

CHRISTIANA BOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

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COUNCIL AND AUTHORITY TO RAISE WATER AND SEWER RATES

Christiana Borough Council and Christiana Borough Authority have agreed to increase both water and sewer rates to customers. The last increase was three years ago and a study of that span of time shows that both the water system and the sewer treatment system are operating at a loss. Not having any rate increase for several years while costs to operate increased has put a drain on funds. This taking place at a time when the Borough is faced with DEP requirements to install additional treatment at the sewer plant and a strong possibility of additional treatment needs at the water plant. Council has delayed increases because of the poor state of the economy and how it would affect our citizens. Unfortunately, action can no longer be delayed.

Water Treatment System The base rate of \$46.88 per quarter (includes 5,000 gallons) will remain the same.

The study shows that it costs \$8.29 to process 1,000 gallons of water. Currently, the charge billed to users for gallons consumed over the first 5,000 is \$4.31, a loss of \$3.98 per 1,000 gallons. Businesses who are high users have been paying a flat rate of \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons and do not have a base rate. It is the high users who will be affected the most. The rate per 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000 gallons will be increased by \$1.00 for each of the next five years, as follows:

Effective 1/1/2011, the charge will be \$5.31 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Effective 1/1/2012, the charge will be \$6.31 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Effective 1/1/2013, the charge will be \$7.31 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Effective 1/1/2014, the charge will be \$8.31 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Effective 1/1/2015, the charge will be \$9.31 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Because high users don't pay a base rate, the increase each year will be somewhat greater.

Effective 1/1/2011, the charge for each 1,000 gallons of water will be \$4.15.

Effective 1/1/2012, the charge for each 1,000 gallons of water will be \$5.54.

Effective 1/1/2013, the charge for each 1,000 gallons of water will be \$6.93.

Effective 1/1/2014, the charge for each 1,000 gallons of water will be \$8.32.

Effective 1/1/2015, the charge for each 1,000 gallons of water will be \$9.71.

Sewage Treatment System The base rate of \$110.00 per quarter (includes 5,000 gallons) will remain the same.

The study shows that it costs \$6.81 to treat 1,000 gallons of sewage. Currently, the charge billed to users is \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons. Council and the Authority agreed that the rate should be raised on January 1, 2011 to \$6.75 per 1,000 gallons. The difference between the rate charged (\$6.75) and the cost to process (\$6.81) will be covered by the reduction in expenses when the PENNVEST loan for the sewer plant is satisfied in September 2011.

High volume users will continue to pay the current base rate of \$110.00 per quarter (includes 5,000 gallons). The cost for overages will be as follows:

Effective 1/1/2011, the charge will be \$4.45 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Effective 1/1/2012, the charge will be \$5.60 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Effective 1/1/2013, the charge will be \$6.75 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Rate increases are never pleasant, particularly in the current state of the economy. But, no business can continue to operate at a loss and survive. Meanwhile, Council will intensify their efforts to reduce operating costs.

PHONE NUMBERS STILL NEEDED FOR SWIFTREACH SYSTEM

The Borough still needs NINE resident's phone numbers. It is very important that we have a working phone number to contact you in the event of a Borough emergency. If you haven't submitted your phone number to the Borough office, please do so. Call (610) 593-5199. If you change your contact number, such as changing from a home phone to a cell phone, please let the Borough Office know so we can update our records.

Be sure to keep your dog on a leash when taking it for a walk. Also, clean up after it and keep your neighbors happy.

BOROUGH CALENDAR

- 1/4 Borough Council Meeting
- 1/15 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can eat. 6:00-10:00 am
- 1/15 Fire Co.Money Bingo. 6:00 pm
- 1/15 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 1/26 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 2/1 Borough Council Meeting
- 2/12 Fire Co.Apple Dumpling & Soup Sale.10:00 am-5:00 pm
- 2/19 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 2/23 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 3/1 Borough Council Meeting
- 3/19 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can Eat.6:00 am – 10:00 am
- 3/19 Fire Co.Money Bingo.6:00 pm
- 3/19 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 3/30 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 4/5 Borough Council Meeting
- 4/9 Fire Co.Block Shoot/Meat Raffle. 6:00 pm
- 4/16 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can Eat.6:00 a, - 10:00 am
- 4/16 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 4/27 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 5/3 Borough Council Meeting
- 5/14 Fire Co.Chicken Pot Pie
Dinner.2:00 pm-8:00 pm
- 5/21 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can Eat.6:00 am – 10:00 am
- 5/21 Fire Co.Money Bingo.6:00 pm
- 5/21 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 5/25 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 5/29 Fire Co.Chicken BBQ.Time To Be Announced.
- 6/7 Borough Council Meeting
- 6/18 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can Eat.6:00 am-10:00 am
- 6/18 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 6/29 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 7/16 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can Eat.6:00 am – 10:00 am
- 7/16 Fire Co.Money Bingo.6:00 pm
- 7/16 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 8/2 Borough Council Meeting
- 8/20 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 8/26 Kids Fire Experience
- 8/27 Kids Fire Experience
- 9/6 Borough Council Meeting

Cut out this schedule and put it on your refrigerator. It will help you remember the dates involved.

