Spring *March, 2021*

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA
"The Garden Spot of the Lebanon Valley"

Robesonia Borough Hall: 75 South Brooke Street Robesonia, PA 19551
Phone: (610) 693-3474 **Fax:** (610) 693-5799 **E-mail**: RobesoniaBorough@comcast.net
Website: www.robesoniaboro.org Like us on Facebook!
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Friday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

MAYOR: Randy Gartner

2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Harvey Marshall, President
Rodney Soliday
Dave Rohrbach
Matt Miller
Mark Spotts, Vice President
Michael Martin
Dean Johnson

MANAGER: Lisa Heilman
STREETS & MAINTENANCE: Harvey Marshall
TAX COLLECTOR: Marshall Reynolds, (610)693-6640
ENGINEER: Jennifer Van Dyke, Technicon II,
SOLICITOR: Andrew George, Kozloff-Stoudt (610)670-2552
PLUMBING, BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, ACCESSIBILITY INSPECTOR : Technicon Enterprises II, (610)286-1622
ZONING OFFICER: Nancy Johnson, Technicon Enterprises, Inc. II
(Simple zoning permits for sheds, fences, driveways, pools)
ROBESONIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY – (610) 693-3264
Hours: Mon-Tues-Thurs 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM , Wed-10:30AM-8PM
Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM,
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Mike Palm
EMERGENCIES: 911
BERKS RADIO (Non-Emergency): 610-655-4911

Borough Council Meetings	**1st Monday of the Month**	**7:00 PM at the Borough Hall**

*The officials of the Borough of Robesonia **WELCOME** all the new families that have chosen Robesonia as their place of residence. We hope you will support our Borough and use its many facilities.*

At the Borough Hall you can:

Apply for building and zoning permits, pick up voter registration forms, Borough maps and dog license applications. The Borough issues one recycling container per property. We do not replace stolen or lost lids or wheels. **If you move from the property, the recycling container must remain there. Trash pick-up is every Tuesday. Recycling pick-up is every Thursday.**

Large or bulk items may be contracted separately with any hauler of your choice or brought to Spring

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK
MAYOR

Thank you to our plow drivers who have done a great job with the snow removal this year. It's hard work and these guys also work long hours. If you have plowing experience, please contact the Borough Hall as we are always on the lookout for part-time, as-needed drivers.

The Robesonia Street Fair was first started by the former Robesonia Jaycees in 1955. The Jaycees disbanded in 1999 and the Robesonia Community Association was formed. They ran it for ten years but decided they could no longer do it because of lack of help and little return on the investment of their time.
So in 2009, the Robesonia Street Fair Committee was formed. Last year was a bad year for a lot of businesses, organizations and some people. Because of the pandemic, the Robesonia Street Fair Committee was not able to hold any fundraisers for the past twelve months. And while we were able to get the fireworks off last year, there were no rides or games to bring in revenue. It costs about $14,000 a year to run our fair. The two biggest costs are insurance, $2,500 and the Fireworks, $10,000. As I am writing this, we only have about $2,500 in our account. We do have a new committee ready and able to run the fair, but we need MONEY! We plan to have a few fundraisers. The first one will be a Gun Raffle. But even if we have four fundraisers until the end of June, it still won't be enough. We usually don't solicit monetary donations, but this year we desperately need donations both large and small. If you can donate, please send a check made out to the Robesonia Street Fair Committee to 30 W Lincoln Ave, Robesonia, Pa 19551. We will inform you when and where the fundraisers will be held via Facebook either through my Facebook page, the new Street Fair page or the Borough's page. And if you want to be a part of the committee, please let me know. The more help we have, the easier it will be to keep this fine event going. The Street Fair and fireworks were there when I was a kid, it was there for my kids and now we need to keep it going for our grandkids. Thank YOU!

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead!
Sunday, March 14th

THE WORD ON THE STREETS.....

SPRING CLEAN-UP

2021 Spring Clean-Up will be held on Friday, May 7th and Saturday, May 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mark these dates on your calendars since we only have one clean up a year! Due to the rising disposal costs of Spring Clean-Up, the Borough Council of Robesonia has declared the following:

- All materials to be disposed of **must be delivered** to the Borough Garage located at 210 S. Elm St. by the individual.
- Confirmation of residency (identification) must be provided.
- Following is a list of charges for disposal:

- ❖ Mattresses, boxsprings (ea pc) $40.00
- ❖ Stuffed Furniture (ea. Pc) $10.00
- ❖ Major appliances $20.00
- ❖ Refrigerators/ Freezers $35.00
- ❖ Air Conditioners $10.00

- ♦ **NO Tires – NO Toxic Waste**
- ♦ All fees will be collected at the Borough Garage and are payable with cash, check or money order only.
- ♦ The Borough has the right to reject any excessive quantity of construction materials.

