

THE BOROUGH OF

WALNUTPORT

Northampton County, Pennsylvania

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER



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Greetings from WILLIAM TURK, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Walnutport. Just a reminder not to forget we have a webpage, if you are curious if something is permitted in the Borough of Walnutport or not you can view all of our ordinances. You can also print out blank zoning permits, moving permits, Building Permits (UCC), etc. Let the secretaries know if you have any other complaints or suggestions.



A NOTE FROM CHIEF PETER WAYDA

Just a reminder from your Police Department, if you happen to see any suspicious activity or anything you feel is out of the ordinary in your neighborhood please call the Walnutport Police at 610-437-5252. If we don't know about it we can't help you.

If you have an emergency or wish to report a crime in progress please dial 911.

The Police Administration number is 610-767-1134 this number is for administrative purposes only and should not be used to report crimes or suspected criminal activity.

We would also like to remind residents to lock your vehicles to avoid theft and prevent damage and please pay attention in your neighborhood to anything unusual or out of place. We like to work in conjunction with our citizens to make Walnutport a safer place to live and work.

The Police Department recently secured a medication drop-off box, this is a cooperative program sponsored through Northampton County. The drop-off box is conveniently located in the hallway of Borough Hall near the Police Department entrance. **WE CANNOT ACCEPT SYRINGES or LIQUID FORMS OF MEDICINE.**

The Walnutport Police Department and many other surrounding Police Departments in Northampton County participated in BUCKLE UP PA. Mobilization Enforcement from May 15, thru June 4, 2017. This is a Grant funded detail and we participate in this activity to make the local roads safer for our residents.



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Visit us at walnutportpa.org

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610-767-1322 ext 121

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Looking for 2 interested candidates

RECREATION BOARD

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Nancy Treskot
Donald Eckhart
Jennifer Wentz
Looking for 5 interested candidates

VACANCY BOARD

Matthew Newhard

MEETING DATES

WORKSHOP MEETING is the first Thursday

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING is the second Thursday

WALNUTPORT AUTHORITY MEETING is the second Tuesday

WALNUTPORT PLANNING COMMISSION

meets the Third Thursday
only when there is something on the agenda

WALNUTPORT ZONING HEARING BOARD

only meets when there is a hearing



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A NOTE FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ERIC STROHL

§ 425-22 Declaration of snow-removal condition.

A snow-removal condition is hereby declared to exist in the Borough of Walnutport whenever snow falls during any period of 24 hours or less to an accumulated depth of eight inches or more, or at any other such time when, in the opinion of the Mayor, or such person designated by the Mayor, the street conditions are hazardous and dangerous to vehicular and pedestrian traffic because of snow accumulation. The Mayor or such person designated by the Mayor, shall have authority to declare a snow-removal condition, notice of which shall immediately be issued to local radio and news services. In either instance, a snow-removal condition is presumed to continue for a period of 24 hours following the accumulation of snow, or until such period of time as designated by the Mayor. For the purpose of enforcing this article, the following streets are hereby named and designated as snow emergency routes and shall be considered as such whenever the Mayor, or a person designated by the Mayor shall declare that a snow-removal condition exists, according to this article. Snow Emergency Routes include Cherry Street, Main Street, & Washington Street.

TRICK OR TREAT

Wednesday October 25, 2017 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm with
a rain date of Thursday October 26, 2017.



A FEW SAFETY TIPS:

- We would like to remind you that when you cut your grass, don't blow the clippings into the street. Those clippings end up building up and blocking the storm drains. Keeping the storm drains clear of debris help prevent flooding when we get a rain storm.
- When using your gas grill make sure they are not against any structures.
- A moving permit is needed to move in, out, or within the Borough of Walnutport.

WALNUTPORT AUTHORITY REPORT – RONALD KUNTZ, CHAIRMAN

Just a reminder again that the Walnutport Authority has a web page. You can log in to this site at www.walnutportauthority.org to view the most recent Consumer Confidence Report (water quality report), public notices, contact information and water and sewer rates. Also listed on the web site is a brief history of the Authority and the Officers and board members. The recent consumer confidence report is also available in the Authority office, at Borough Hall, or by calling 610-767-7887.

