



# INFORMER

NEWS FOR RESIDENTS OF HATFIELD BOROUGH

[www.hatfieldborough.com](http://www.hatfieldborough.com)



WINTER 2009



## BOROUGH APPOINTS BERKHEIMER FOR 2009

Hatfield Borough Council President John Weierman recently announced that the Borough of Hatfield has appointed BERKHEIMER as its Tax Administrator for 2009. This change will allow Borough residents to file one Earned Income Tax return beginning April 15, 2009. "Borough Council implemented this change in order to simplify paying the earned income tax for residents in Hatfield Borough," he said. "It just came down to not being customer friendly for our citizens to have to file two tax returns to pay a one percent (1%) tax," he noted. One-half percent of the EIT goes to the North Penn School District and the other half to the Borough.

Weierman said he hoped for a smooth transition from Central Tax Bureau to BERKHEIMER that should be made easier with BERKHEIMER already

collecting the EIT for North Penn. Borough residents are required to remit the full 1% Earned Income Tax to BERKHEIMER beginning with the first quarter on January 1, 2009, and all final 2008 returns will then be filed with BERKHEIMER. Notices have been mailed to all Borough taxpayers informing them of the change.

Weierman said that he was very grateful to Centax for their cooperation in the change. "They recognized that it was not efficient requiring Borough residents to file two tax returns", he said. "They were extremely cooperative with us," he stated.

**Anyone with questions regarding the transition is encouraged to contact BERKHEIMER by calling (610) 599-3138 or toll free at (866) 701-7206.**

### BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOHN H. WEIERMAN,  
PRESIDENT

KENNETH V. FARRALL,  
VICE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL J. DEFINIS

LAWRENCE G. STEVENS

BRYAN MOYER

ROBERT KALER III,  
MAYOR

LINDA L. WATTS,  
Assistant Secretary  
[lwatts@hatfieldborough.com](mailto:lwatts@hatfieldborough.com)

DIANE A. FARRALL,  
Borough Treasurer  
[dfarrall@hatfieldborough.com](mailto:dfarrall@hatfieldborough.com)

CHRISTINE A CALHOUN,  
Public Information Coordinator  
[ccalhoun@hatfieldborough.com](mailto:ccalhoun@hatfieldborough.com)

### Important Notice for On-Line Bill Payers

Attention all Hatfield Borough electric and sewer customers who are currently using Online Bill Payment Processing and/or Bank by Phone to pay your monthly utility bills:

- Make sure your bank and/or payment center is using the current account number on their checks to ensure credit is being applied correctly to your account. The system was recently upgraded and each account received a new number.
- Make sure the bill payer designates to which account (electric or sewer) the payment is to be applied to.
- Payments must be sent in a timely manner to PO BOX 190, HATFIELD PA 19440 in order for them to be applied to your account by the due date.

### Inside this issue:

Contract Awarded	2
New Phone System	2
Façade Grant Information	2
2009 Budget Passed	3
DTV Information	3
Tax Collector Hours	3
Public Meeting	4



## CONTRACT AWARDED FOR PLAZA & PARKING LOT



Future Site of Liberty Bell Trail Plaza & Parking Lot

The Borough Council awarded a contract on January 7, 2009 for the construction of the Liberty Bell Trail Plaza & Parking Lot to James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving, Inc, of Colleagueville for \$345,000.

The scope of the work will include construction of a plaza off East Broad Street with imprinted asphalt, benches, trash receptacles, and a Borough clock. The Liberty Bell Trail will also be continued from East Lincoln Avenue to East Broad Street. Also, the Trolley Stop Parking area will be reconstructed along with drainage improvements, lighting, landscaping throughout, and signage.

Work is scheduled to begin by March 1, 2009 subject to weather conditions. Construction is expected to be substantially complete by Memorial Day.

## New Phone System Installed in Borough Hall

An upgraded phone system has recently been installed in the Borough Offices. The phone number is unchanged, but when you call you will now hear a list of extension numbers from which to choose from. If the person you are trying to reach is unavailable at the time, you will be prompted to leave a voice mail.