NOTICE: When purchasing tires, insist that your dealer dispose of the replaced ones. No toxic waste, such as oil-based paint, etc. will be accepted. If you have any questions, please call the Borough Office at (610) 693-3474.

REMINDER: Effective January 24, 2013, The Pennsylvania Covered Device Recycling Act requires that all consumers not dispose of covered devices, such as computers, laptops, monitors, televisions, etc, with their trash. Trash haulers are no longer able to take these devices. The Borough is no longer able to accept these devices at Spring Clean-up. In order to dispose of electronics, tires, hazardous waste, etc., please contact the Berks County Solid Waste Authority at 610-478-6362 to find out dates/times you can drop off those items.

MOWING REMINDERS!

1. Grass/weeds cannot exceed 6" in height.
2. It is unlawful to blow grass clippings into the street. Violators may be fined up to $1,000.00.

Friends of the Robesonia Community Library

Thank you, Robesonia Community Library supporters! Your response to our fall fundraiser was record-setting. You contributed over $4,000, all to benefit our first-rate library. We are so grateful to our generous community.

We are still determining what programs or events can be planned for 2021, but we are not scheduling a May book sale at this time. Stay tuned for news of any events beyond the spring. In the meantime, be sure to get vaccinated, stay healthy, and continue to support our library.

"The library is like a candy store where everything is free."

— Jamie Ford, author

GIRL SCOUT NEWS

The girls have just completed their annual Powder Puff Derby. It was a little different this year. They dropped off their cars to be raced by a small group of volunteers via Zoom.

February is Thinking Day month. The girls are again using Zoom and/or small groups to participate this year. Thinking Day is a time for the girls to think globally about other Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other cultures around the world.

Cookie season is here! Again with social distancing, things are very different. No cookie booths at the grocery stores. But you may see a card table set up on a street corner or you may hear from your favorite Girl Scout via social media.

TAXPAYER REMINDERS

Hello everyone. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this continuing social distancing period. Until the state removes restrictions, I will not have in person sitting hours. We will need to conduct business via mail or the locked drop box at my home office – 276 S. Church St.

County Real Estate bills will be mailed out March 1. Please make checks payable to Marshall C. Reynolds, Borough of Robesonia Tax Collector.

When mailing your payment, if you require a receipt you will need to enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope along with both copies of your bill and check.

Please, please do not drop payments in my mailbox at the curb – I cannot be responsible if the postal service picks it up in error.

Tentative sitting hours (dependent on social distancing requirements)

At the Borough office on:

April 19 – 10 AM to noon
April 21 – 10 AM to noon
April 26 – 10 AM to noon
April 28 – 10 AM to noon

At my home at 276 South Church Street on:

March 4 – 10 AM to noon
April 23 – 5 PM to 7 PM
April 30 – 5 PM to 7 PM
June 30 – 10 AM to noon
Dec 31 – 10 AM to noon

You can call me at 610-693-6640 for any questions that you may have.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, April 30, 2021

Come celebrate Robesonia's 31st year as a Tree City USA Honoree! Our own John Ravert, Robesonia Shade Tree Commission Chairman and a PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry representative, will be speakers and Mayor Randy Gartner will read the annual proclamation! Watch the Borough's FB page for more details! Hope to see you there!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!
May 18, 2021

CW LIONS CLUB NEWS

The Conrad Weiser Lions Club is a service organization that has been active in our Borough for over 65 years. Our club is a part of Lions Club International and is one of 46,000 clubs with more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries worldwide. Our goals are to promote the principles of good citizenship and to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of our community. We have over 70 active members and sponsor or organize many events throughout the year. These projects include a Pancake Breakfast, Scholarship Golf Tournament, Christmas Basket Distribution, Chicken BBQ sale, and many more community events. The money raised by our club is donated back to various causes and needs in the local community. Included in this is $6000 in scholarships given annually to deserving Conrad Weiser High School seniors!

We're always looking for new members! We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (from September to June) at Ozgood's Grill and Bar. Meetings start at 6:30pm. In order to become a member, you will need a sponsor who is an active member in the club. There is an application to fill out and annual membership dues for 2021-2022 are $65. Meetings and events are generally informal and we are looking for responsible and hard-working people who want to make a difference in our community. Please call Steve Bright at 610-693-6420 with any questions.