The Authority has an after-hours drop box located at the entrance to our building. We ask you to identify your payment with "water and /or sewer" to insure proper handling of your payment. Please be sure to provide us with your phone number so that we can get important messages to you when it becomes necessary.



The Authority asks all residents to have their water meter readout clear for meter readers to access. Keep all bushes and plants trimmed or away from this area. Please consider this when installing fencing or shrubbery and call our office at 610-767-7887 if you are not sure where your water meter readout is located.

The new water line on First Avenue should be completed by the time this report is published. The grant we applied for in January, to add a new water line to be constructed under the canal from Lehigh Street to South Canal Street was denied at this time. We did get positive feedback from the grant committee that they felt this is a viable project. We will apply again for this grant when it becomes available.

TIRES IN GARBAGE

The first tire event went really well. Our next date will be Wednesday September 20, 2017 in the parking lot of borough hall from 4-6 pm. We will be holding 2 events a year for collection of these tires. These events will coincide with our e-recycling events. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the borough secretaries or Tamaqua Transfer.



A NOTE FROM THE DIAMOND FIRE COMPANY

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Diamond Fire Company is to respond in a safe manner to all reported emergencies in the Borough of Walnutport and other neighboring communities requesting such assistance to help the citizens deal with natural and man-made emergencies using available resources at all times having the utmost regard for the safety of fire personnel of the company and to work to the best of its abilities to limit the loss of life, the environment and property.



WE NEED YOU!

Imagine making a difference in the lives of others in our community. Opportunities and training are available for:

- **Firefighting Operations:** Explore the exciting world of firefighting and receive the training to do it safely. As a firefighter, you will do the work necessary to advance the hose line, to perform search and rescue, and to position ladders strategically.
- **Rescue Operations:** As part of Rescue Operations, you will respond to specialized calls, including automobile accidents, carbon monoxide alarms, medical emergencies and rescue calls.
- **Fire Police Operations:** Fire police assist in traffic management and crowd control, and provide general assistance at emergency scenes.
- **Social Functions:** If firefighting is not for you, assist with the many functions held at the fire company during the year that include fish dinners, flea markets, drawings, etc.



**Be part of the tradition.
Be part of the family.
Be part of the community.
BE A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER!**

For more information call 610-767-9629
(leave a message if no answer)
Or stop by the Fire Station any Wednesday evening



WALNUTPORT RECREATION BOARD

Walnutport Borough Council reenacted the Recreation Board in 2011. Unfortunately we do not have enough volunteers to fill the board. If you are a registered voter and resident of the Borough of Walnutport we are asking you to help support the community and volunteer your time to our recreation board. You can send letters of interest to the borough office.

If you haven't heard, Walnutport Borough Council has signed an agreement to join the Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority. In joining we are hoping to be able to bring more events/activities to you as a resident of the Northern Lehigh area. If you want more information on the Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority you can check out their website at www.northernlehighrec.org.

THE VENTURE GROUP

Don't forget the Annual Gathering event, sponsored by the Venture Group, at the 7th Street Covered Bridge location on Saturday, October 7 from 1 to 10 PM. This event has been held for the last 14 years and the profits are used to support the maintenance and upkeep of both the covered bridge and the main street trailhead. The event will attract all age groups with the free music, the Chinese Basket Auction, and the Beer Garden and the nightly conclusion of the fireworks. Local organizations will again offer a variety of food items for sale. Look for the 50/50 tickets in your mail or contact any Rotary Club member to participate. The biggest event will be the Duck Race managed by the Northern Lehigh Community Center. Please buy your duck early! Those are just a few of the games and events that are scheduled for this fun filled day. Many groups are still working on interesting events to sponsor during the day. Please mark your calendar for this fun filled day.