WATER RADIUM PROBLEM FOUND AND SOLVED

Finding the source of the elusive elevated radium in our water supply has been difficult. However, after individually testing and analyzing each water source, 10 springs and two wells, our laboratory has found that our #1 spring, north of the large spring house on Spring Road, was the source of the problem. The line from that spring was immediately plugged and the water diverted away from our collection lines. We have since received DEP permission to permanently remove #1 spring from our water system, install a run-off line and direct the water away from our other water sources. The problem has been identified and resolved. It has been a difficult time for our customers and we really appreciate your patience while we were trying to make the needed corrections. Thank You!

LEAF PICK-UP PROBLEMS

Seems as though every time a leaf pick-up is scheduled, the Borough office receives a lot of calls. Almost all of them are about the trash truck not picking up all of the bagged leaves. When the office personnel check, the problem turns out to be that the brown Kraft biodegradable bags weren't used. Instead, the property owner put his leaves in green or black plastic bags. Our leaves go to a composting site where plastic bags are not accepted. The trash people have been taking up to six of the plastic bags and treating them as though they were trash, that's what the contract calls for, and leaving the remainder of the bags on the sidewalk. The Kraft bags are free and are available at the Borough office. Please, save yourself a lot of headaches by using the proper bags.

BOROUGH PHONE NUMBERS

Police - (610) 593-2234

Borough Office - Mon. to Fri. 8:30 am-4:30pm -(610)593-5199

Note: Any calls to the Borough Office number after hours for police will not be answered until Monday morning. Call (610) 593-2234 at all times for the Police.

Sewer Plant - (610) 593-6502

Zoning Issues - (610) 724-4115

Water/Sewer EMERGENCY

Contact-(717)278-5348

MOORES LIBRARY PAYS RENOVATION EXPENSE DEBT

The 1.3 million dollar purchase and renovation debt for the "new" Moores Memorial Library has been completely paid. Thanks to you, the members and Friends of the Library, the Capital Project Fund Drive was a success. Your support for the Silent Auction, the numerous chicken B-B-Qs, pretzel and funnel cake sales, Plant and Flower Sale, the used book sales, and many other fund-raising projects, paid off. We owe a debt of thanks to Walt Crellin, Library Treasurer, who took part in every fund-raising activity and spent many hours, along with John Esworthy, sorting books for the book sale. The Friends of the Library, under the direction of Joan Esworthy has instituted a number of fund-raising activities to help pay for library operating costs. The success of the library project is due to the many people who lent their time, money and effort, working together, along with Director Claudia Roun, to provide our community with a facility of which everyone can be very proud. We are now looking forward to the renovation of the library's lower level and elevator installation. Volunteer workers are needed for this project.

TRASH PICK- UP SCHEDULE

Regular Trash pick-up continues to be on Monday unless a change is necessary because of a holiday. 2011 Pick-up Schedule

Holiday Schedule

Memorial Day-Tuesday, May 31
Fourth of July-Tuesday, July 5
Labor Day-Tuesday, Sept. 6

Yard Waste

April 4 & 18
May 9 & 23
June 6 & 20
July 5 & 18
August 1, 15 & 29
September 12 & 26
October 10 & 24

Leaves

April 25
October 17
November 21

White Goods & Tires

April 16
September 17

Keep this schedule handy. And, remember, the more you recycle, the more you keep the costs of trash collection down.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer labor is needed to work on Phase 2 of the Library Project. The lower level of the library will be converted to a meeting room, a Family and History Center, a Local History Center, a coffee shop and a used book store. We also need to install an elevator. The Borough has been successful with a state grant request and, since it is a matching grant, we need to provide "in kind" service to cover the library's share of the cost. This can be labor and/or materials. Your volunteer help is really needed to get the job done. Our American Legion, Lions Club members, and members of Council have already offered their help. This project has become a community effort.

