

CHRISTIANA BOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

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NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

When you make your payment for your water, sewer and/or trash bill at PNC Bank, please include the bill stub that displays the break-down of your payment and your account number. Your payment is divided and deposited into the respective accounts for water, sewer and trash. Without the stub, the Teller is unable to make this break-down and later, notify the Borough to credit your account properly.

You are also reminded that it is illegal to submit a postdated check and the Borough office is not permitted to accept it.

Thank you.

NO. THREE WELL PROJECT IS PROGRESSING

The Borough has received comments and additional requirements from DEP as a result of the application for well approval that was sent to Harrisburg last October. Becker Engineering, the Borough Engineer, has responded and the Council is waiting to find out if all requirements from DEP have been met. If so, construction can begin on the water treatment building that will be located on the Lions Park property and we can begin the laying of the necessary pipe and make connection with the main located in the center of North Bridge Street. In addition to the larger supply of water, an increase in pressure should be realized in the southern part of the Borough. One-half of the cost of this project is covered by a grant from the County.

LIBRARY PROJECT CONTINUES

The renovation of the lower level of your library continues and is expected to be completed by the end of 2012. Two grants were awarded to the Borough for the library. The first, a \$123,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development (State funds) is funding the major portion of the general contract. A matching amount of these funds is required by the state from the library. A second grant, in the amount of \$35,000 is from United Disabilities Services (Federal funds) and is funding the major portion of the ADA elevator installation. The total cost for the elevator is estimated to be \$80,000.

We have received questions about this project and why are we moving forward in this depressed economy. That question deserves an answer. The primary and only reason is that, if the library does not use the funds, all monies must go back to the grant provider. Chances of getting another grant for this project approved in the future are almost non-existent. The library applied for both grants before the economy went flat. Then, by the time the grant awards were made, the recession had begun.

Another question asked is: If operational monies are so tight, why not use some of the grant money to pay for salaries, books, heat, light, etc. The answer is, we are not permitted to do so by law. And, since all completed grants are audited by the state, it simply would not be wise for us to do so.

CHRISTIANA'S SIDEWALK FUNDING

Once again, the Borough Council is submitting a grant request for funds to lay sidewalks on Sadsbury Avenue, from N. Bridge St. to Newport Ave. and for Newport Ave., from Sadsbury Ave. to Pine Street. Grant funds are available through PADOT via the Lancaster County Planning Commission. The cost for the project is estimated to be \$135,000.00. Of this, the Borough would be responsible for 20 percent, or \$27,000.00.

A previous grant for \$16,500.00 had been awarded with the Borough required to match it, dollar for dollar. Engineering and surveying were done. But, because of the downturn in the economy, Council wisely determined to not go forward with the project and the remaining grant money was returned to the county. If the Borough is once again successful and is awarded the requested grant funds, the project would not be started until mid 2012 with completion required by October, 2013. Spreading the expense over two years would be much easier on the Borough budget. As with all grant requests, there is no guarantee of being successful and receiving approval. We'll keep you posted on the progress made.

Remember to keep the Borough Office up-to-date with a phone number where you can be reached in the event of an emergency. If you have a second phone, provide that number, also.

2012 BOROUGH CALENDAR

- 1/1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 1/3 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 1/21 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can eat.6:00 am—10:00 am
- 1/21 Fire Co.Money Bingo 6:30 pm
- 1/21 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 1/25 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 2/1 Fire Co.Money Bingo 6:30 pm
- 2/7 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 2/11 Fire Co.Apple Dumpling and Soup Sale 10:00 am –5:00 pm
- 2/18 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can eat. 6:00 am—10:00 am
- 2/18 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 2/29 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 3/6 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 3/7 Fire Co.Money Bingo 6:30 pm
- 3/17 Fire Co.Breakfast.All you can eat. 6:00 am—10:00 am
- 3/17 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 3/28 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 4/2 Yard Waste Pick-up
- 4/3 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 4/4 Fire Co.Money Bingo 6:30 pm
- 4/14 Fire Co.Block Shoot/Meat Raffle 4:00 pm
- 4/16 Yard Waste Pick-up
- 4/21 Fire Co.Breakfast. All you can eat. 6:00 am—10:00 am
- 4/21 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 4/23 Leaf Pick-up
- 4/25 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 4/28 White Goods/Tire Pick-up
- 5/1 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 5/2 Fire Co.Money Bingo 6:30 pm
- 5/7 Yard Waste Pick-up
- 5/12 Fire Co.Sit-down Chicken Pot Pie Dinner. Carry-out is Available 2:00 to 8:00 pm
- 5/19 Fire Co.Breakfast. All you can eat. 6:00 am—10:00 am
- 5/19 Lions Club Sub Sale
- 5/21 Yard Waste Pick-up
- 5/29 Trash Pick-up
- 5/30 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 6/4 Yard Waste Pick-up
- 6/5 Borough Council 7:30 pm
- 6/6 Fire Co.Money Bingo 6:30 pm
- 6/16 Fire Co.Breakfast. All you can eat. 6:00 am—10:00 am
- 6/16 Fire Co. Vera Bradley Bingo 6:30 pm.
- 6/16 Lions Club Sub Sale