ROBESONIA MENS' GOLF LEAGUE

ATTENTION GOLFERS!!!

This is an open invitation to any male golfer with a Robesonia 19551 mailing address (you don't have to live in the Borough to qualify) to play in the **Robesonia Golf League**. This league has been in operation for sixty years and has been an important part of summer for many Robesonia hackers. It's a great night of fun! **Sign up now as a Regular player (as positions are available) or as a substitute.**

Being a great golfer or having a low handicap or average is not a requirement! Players are classified by their average and present league averages range from low of 70 to high of 110. The weekly format is match play with a playoff at the end of the season to determine the team champion. The league plays on Monday afternoon/evenings (must tee off by 5pm) and runs from the end of April through August. The league plays at Lebanon Valley Golf Course near Myerstown (the greens fee and cart rental are priced very affordably). You must be out of high school or eighteen years of age to play. You must also be reliable in attendance if selected as a Regular player or asked to play as a Substitute. Annual league dues are $15 per player. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, call Steve Bright at (610) 693-6420 This is an open invitation to any male golfer with a Robesonia 19551 mailing address (you don't have to live in the Borough to qualify) to play in the **Robesonia Golf League**. This league has been in operation for sixty years and has been an important part of summer for many Robesonia

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CHURCH NEWS

St. Francis de Sales Church

Rev. Edward J. Essig, M.Div.
321 N. Church Street, Robesonia
610-693-5851
www.stfrancisroby.org

Weekday Mass Schedule:

- *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 AM*
- *Thursday: 12:00 Noon*
- *Holy Hour: Tuesday 7:00-8:00 PM*

Weekend Mass Schedule:

- ***Sacrament of Confession:***
  - *Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM*
- ***Mass Times:***
  - *Saturday: 5:00 PM*
  - *Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM*

Come and celebrate the
Death & Resurrection of Christ with us!

- ***Stations of the Cross:***
  - *Every Friday during Lent @ 7PM*

Holy Week Schedule:

- ***Sacrament of Confession:***
  - *Saturday, March 27: 4:00-4:45 PM*
  - *Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, March 29-31: 4:00-5:00 PM; 6:30-7:30 PM*

The Easter Triduum begins at sundown on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper and concludes with Easter vespers at sundown on Easter Sunday; its high point is the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

Thursday, April 1*- Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 PM*
followed by adoration until 10:00 PM
Friday, April 2: *Liturgy of the Lord's Passion: 3:00 PM*
Saturday, April 3*- Easter Vigil: 8:00 PM*
Sunday, April 4*- Easter Mass: TBD (check church website for Mass times & signups)*

St. Daniel's Lutheran Church
480 Big Spring Road
Robesonia, PA
Pastor Bob Kramer

News from the top of the hill…

St Daniel's Lutheran Church, 480 Big Spring Road has begun its annual journey through the season of Lent. This is a time of reflection and preparation which leads to the high point of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day (April 4).

You are invited to join online for worship at our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/St-Daniels-Lutheran-Church-135767863122587. It is live at 9:00 AM each Sunday with the video available throughout the week. At this time Sunday morning in-person worship has been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Holy Communion is celebrated monthly on the church parking lot in the comfort of one's car as the audio is transmitted on an FM radio station. Times are listed on the St Daniel's Facebook page and website.

More information can be found on our website at www.stdaniels.com or by contacting Pastor Bob at pastorbobkramer@gmail.com .

ST. DANIEL'S PRE-SCHOOL

SPRING – IT'S TIME TO CONSIDER PRESCHOOL IN THE FALL

If you have preschool-age children, Spring is the time to begin preparing for enrollment of your child in an early-learning program. St. Daniel's Preschool, a ministry of St. Daniel's Lutheran Church, is an option that you have right here in our Robesonia community. We invite you to consider St. Daniel's Preschool if you have a preschool-age student that would be starting, or continuing, their early-learning experience in the School-Year beginning in September 2021.

It has been well documented that preschool experience provides an important part of the foundation for learning both socially and academically, that helps children succeed in elementary school and beyond. Some of the benefits a child experiences in preschool programs, such as St. Daniel's Preschool, include (a) developing social skills; (b) improved listening and speaking skills; (c) a sense of self-esteem and independence; (d) awareness of other's feelings; and (e) an appreciation and positive attitude toward school.

