

CHRISTIANA BOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

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COUNCIL AND AUTHORITY NEW WATER RATES

The new water and sewer rates became effective January 1, 2011 and are reflected in the first quarter bill for 2011. As a reminder, we are reprinting the rate structure for 2011, below.

Water Treatment System

The base rate of \$46.88 per quarter (includes 5,000 gallons) remains the same.

A recent study showed that it costs \$8.29 to process 1,000 gallons of water. Prior to this quarter billing, the charge billed to users for gallons consumed over the first 5,000 was \$4.31, a loss of \$3.98 per 1,000 gallons. Businesses who were high users had been paying a flat rate of \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons and did not have a base rate. It is the high users who are affected the most.

The rate per 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000 gallons has been increased by \$1.00. Effective 1/1/2011, the charge is \$5.31 for each 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000.

Sewage Treatment System

The base rate of \$110.00 per quarter (includes 5,000 gallons) remains the same.

The recent study showed that it costs \$6.81 to treat 1,000 gallons of sewage. The charge billed to users was \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons. The rate was 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.

TRASH COLLECTION CONTRACT COULD GO OUT FOR BID THIS FALL

The three year trash contract with Eagle Disposal will expire at the end of 2011. However, there is an option in the contract to extend the term for two years, one year at a time if both parties agree. We will contact Eagle Disposal to determine if the existing contract can be extended for one year at the same rates. If an extension is not agreed upon, bids will be solicited from those trash companies interested and a new contract put into place. We'll keep you posted.

RECYCLING WEIGHTS FALL SHORT

The monthly recycle weights for the past four months are an average of 12,438 pounds less than the previous four months. This means that residents are not recycling all items that they can. This affects the tipping fee the Borough must pay at the landfill when all possible recyclables are not removed first. In addition, a lower gross recycle weight for the year results in a reduced State Grant the Borough receives for the recycling project. An increase in the tipping fees plus a reduction in the grant amount directly affects the cost of collection to you, the customer. We were doing great until four months ago. Let's get back to recycling.

SNOW REMOVAL COSTS AFFECT BUDGET

Council recognizes that, when there is a large snow fall, there is a problem finding a place to put snow plowed off the street. In an effort to provide parking on Gay, Broad and W. Slokom Avenue, contractors are hired to take snow to another location. This is a very expensive proposition to Borough finances. The first large snow this year required two outside contractors to be hired at a total cost of \$5,895.00. Add to this the cost of two trucks plowing streets, wages, gas, cinders and salt and the budget is quickly over-spent. The suggestion we've heard from some is, "Put more in the budget line item for plowing". We would, if we could. The problem is, there is no budget reserve from which to take money. In order to keep Borough taxes as low as possible, Council has never kept a large reserve fund. The General Budget is funded by Borough taxes and that's where the money comes from to cover snow removal. The Borough also received Liquid Fuels Tax money from the State, but that money must also be used to repair, clean and pave streets.

We often hear that Borough taxes are high. That's true only if one includes the Octorara School taxes in the total. The Borough neither sets the tax millage rate for the school, nor does it receive any revenue from it. Borough millage on property is 4.50 and has remained the same for the past three years, even though costs have risen in all areas of Borough operations.

BOROUGH CALENDAR

- 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 am - 10:00 am
- 4/16 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 4/27 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 5/3 Borough Council
- 5/7 Library Plant Sale
- 5/14 Fire Co. Chicken Pot Pie Dinner. 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- 5/16 Library Golf Tournament
- 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
- 8/26-27 Kids Fire Experience
- 9/6 Borough Council Meeting
- 9/17 Fire Co. Breakfast. All you can eat. 6:00 am—10:00 am
- 9/17 Fire Co. Money Bingo 6:00 pm
- 9/17 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 9/28 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 9/30 Fire Co. Craft Auction TBA
- 10/1 Annual Fire Co. Auction
- 10/4 Borough Council Meeting
- 10/15 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 10/26 Borough Council Extra Mtg.
- 11/1 Borough Council Meeting
- 11/19 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 11/19 Fire Co. Breakfast. All you can eat. 6:00 am—10:00 am
- 11/19 Fire Co. Money Bingo 6:00 pm
- 11/23 Fire Co. Pie Sale 10:00 am

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

BUILDING DEDICATION

Christiana Borough Council invites our community to attend the Dedication Program, formally naming the Christiana Municipal Building the **LaVerne D. "Bud" Rettew Building**. LaVerne, "Bud", as he is known, is being honored for his 43 years of faithful service to our community, giving tirelessly and unselfishly of his time and energy to borough business. Please, plan to attend on May 14, 2011 at 10:00 AM at 10 West Slokom Avenue. Light refreshments will be

NO SOAPBOX DERBY RACES THIS YEAR

Every organization that depends on volunteer help faces the same problem. People are not stepping up to the plate to help run community-wide programs. Our annual Soapbox Derby Races are no exception. Because of the lack of volunteers, no races will be held in 2011. Those youngsters who had hoped and planned to race a car this year will suffer disappointment. The Fall race last year barely had enough people available to properly run it. One organizer was kept busy until 11:00 o'clock Saturday night, tearing down the race equipment because help was not available to him. Seems that we always count on the same people every year to run the same programs. Those people are getting tired. New, fresh blood is needed.