BOROUGH COMPLETES PLANT DIGESTER UPGRADE

Christiana's waste water treatment plant digester's (the big round cement structure) machinery was breaking down more often than acceptable. A redesigned agitator had been installed as a pilot project for the state. Problem was, the motor couldn't handle the stress and was constantly breaking down. Each time this happened, the Borough would have to contract to haul sludge to Lancaster for disposal. This cost could run as high as 6 to 7 thousand dollars each month. Added to this was the cost of hiring a crane to pull the motor, have it shipped south for repairs and hire the crane again for installation when the motor was returned. All of this was quite costly and our plant operator, Evan Fields, began looking for a better way to mix the sludge. Atglen Borough had recently installed a new system that used forced air rather than an agitator. Evan met with the Borough Manager and discussed his idea. Then, Council was given a proposal for the project. This system, Evan told the members, would work for us. Several engineering firms were contacted who returned cost estimates of \$300,000.00 or more to do the complete job. It was finally determined that the work could be done "in house" at a much lower cost, with Evan in charge and using Atglen's plant operator as a consultant. Parts were ordered and Evan, Mark MacDonald and Chuck Crothers began the work. This past December, the project was completed and the digester is now up and running. The estimated cost for the complete job is less than \$75,000.00. The result of this upgrade will be far less cost involved with sludge transportation and far fewer breakdowns and repair of equipment. Thank you, Evan, Mark and Chuck for a job well done.

NEW PARK PLANNED FOR ZION HILL AREA

West Sadsbury Township Supervisors have approved a plan for the construction of a new park to be located between Zion Hill Road and Christiana Borough. Residents from West Sadsbury, Atglen, and Christiana will benefit from the planned activities. Jim Groff is drawing plans to rebuild the William Parker "Christiana Riot" house. Once constructed, he and the Christiana Historical Society plan to annually re-enact the Resistance fight of 1851. A number of Civil War reenactors have contacted Jim and plan to stage Civil War skirmishes on the property. Boy Scouts plan to hold camp-outs. From all indications, this park will be used by many local organizations for outdoor activities. And, using the land for park space will keep the ground for public use rather than having it taken over by a housing development. At the rate our area is being developed, it won't be very long before open space will be a thing of the past. A good job by the West Sadsbury Supervisors of planning for the future.

THE QUILT LEDGER COMES TO TOWN

The "old" library building, formerly the Local Ledger office, was recently sold to Leslie Reese. Leslie is currently restoring the building to how it looked in the early 1900's when our Local Ledger newspaper was published there. The new name for the building is "The Quilt Ledger", where antique quilts will be displayed, quilt-making demonstrated and quilting materials available for purchase. Leslie is a member of an organization that makes quilts and donates them to children in hospitals. Leslie, we wish you every success.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

From Mayor Gerry
Woods

While we celebrate the holiday season (Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year), please remember our friends and neighbors serving in the Armed Forces who are not able to be with their families during these special days of the year. We should also be thankful for our community and all the people who work to help make it what it is: The Borough Employees who clean the streets, repair potholes, clean gutters and pick up leaves; Evan Fields who works long hours, making sure our water treatment plant and our waste water treatment plant are always working properly. Using his knowledge and working many hours on the water and sewer systems, he saves the Borough a great deal of money. As an example, an upgrade to the waste water treatment plant that was estimated would cost \$300,000.00 or more, was done by Evan, Mark MacDonald and Chuck Crothers for less than \$100,000.00; members of Borough Council, who always try to solve resident's complaints and work to make this Borough a safe and friendly place to live; Bud Rettew, who is always looking for ways to get more Federal and State Grants to make Borough improvements; Carol Pringle, who handles all the paperwork for the Borough, water and sewer billing, payroll, accounting, and police data entry; Our Police Department, Fire Department and Community Ambulance Service who all work very hard to keep us safe. We also have many people, some I can't identify, from the local churches, library committees, Masonic Organization, American Legion and other local organizations who help improve our quality of life. People like Jim and Doris Groff and others who, throughout the year, help maintain our "Welcome To Christiana" sign. I'm sure that there are other people who work behind the scenes and strive to make improvements to our community—people I haven't remembered—I thank you, also.

**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MAKE 'CHRISTIANA' SO
SPECIAL**

MY CHRISTMAS WISH FOR YOU

My Christmas Wish for you, my friend
Is not a simple one
For I wish you hope and joy and peace
Days filled with warmth and sun

I wish you love and friendship too
Throughout the coming year
Lots of laughter and happiness

To fill your world with cheer

May you count your blessings, one by one
And when totaled by the lot
May you find all you've been given
To be more than what you sought

May your journeys be short, your burdens light
May your spirit never grow old
May all your clouds have silver linings
And your rainbows pots of gold

I wish this all and so much more
May all your dreams come true
May you have a Merry Christmas friend
And a Happy New Year, too.