Enrollment in St. Daniel's Preschool for classes that will begin in September 2021 begins in March, and continues until classes are filled. Information about St. Daniel's Preschool is available from several sources. There are a few convenient ways to enroll a student. Contact St. Daniel's Preschool thru our website, by email, by telephone or by mail:

- Website: www.stdaniels.com/preschool
- Email: st.daniels.preschool@gmail.com
- Telephone: (610) 693-5145 (select the "Preschool" option, leave a message if necessary)
- Address: St. Daniel's Preschool; 480 Big Spring Rd; Robesonia, PA 19551

For information about St. Daniel's Preschool:

- Tour the Preschool – email or call to schedule a visit any time.
- St. Daniel's Preschool Brochure – pick-up at Robesonia Library or St. Daniel's Church office.
- Questions – email your question, or give us a call.
- View St. Daniel's Facebook page.
- "Open House, Registration, Art Show" – planned for Spring (Apr/May), stay tuned for more info.

To Enroll in St. Daniel's Preschool:

- By Mail - - Email or Call to request a Registration Form; complete the Form and return it with the Registration Fee to the Preschool.
- From the Website - - Download a Registration Form; complete the Form and return it with the Registration Fee to the Preschool.
- On the Website - - Complete the Registration Form online and mail the Registration Fee to the Preschool.

We wish everyone a happy Spring season!

Trinity Lutheran Church

108 S. Robeson Street
Robesonia, PA 19551
610-693-6062

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue
Robesonia. Pa.
610 621 5770
e-mail:office@SPRUCC.org
website: www.SPRUCC.org
Off- street Parking
Handicapped Accessible

PET ORDINANCE REMINDERS!

1. All dogs must be kept on a leash (off their own properties) no longer than 6' in length.
2. Dogs cannot bark for longer than 10 minutes continuously or ½ hour intermittently.
3. It is unlawful to allow animals to defecate upon any public street, sidewalk, park or other public place unless immediately removed and disposed of.
4. A maximum of 6 pets per dwelling unit is permitted.
5. Pet owners are responsible for collecting and properly disposing of all fecal matter from pets (including on their own properties!) to ensure it does not create a nuisance.

FRIENDS OF THE ROBESONIA FURNACE

This year the Friends of the Furnace have planned a number of events at the Furnace Pavilion.
Saturday, March 20th, 10am to 2pm **- Easter Craft Show** with Wes Mucky, Barbara Strasser and Lucky's Metal Works
Saturday, April 10th - **4Play** will be playing for a Rock the Furnace Event.
Saturday, May 8th - **Flamin' Dick and the Hot Rods** will be playing for the next Rock the Furnace event.
Tuesday, May 18th will be the **Annual Furnace Dinner** starting at 5:30 pm at the pavilion.

Saturday, June 12th - 39 with Honor will be holding a fund raiser for **Wreaths Across America**. Food and music will be available.
June 19th and July 23rd will be campfire programs at the Pavilion starting at 8pm. Each event will feature a slide show and talk of the Furnace History. Members are free, non members are $5 each. Marshmallows will be available to roast over the campfire. Saturday, August 7th is the town wide yard sale. The Furnace will be renting spaces under the pavilion for $10 each. **Saturday, August 23rd- 10AM-2PM- Summer Craft Show** from 10 am to 2pm.
And **Saturday, November 20th** will be the **Thanksgiving Craft Show,** again 10 am to 2pm. More information will be posted on the Furnace Facebook page in the near future.

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE!

The website for the Womelsdorf-Robesonia-Wernersville Trash COG can be accessed at www.wrwtrashcog.org OR www.rwwtrashcog.org. On this site you can find trash/ recycling pick-up information (including holidays!), contact information and interesting recycling information. Please check it out!

STORMWATER SMARTS

If you haven't yet seen the video on the Borough's website from Ms. Murdough's 6th grade science class, **please** take the time to do so! The kids did a **phenomenal** job explaining stormwater run-off and what you, as a homeowner or business, can do to mitigate that run-off. Go to www.robesoniaboro.org, click on the MS4 tab at the top and you'll find the video there. GREAT JOB, KIDS!

PATRIOTIC ORDER SONS OF AMERICA

The Patriotic Order Sons of America, or POS of A, is an organization that promotes patriotism and honoring the American flag in our local communities. Robesonia is served by POS of A Camp 113. Meetings are held at the Furnace Office, which is across the street from the

Robesonia Furnace Mansion along Freeman Street and which is now owned by the Borough, on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. The members of our Camp extend a hearty "Thank you!" to the Borough employees who have done an excellent job at clearing the area around the office.