TRASH PICK-UP SCHEDULE FOR 2012

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

Holiday Schedule Changes

May 28—Memorial Day
Pick –up will be on May 29

September 3-Labor Day
Pick-up will be on September 4

Yard Waste

April 2 and 16

May 7 and 21

June 4 and 18

July 2, 16 and 30

August 13 and 27

September 10 and 24

October 8 and 22

Leaves

April 23

October 15

November 19

White Goods and Tires

TICKETS NEEDED

April 28

September 15

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

Any large object that will not fit in a 32 gallon trash container requires a “Large Item” ticket, available at the Borough Office for \$4.00. The Trash Collector will not pick up large items without a ticket.

NOTICE

THE BOROUGH WILL NOT VACUUM YOUR LEAVES. DO NOT RAKE LEAVES INTO THE GUTTER. A SUDDEN RAIN WILL CAUSE THE WATER INLETS TO BECOME CLOGGED. ALL LEAVES MUST BE PLACED IN BAGS, PROVIDED FREE BY THE BOROUGH, AND SET OUT FOR PICK-UP BY THE TRASH COLLECTOR FOR COMPOSTING.

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

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Residents are reminded that you must remove snow and ice from your sidewalks. Borough Ordinance Number 180 requires the snow and ice be removed within 24 hours after the snow stops falling. If you can't remove the ice, you are required to apply an ice melt or sand (or similar abrasive) to prevent people from falling.

You are also reminded that it is illegal to throw snow onto a public roadway or to pile it against a fire hydrant. The fine can be up to \$1,000.00 plus costs or up to 30 days in jail. Each day is considered a separate violation.

EAGLE DISPOSAL NOTES

We are now approaching the Winter season—SNOW. Eagle is asking its customers to keep their trash pick-up area plowed and clear of snow and ice. If an enclosure is used, please salt around the lock and gate to insure the gate will open with as little damage as possible.

In winter, trash tends to stick to the bottom of the containers, causing additional work at the curb. This cost could be passed on to the customer. Please, help us to do the job properly.

LATTA CHANGES THRIFT SHOP HOURS

Starting in January 2012, the hours for Latta's Thrift Shop will change to the following:

First Tuesday of the Month—9:00 am to 12:00 noon

First full week-end of the month:
Friday—5:00 to 7:00 pm and
Saturday—9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Open only one week-end per month.

The Thrift Shop is located at Latta Memorial Presbyterian Church, 23 Green Street, Christiana, PA, and features clothing and shoes for men, women and children, kitchen items, bed and bath items, lamps, jewelry, home décor, toys and games, and much more!

Donations to the Thrift Shop of gently used items may be made during regular business hours. (No TV's, computers or electronics are accepted.) For more information, call the church office at (610) 593-5467.

BOROUGH PURCHASES ADDITIONAL TRUCK FOR PLOWING

You might have noticed a white pick-up truck plowing during the recent "surprise" snow storm. The truck performed well and was used in those areas of the Borough where there isn't much space for maneuvering a larger snow plow. In addition, a salt spreader was purchased with the truck, allowing the Borough to quickly spread salt at some of our intersections. As you know, there are several spots in Christiana that are almost always shaded, Slokom Avenue at Bridge Street, in front of the Library, for example. Ice forms on this road and is very difficult to remove by plow. We are hopeful that, by keeping this part of the roadway salted, we can better remove the ice in a timely manner.

2011 WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR CHRISTIANA

Even though the economy was really in the pits this past year, the Borough came through without any major problems. Our reserve fund account did not end in the condition we would like but, all in all, we did "ok". We were able to pave a portion of Newport Avenue and Branch Street, where it goes through the underpass, or "subway" as the locals like to call it. Council had hoped to do more paving but the funds simply weren't there. The Zoning Ordinance was reviewed and brought up to date with the addition of better definitions for swimming pools and a statement that insured that our beautiful Victorian houses would not be converted into apartments. The 2010 census reported that 36.9% of the Borough properties are renter occupied—a pretty high number. Council and the Borough Planning Commission prepared our own Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) to speed up the land sub-division process. The Ordinance is being reviewed by the county at the present time. Council made the final payment on the PENNVEST loan that was used to upgrade the sewer plant in 1991. The surface water drainage ditch on Water Street was finally repaired so that storm water is directed into the nearby stream, rather than all over the road. The heavy storm last August spared Christiana from any serious damage. The Borough was prepared, however, for the worst. The Fire Company and Borough were ready for the storm and, although Lancaster County was declared a disaster area, our Borough was spared. Our Swiftreach telephone notification system was completed and has already proved its worth. Yes, all things considered, it really was a good year.

LIQUID SALT SPREADER

As reported in the last Newsletter, Christiana's Street Crew, under the direction of Mark MacDonald, is constructing a liquid salt spreader. Mounted on the same trailer as is used for watering the flowers during the summer, the spreader will use the same mounted storage tank and pipes. Added to this system, is a series of PVC pipes, one with holes drilled in it to distribute the salt brine evenly over the roadway. An electric switch in the truck cab will turn the system on and off. Salt brine, when applied to the road surface prior to a snow or ice storm, will aid in the prevention of ice forming on the roadway. We are hopeful that this will help keep areas like Slokom and Bridge Street free of ice and in a safer condition.