The Venture Group is made up of local non-profit groups including, The Rotary Club, The Lions, The Northern Lehigh Community Center, Walnutport Playground Association, The Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber, Future Focus and the newest additions are the Parade (Event) Committee and the 150th and Beyond Group. Also the Slatington Borough and Washington Township have an active group participating in the organization. Our meetings are held the last Wednesday of every month at the Slatington Borough Hall, all meetings are open to the public.



UCC & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE APPEAL BOARD

If you have experience and knowledge in the UCC (building code) or International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) we need you to sit on our appeal board. This board only meets when their UCC permit is denied or if they are sent a violation of the IPMC. Please send a letter of interest to the borough office.

PAVILION RENTAL

If you are looking for a place to hold your family reunion or a graduation party you could rent the pavilion at our Recreation Center at 215 Lincoln Avenue. There is \$100.00 security deposit due when you sign the agreement. The date will be help once we receive the signed agreement and security deposit. The rental fee of \$125.00 is due 2 weeks before your rental date. The pavilion rental includes the use of the handicapped accessible restrooms and the kitchen area. The security deposit will be returned to you once the pavilion is cleaned and inspected and there is no damages. For more information or to rent the pavilion stop by the borough office and the secretaries will be able to help you.



A NOTE FROM THE WALNUTPORT CANAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



The Walnutport Canal Association, an all-volunteer organization, needs your membership and help to maintain and improve our Walnutport section of the Lehigh Canal. Several projects are in the works and we continually need volunteers. Just one or two hours per week would help make our outdoor area more beautiful for you and your family to walk, bike, canoe the canal or just sit and enjoy the stillness of the day.

The following family friendly events are planned for the fall:

- The Towpath Trot will again be held on October 14, 2017 beginning at 8 am. Contact Jan at 610-737-3900 for all race information.
- Also our 2nd Annual Kayak Race will be held on October 14, 2017 starting at noon. Contact Greg at 610-216-1130 for details.
- The Canal Festival will be held on October 15, 2017. We always need volunteers to man our stands and help with various areas – so think of volunteering by calling Betty at 610-767-4361. Additional information about the festival can be gotten by contacting Jeanne at 484-201-1732.

Yearly memberships are available by sending a check to WCA – 417 Lincoln Ave, Walnutport, PA 18088 – \$10 for an individual membership, \$20 for a family membership, \$40 for corporate memberships.

Thank you so much for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you along the canal.

For more information on the Association, check out our website at www.walnutportcanalassociation.tripod.com and our Facebook page.

THANK YOU

The Borough of Walnutport would like to thank the businesses and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community.

For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.

A NOTE FROM THE WALNUTPORT PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION'S TREASURER BOB TRESKOT

The Walnutport Playground Association once again had a successful year in 2016. We supported both girls' softball teams and boy's baseball teams. It currently costs the playground approximately \$150 per player for the season. The annual Carnival is our main fund raiser which allows us to keep the cost of sign-ups down. The 2016 Carnival's bottom line was improved due to changing of activities that were run at the Carnival; however, we are looking forward to a better year in 2017. The Carnival will run from Tuesday, July 11 thru Saturday, July 15 with a fireworks display on Friday Evening, July 14. There are many costs associated with running our programs; therefore, we are encouraging anyone to attend our monthly meetings (first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Playground Building and during the winter we meet in the Borough Conference Room), ask all the questions you want and perhaps bring new ideas to our Board.



The Playground also gives back to the community every year with the following activities. An Easter Egg Hunt for children 0 to 10 years of age, with many lucky eggs, great prizes and the appearance of the Easter Bunny. This year the Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday April 15 at 1 PM. We also will do our annual Easter Flower Sale on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15 in the Pavilion. We also sponsor a local Phillies Home Run Derby for boys and girls from anywhere in the area. A month or two later the Regionals for the Home Run Derby is hosted by the Walnutport Playground. Congratulations to all the boys and girls who participated. We also do a fund raiser for Dream Come True where all money raised is donated to the Dream Come True Foundation. It is an exciting and entertaining night where the boy's team plays against the girl's team. Let's plan for a successful 2017 Season!! The 2016 Fund Raiser managed to raise \$5,000.00 was presented to the Dream Come True Foundation at Penn's Peak. Please volunteer some time!!

