all common causes of sewer drain line blockages. Blockages are expensive to remove. But they are avoidable.

For more information on the Borough's wastewater management program, go to myerstownpa.org/services/wastewater_management.php

MVP News Myerstown Vitality Partnership

MVP Progress Report from Board Chair Steve Goodhue

There is an old saying that “Rome wasn’t built in a day”, and that applies to the revitalization on our beloved Myerstown as well. In the **short term**, plans are in place to improve the facades of two landmark buildings on Main Street, Myerstown – The Lindermuth’s Stationery, Gifts, and Office Supplies building at 10 East Main Street, and the Governor J. Andrew Melchior Mercantile building, 113 West Main Avenue. Façade improvement is an important revitalization tactic.

In the **near term**, we are pleased to report that we are on track to gain official designation by the Fall of this year as a certified Keystone Communities Program (KCP) for Myerstown. The KCP certification will give us access to an organization that created partnerships between the public and private sectors that jointly support local initiatives such as the growth and stability of neighborhoods and communities. This will facilitate things like planning activities, façade grant programs, accessible housing programs and development grants.

Related to KCP is the opportunity to have Myerstown gain recognition and support as a Main Street America member.



This gives the MVP Board access to a wide range of tools, training materials, discounts, funding opportunities, and an invaluable network that will give Myerstown recognition as an official Main Street America community. The connection to Main Street America opens the door to the stories of many communities who have successfully achieved revitalization success. The education and the support is invaluable.

And yes, we are developing detailed **long-term** plans, that we will share as specific projects unfold. We also look forward to the relaxing of Covid Restrictions so we can announce MVP-led community events. You proved during our Sestercentennial in 2018 that you will support community events. Those good times will return.

Board Member of the Month

The MVP is blessed to have a team of caring members of our community that serve as volunteers on our Board of Directors. Starting this month, we will introduce you to a different Board member, find out what they do, and why

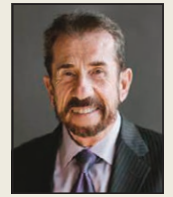
they have chosen to serve our community this way.

This month meet Jon Zinn, Zinn Insurance.

ZINN INSURANCE, An ALERA Group Company –



Jack Gombach, President/ CEO, Myerstown Vitality Partnership (MVP)



Steven Goodhue, Myerstown Vitality Partnership Board Chair

Brings national risk management to a local marketplace. Zinn Insurance has been serving the Personal and Commercial insurance needs of the Lebanon Valley since they opened for business in Myerstown in 1938.

What motivated Jon to join the MVP Board? “I wanted to help revitalize the downtown Myerstown area and surrounding community by bringing back small business and making Myerstown a local place of destination.”

Would you like to be involved with MVP in some capacity? Call Jack Gombach at 717-866-5038.



MVP Supports Myerstown Business. Shop Local. Buy Local.

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