Christiana has always prided itself on the many community-wide activities available to our children. Now, we're seeing Borough activities fall by the wayside. Isn't it time that you offer to help the Lions, the Library, the Fire Company, and others, run their activities. A few Saturdays a year would be a big help. It's your turn at bat!

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 GOLF TOURNAMENT

One sure sign of Spring is a game of golf. It's time for the second annual Moores Memorial Library Golf Tournament. Scheduled for May 16, 2011, the event will take place at the Moccasin Run Golf Course, 402 Schoff Road, Atglen, PA, with the Shotgun start at 1:00 pm. A single player fee of \$85.00 includes green fees, cart, range balls, beverages, a light lunch and dinner after the tournament. Sponsorships are also available. Cash prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

All proceeds from this event go directly to the funding of the library's operation.

For additional information, call Jack Assetto at: 610-857-1920 or his cell phone: 610-675-5815. Or call Walt Crellin at 610-593-5049 or his cell phone: 717-475-1268.

Moores Memorial Library is once again accepting book donations. The date for a used book sale will be announced very soon. Please, take your used books to the library. They will be sorted and made ready to sell.

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. Remember, the more you recycle, the more you keep the costs of trash collection down.

**THE CHRISTIANA
FARMERS MARKET
WILL OPEN ON
SATURDAY, MAY 28,
AND CONTINUE
EACH
SATURDAY UNTIL
OCTOBER 8, 9:00
AM TO 1:00 PM AT
THE LIONS PARK ON
NORTH BRIDGE
STREET. BAKED
GOODS &
VEGETABLES FOR**

Moores Library Annual Plant Sale Scheduled for May 7

The Moores Memorial Library Annual Plant Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, will be held from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, May 7th at the Lions Park on Bridge Street. Available for sale will be a huge variety of annuals, perennials, shrubs, vegetable plants, hanging baskets and planted containers. The Friends will also accept donated plants from the community that can be placed at the Lions building on Friday evening, May 6. Please, identify any donated items.

Delicious chicken (halves) barbequed by John Stoltzfus will also be available for sale. Keep in mind, this is the day before Mother's Day— a perfect time to buy your mother a plant and, at the same time, support your library.

WORK AT MOORES LIBRARY TO BEGIN SOON

Final approval for the grant to help fund the library's renovation of the lower floor has been received from Harrisburg. Paperwork is still needed to obtain the grant for the elevator from United Disabilities and will be filed by the time this newsletter is issued. All plans must be submitted for approval to our Zoning Officer and Code Administrators to obtain a building permit. Once the building permit is in hand, actual work can be started. The lower level of the library will contain a used book store, a coffee shop, a meeting room, a family history center, storage and a place to do book repairs. Public support is needed to help raise the grant's required matching funds. It is a dollar for dollar match and the library's Fund Drive Committee will contact you soon with information about how you can help.

BOROUGH STREETS NEED ATTENTION

Council is very much aware of the situation on the poor condition of several of our streets. Walt Crellin, Street Committee Chairman, has made his inspection of all Borough streets and has reported his findings to Council. With funds being very tight, only the worst areas can be addressed this year. In most cases, only patching will be done. One area in particular that needs repair is the road through the underpass. Another, is East Slokom St. at the curve behind the Bond Machine Company. Newport Avenue from Harrison House north to Sadsbury Avenue is especially in need of work.

The winter has been very hard on roadways, breaking the macadam and causing many potholes. Council plans as much repair work as existing funds permit and not go into debt.

IT'S SPRING AND TIME FOR YARD WORK AND HOUSE REPAIRS

Old Man Winter has headed out of town and warm weather is just around the corner (we hope). It's time to rake that yard and plant some flowers. The harshness of the winter months has taken a toll on many of our homes and it will soon be time to fix up, repair and paint the areas that need attention. We've had a number of people stop in the Borough office to tell us what a pretty town we have. Let's do our best to keep it that way. Street sweeping has been started by our street crew. So, if you see a cloud of dust moving from one street to another, it's Chuck Crothers operating the Borough's street sweeper, cleaning up the cinders that were used over the winter.

MAYOR'S PAGE

With the coming of spring, we're anxious to shed our heavy coats, hats and gloves etc. We want to go outside, clean the yard, wash the windows, anything, as long as we're not in the house. It's time to be in the sun, turn the thermostats down, open the windows and air out the house.

Children start to look for baseball bats and gloves, roller blades, skates, and bicycles. They're excited to be outside after a long winter. Sometimes, this excitement causes them to forget about their own safety. We, as adults, need to pick up the slack and keep reminding them or, as they see it, nagging them to be careful. We also need to be very alert when driving. Our children are dear and like deer, if you see one, there's sure to be another one close by. If your house is like our house, my wife is already planning her garden and she picked out this poem to keep me on the straight and narrow with our life/business. It's called:

THE GARDEN OF YOUR BUSINESS

First, plant four rows of peas:

Presence, promptness, preparation, and perseverance.

Next to these, plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip, squash indifference, squash criticism.

Then plant five rows of lettuce:

Let us obey rules and regulations.

Let us be true to our obligations.

Let us be faithful to duty.

Let us be loyal and unselfish.

Let us love one another.

No garden is complete without turnips

Turn up for meetings.

Turn up with a smile.

Turn up with new ideas.

Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

As I understand it, by planting this garden in the spring, we will harvest Happiness and Fulfillment in the summer.

Have a great Spring!!!

Your Mayor, Gerry Woods