THE GRINCH IS ALIVE AND WELL

The infamous Grinch is alive and well in the northern part of Christiana Borough. The Christiana Welcome Sign, erected by Jim Groff and the Lions Club, decorated with lights for Christmas, has been robbed. Someone, obviously not filled with the Christmas spirit, under the cover of darkness, stole the lights and the candy cane decorations. It is our hope that the thief will find joy in decorating with these stolen items. But, it is possible for the sticky-fingered one to atone for his misdeed. The empty light/cane boxes will be left at the sign so that, at the end of the Season, he can return the items he obviously needed so badly.

Dog and Cat owners are reminded to keep pets under control. Borough Ordinances prohibit allowing them to run loose. And, please, clean up after your pet.

CHRISTIANA LIONS CLUB AND THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS IN CHRISTIANA A TOTAL SUCCESS

If you were anywhere near Maple Avenue in Christiana on December 17, you knew that something very important was happening. Starting about mid-afternoon, cars full of excited children began arriving at the NRHS Freight Station. The event? A meeting with Santa, free hot dogs and cookies. More than 400 hot dogs were provided and when there were no more "dogs", cup cakes were substituted. The parking lot was always full, with vehicles coming and going full tilt until after 8:00 pm, when the hay rides began. Two tractors with wagons hauled children and adults throughout the Borough, showing off the great displays of Christmas lights. The afternoon also was used for the judges to make note of whose decorations deemed prize-worthy. Added to the light decorations were the many luminaries that were lighted and placed on the sidewalks. There is no doubt that this year's Christmas in Christiana was one of the greatest, thanks to the hard work of our Lions Club and the members of the Christiana chapter of the NRHS. And, let's not forget the Christiana Fire Company with their decorated truck and jolly old St. Nick! He was there with Mrs. Claus, riding in his sleigh, pulled by reindeer. Many thanks to Steve Shivery, Glenn Kendig, Bev Woods, Jim Groff and the many, many helpers from the Lions Club, NRHS and the Christiana Fire Company that made the event such a success. Congratulations to those who were prize winners in this year's lighting contest.

LIBRARY TO BEGIN E-BAY SALES

Early next year, the Moores Memorial Library will open an E-Bay account and begin selling gently used books on Half-Com and the E-Bay auction site. By developing a customer base that can be world-wide, the library hopes to raise funds to help cover the renovation costs and later, operational costs. Recent books and specialty books will make up the bulk of the sales items. Bobbi Maser, John Esworthy, and Bud Rettew have agreed to help develop the project. The E-bay and Half-Com sales will be in addition to the library used book shop that will be located in the library's

WHY A LIBRARY?

We've heard it said, "What good is a library in today's electronic world?" With e-books, Nooks, and Kindles, why is a library important? There are many answers to that question. First, the library is a local gathering place where people with like interests come together to discuss issues. Second, it's a great place for students to visit after school. Third, supervised computer use is available for those who have no computer at home. And, there really are some homes without a computer! Others say, why a library when Nooks, etc. are now the rage. The library is a place where the reading data base is accessible and can be downloaded to the user's Nook, Kindle, etc. The library is also the place where the latest DVD and Blue-Ray can be borrowed. Books on Tape are available for those people with impaired eyesight. The latest magazines are on the shelf for users enjoyment. And for those who simply enjoy the feel of a printed book in their hands, they are still on the shelf for borrowing.

RECYCLING IS IMPORTANT

For many people, recycling is not something that is high on their list of important things to do. But, when you think about it, recycling can affect us all. When recyclable goods are not pulled from the trash, landfills quickly become full, increasing the costs of trash disposal. Aluminum, plastic, glass and newsprint are all recyclable materials and are reusable.

For the Borough citizens, separation of recyclable items from the regular trash is like money in the bank. Keeping that material from the landfill reduces the tipping fees charged to the Borough and helps keep the trash hauling costs low. The recycled material is weighed and the value associated with that weight is paid to Christiana Borough. The funds received are also used to help cover the haulers fees.

Each year, the total recycled weight is entered on a Municipal Recycling Performance Grant Application and filed with the Department of Environmental Protection. The grant funds received are applied towards the cost of hauler pick-up fees and helps keep operation costs down. Recycling really is important to us all!

LIGHTING CONTEST WINNERS

Santa's Choice-Uptown:

John Smith, 414 N. Bridge Street

Santa's Choice-Downtown:

Mike Garris, 15 Water Street

Honorable Mention:

Al Semeneck, 23 Maple Avenue

New Addition:

Max Kauffman, 105 Elizabeth St.

WOW Factor:

Bob Shivery, 28 Elizabeth Street

Crowd Favorite:

Karen Hess, 318 N. Bridge Street

Best Set of Luminaries:

Doreen Leaman, 123 Elizabeth Street