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

A quick checklist for parents

Place this list in a prominent area of your home for quick reference. Then, before your children head out the door for the playground, check that:

Supervision is present, but strings and ropes aren't.

Adult presence is needed to watch for potential hazards, observe, intercede and facilitate play when necessary. Strings on clothing or ropes used for play can cause accidental strangulation if caught on equipment.

All children play on Age-appropriate equipment.

Preschoolers, ages 2-5, and children ages 5 -12, are developmentally different and need different equipment located in separate areas to keep the playground safe and fun for all.

Falls to surface are cushioned.

Nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface. Acceptable surfaces include hardwood fiber/mulch, pea gravel, sand and synthetic materials such as poured-in-place, rubber mats or tiles. Playgrounds surfaces should not be concrete, asphalt, grass, blacktop, packed dirt or rocks.

Equipment is safe.

Check to make sure the equipment is anchored safely in the ground, all equipment pieces are in good working order, S-hooks are entirely closed, bolts are not protruding, there are no exposed footings, etc.



Checklist is from the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) at www.uni.edu/playground/



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY!!!

**Borough of Walnutport
Borough Office
417 Lincoln Avenue, Walnutport PA 18088
Wednesday, September 20th
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Items that can be recycled FREE of charge are listed below:

- ♻ Desktop & Laptop Computers
- ♻ Keyboards & Mice
- ♻ Printers/Fax Machines
- ♻ Cables & Cords
- ♻ Cell Phone & Laptop Batteries
- ♻ Calculators & Adding Machines
- ♻ UPS Battery Backups
- ♻ Toner & Ink Cartridges
- ♻ Audio Visual Equipment
- ♻ Telephones & Cell Phones*
- ♻ DVD Players & VCR's
- ♻ Gaming Systems
- ♻ String Christmas Lights
- ♻ Microwaves & Small Appliances
- ♻ Metal Items
- ♻ Exercise Equipment (Metal)
- ♻ Car Batteries (sealed lead acid)
- ♻ Bed Frames & Rain spouting
- ♻ Filing Cabinets

*Please Remove Cell Phone Batteries

Additional Items that can be recycled with a Fee:

- ♻ Washers & Dryers-\$20.00
- ♻ Dishwashers-\$20.00
- ♻ CRT Monitors - \$15.00 (Tube Type)
- ♻ LCD Monitors- \$10.00
- ♻ Televisions under 40" - \$35.00 ALL Types
- ♻ TVs (in wooden cabinet, Projection, Over 40") \$55.00
- ♻ Air Conditioners - \$25.00
- ♻ Dehumidifiers - \$25.00
- ♻ Refrigerators - \$30.00
- ♻ Floor Freezers - \$30.00
- ♻ Ranges (Stoves)-\$20.00
- ♻ Floor Copiers-\$20.00
- ♻ Console Stereos (in cabinet) \$35.00

Destruction Services for a Fee:

- ♻ Hard Drive Destruction (offsite) - \$10 per drive, Includes a Certificate of Destruction
- ♻ Document Destruction (offsite) - \$10 per standard paper size box, Includes a Certificate of Destruction

****Cash or Checks ONLY****

****Please Make Checks Payable to Responsible Recycling Services or RRS****

****TV'S MUST BE COMPLETE, NO BROKEN TV'S ACCEPTED****

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Borough of Walnutport

Leaf Collection Schedule 2017



North End of Town to Main Street: Mondays or Tuesdays

October 30st & October 31st November 6th & 7th November 13th & 14th
November 20th & 21st November 27th & 28th

Main Street to New Street: Wednesdays

November 1st November 8th November 15th November 22nd November 29th

New Street to Third Avenue: Thursdays

(Includes Lehigh Gap Street)

November 2nd November 9th November 16th November 30th

Dates are subject to change without notice due to inclement weather!

If times permits, we will pick up on non scheduled days.