Camp 113 placed a flag disposal box in the lobby of the Borough Hall. Please dispose of any tattered/soiled flags and any flags no longer suitable for respectful display in the box. We periodically empty the box for storage and eventual retirement at a Flag Day event or at a ceremony held at the Furnace Office property. Attached to the exterior of the box is a holder that contains Camp-membership application forms which provide additional information about our organization.

Our annual **Memorial Remembrance Ceremony** will be held at the Borough park at the corner of Penn Avenue & Robeson Street on **Thursday, May 27 at 6:30 PM**. At this ceremony, we honor the very special men and women of our community who gave their lives for our great nation while serving in our armed forces to protect us and the freedoms we greatly value. All are encouraged to attend this ceremony to show respect and gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice these heroes made. Children especially are welcome, as we strive to install a sense of patriotism.

We also support passing on to the next generation a sense of respect for our country by awarding scholarships annually to deserving high school seniors based on their essays about what patriotism means to them.

If you are interested in joining the POS of A or in learning more about our service organization, please contact Camp member Dave Bright (david.bright@ssmgroup.com). You can also find more information at www.nationalposofa.org

SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF LEON GRIM

Spring 2021

Let's talk about fraud. Specifically about phone scams. We have done other articles about the subject in previous newsletters, and I have given speeches at a local retirement community about the problem, but we continue to see new and devious ways that members of our community are being tricked into sending criminals money.

The most recent, and perhaps one of the more insidious cases involves members of a local Church. A person is contacting members of the congregation via text message, pretending to be the Church Pastor, asking the member to send them funds for a program being supported by the Church. In our most recent case, the scammer told the church member that he needed $300 in gift cards to support a cancer center. Once the Church member bought the gift cards, and provided the scammer with the gift card numbers, the scammer again asked for an additional $400. The Church member was suspicious as the "Pastor" was texting her from an unfamiliar number. When she called the number, she was informed the Pastor was in a meeting. She provided the second set of gift card numbers to the scammer.

The scammer contacted the victim a third time, again asking for $400 in gift cards, which the victim again purchased. But prior to the victim giving the card numbers to the scammer, she was able to contact her real Pastor who informed her it was a scam and that numerous members of the congregation are getting similar calls.

The number one way to tell that the call you are receiving is a scam, is the request for payment via gift cards.

No legitimate organization: Police Departments, Sheriff's office, Court system, IRS, etc., will ever ask for payment in gift cards. Not one….

While most of you reading this already know this, there are members of our community that are still falling for these scams.

So, what can you do?

1st. Never pay via gift cards. You are being scammed. Period.

2nd. If there is ever any doubt whether the caller is legitimate, or a scammer, simply hang-up and call the South Heidelberg Township Police Department at our non-emergency number (610) 670-9885, and we will help you with any questions you may have.

3rd. If there are members of your family that you believe are susceptible to possible fraud, have this conversation with them, and have them call you if and when they get suspicious phone calls, texts, or emails.

One thing is certain, that phone scams will continue, and they will change the story to be a believable as possible. But if we spread this message, hopefully we can help you, or a family member keep your money safe.

Thanks, and stay safe!

Chief Leon Grim

ROBESONIA MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Dear Resident of Robesonia Borough:

The Robesonia Municipal Authority (RMA) needs your help!

This is the first of what will be a series of informational correspondences designed to inform you about how you can help the RMA and the residents of the Borough of Robesonia as a whole.

Parts of the sanitary sewer collection system in Robesonia and surrounding Heidelberg Township are 55 years old and showing signs of deterioration, leaks, and the need for repairs.

Inflow and infiltration (I&I) is a combination of rain water and ground water that can enter the sanitary sewer system through cracks in pipes, misaligned or shifted joints, and **improper connections.**

Improper connections might consist of:

- Roof downspouts connected to the system.
- Basement sump pumps discharging the sewer system rather than outside.
- Basement floor drains that allow storm water or ground water into the sanitary sewer.
- Lateral vents that may be broken, uncovered, or accidentally buried.

Ground water or water retained from rain or snow melt does not belong in the sanitary sewer collection system and significantly increases the cost of operating the treatment facility.

A serious effort to reduce I&I will reduce treatment costs and may eliminate the need to expand our treatment facility and thus reduce the potential of a larger rate increase to our customer base.

We are asking that you take time to address any potential improper connections or missing clean-out lids that you may find on your property.

This note is also to serve as notice that inspections of homes and basement connections may become necessary in the near future.

You will be notified before any of that takes place.

Please direct questions to any RMA volunteer member or the Robesonia Borough Hall for contact information.

Dave Hannigan (484)388-6699 Rod Soliday (717)376-8511