**Leaves are to be raked into the street along the curbing.
(Preferably, line leaves along curb instead of one big pile)**

No debris including branches and twigs will be accepted.

Please be courteous to other residents (and street department) by not parking in front or behind of someone's leaf piles.

What you should know about SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The most important things you need to know are smoke alarms save lives and they should be in every home. Follow these important smoke alarm safety measures.

- **Make sure your smoke alarms are working.** This means testing smoke alarms monthly, replacing batteries once a year or when low-battery alarm chirps and performing other maintenance as NFPA and your smoke alarm manufacturers recommend. And of course, a smoke alarm disabled because of nuisance alarms provide no protection at all.



- **It is important to have not just one smoke alarm but smoke alarms in every location required by NFPA standards.**

(On each level of your home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom.) Tens of millions of U.S. homes are estimated to have smoke alarms but not enough smoke alarms to meet the standards and protect their homes.

- **Interconnect your smoke alarms so that a fire detected by any smoke alarm will sound an alarm at every location where a smoke alarm is installed.** Interconnection can be done using hard-wiring or wireless broadcast technology. Interconnected smoke alarms provide early warning of fires that are still far away or are located on the other side of a door or wall that may block sound.
- **Develop and practice an escape plan so that everyone in the home knows what to do if the alarm sounds.** That includes planning a second way out from every room in your home. Every household that develops and practices an escape plan with two ways out from every location improves its time to escape in every fire.

There are Different Types of Smoke Alarm Technologies – Ionization and Photoelectric

The two most commonly recognized smoke detection technologies are ionization smoke detection and photoelectric smoke detection. Ionization smoke detection is general more responsive to fires and photoelectric smoke detection is generally more responsive to fires that begin with a long period of smoldering (called “smoldering fires”). For each type of smoke alarm, the advantage it provides may be critical to life safety in some fire situations.

Home fatal fires, day or night, include a large number of smoldering fires and a large number of flaming fires. You can not predict the type of fire you may have in your home when it will occur. Any smoke alarm technology, to be acceptable, must perform acceptably for both types of fires in order to provide early warning of fire at all times of the day or night and whether you are asleep or awake.

The best evidence has always indicated that either type of smoke alarm will provide sufficient time for escape for most people for most fires of either smoldering or flaming type. However, research is ongoing, and standards are living documents. If at any time, research points to a different conclusion, then that will lead to proposals for changes in the NFPA standard or the closely related Underwriters Laboratories standard for testing and approving smoke alarms. Both organizations currently have task groups looking at smoke alarm performance in the current home environment.

For Best Protection Use Both Types of Smoke Alarm Technologies

For best protection both (ionization and photoelectric) technologies are to be in homes. In addition to individual ionization and photoelectric alarms, combination alarms that include both technologies in a single device are available.

Nuisance Alarms Can Be Minimized

Ionization type smoke alarms are more susceptible to nuisance alarms due to cooking, the leading cause of nuisance alarms, but have susceptibility to nuisance alarms from the steam from a hot shower.

In the past decade or so, a number of steps have been taken to reduce the likelihood of nuisance alarms, including hush features and refinements to installation rules that include distances from nuisance sources.

TV Demonstrations of Smoke Alarm Performances Can Be Misleading

Informal demonstrations, such as ones done for TV news shows, of smoke alarm performance can seriously mislead the viewer and do not provide a sound basis to assess performance. These demonstration tests are not performed in a controlled or scientific way that compares the time of smoke alarm operation to the time when occupants would be incapacitated. The selected fire scenarios may not be representative of real fatal home fires. Passing or failing a “test” of this sort may have nothing to do with performing well or badly in the wide range of real fires. A valid engineering analysis must select fires that are realistic and analyze them accordingly.

In an informal demonstration, the eye reacts to conditions that look dangerous, mostly visible smoke and visible flame. However, most people are killed by invisible gases, which do not necessarily spread at the same rate as smoke or flame. A valid engineering analysis must measure conditions caused by fires and assess them according to their real danger.



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