*To reach anyone at the Borough, please call 215-855-0781.*



## Funds Available for Façade Improvements

Over the past 3 years, Hatfield Borough has invested heavily in improving the appearance of the Core Commercial District and the main thoroughfares in town. The Core Commercial District has received new sidewalks accented with decorative brick paver blocks, street trees, decorative street lights and the burying of many utility wires. Improvements continued outside the Core Commercial District with the planting of street trees on North and South Main Street, West Broad Street, and Market Street. The Hatfield Economic Revitalization Committee would like to encourage all Borough businesses to consider improvements to their facades utilizing funds available through its Façade Improvement Program (official

name "Design Challenge Grant"). Realizing that the current economic condition may make businesses hesitant to consider investing in improvements at this time, HERC has restructured the program to provide more funds to participating businesses. The program now provides funding grants of up to \$8,500 to encourage the restoration of building facades and the enhancement of storefront appearances. Façade and storefront improvements are proven to be one of the most effective approaches of enhancing a business's image and economic vitality.

**Grant guidelines and application forms can be obtained at the Borough office, or by calling 215-855-0781.**



# 2009 BUDGET PASSES WITH NO TAX INCREASE

Borough Council adopted a \$6.6 million budget for 2009 in December, which includes no increase in the real estate tax rate. The tax rate, fixed at the present millage rate of 0.6985, allows the Borough to maintain its present level of services. The average homeowner in the Borough currently pays \$88.48 a year in taxes.

The Borough's sewer fees will also be holding steady in 2009. There will, however be a 9% increase in electric rates. Under the new rate plan, which went into effect January 15th, residents who consume 1,000 kilowatt hours per month can expect to see a \$13 increase in their electric bill.

The adopted budget also contains an increase in expenditures for park improvement projects.

### Hatfield Borough Office

401 S. Main St., Hatfield PA 19440  
Mailing Address.....PO BOX 190  
Telephone.....215-855-0781  
Fax.....215-855-2075  
Web address.....www.hatfieldborough.com

#### Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

### Borough Meeting Schedules

#### Borough Council

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month at the Borough Hall.....7:30 p.m.

#### Planning Commission

Monday before 1st Council meeting of each month.....7 p.m.

#### HERC

4th Thursday of each month.....8 a.m.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN THE SNOW FALLS

Winter is here and the snow will fall. Let us work together to make the Borough safe for all residents.

1. Keep basketball nets, trashcans, & recycling bins safely on the curb or sidewalks.
2. Pile snow to the right side of the driveway (looking to the street) so the plows don't re-block your entranceway.
3. Dig out the snow around the fire hydrants on or near your property and make sure the sewer drains in the roadways are clear of debris to avoid flooding when the snow & ice melt.
4. Do not shovel snow into the roadways as this may cause icing & hazardous road conditions.



## DIGITAL TV IS COMING

### Are You Ready?



On February 17, 2009 all full-power TV stations in the US will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves & begin broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting will allow stations to offer improved picture & sound quality plus additional channels. If your TV uses an antenna, you will need to obtain a set-top converter box. Cable & satellite subscribers will be unaffected by the transition. For more information or to request a coupon for a converter box go to:

[www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) or [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)

Or call: 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009)

## Reminder:

Daylight Savings Time Begins  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009

A quick reminder from our Fire Inspection Officer to change your smoke detector batteries twice a year.

*When you change your clocks...  
...Change your batteries!*

## Real Estate Tax Collection Hours

Hatfield Borough Tax Collector, Nancy DeFinis, will hold in-person bill collection at the Borough Hall, 401 S. Main Street, beginning in March.

Payments by mail must be sent to:  
PO BOX 190, HATFIELD PA 19440.

### 2009 Office Hours

(Discount Period - March & April)

Wednesdays: 11 AM - 2 PM

Also open:

April 28, 29, & 30: 10 AM - 4:30 PM

215-855-0781 ext. 7



## PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE HATFIELD BOROUGH REVITALIZATION PLAN

Hatfield Borough invites residents, business owners, and all those interested in the continued revitalization of the Borough to attend a public meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hatfield Fire House. This will be the first of three public meetings in the drafting of a new Hatfield Borough Revitalization Plan, to be complete in May of this year. The purpose of the meeting is to describe trends and conditions in the Borough, discuss goals for the future, and to solicit ideas and opinions from the public.

The Hatfield Borough Council has made supporting its businesses one of their top priorities according to Interim Borough Manager, William J. McCauley, III. "The Borough wants to support existing businesses, attract new businesses and help grow the local economy. The Revitalization Task Force is looking for input from residents about what they want to see happen in the Borough. This is crucial to a successful partnership and an important part of the planning process," said McCauley.

**The Hatfield Community Revitalization Task Force is being assisted by the Consultant Team of Simone Collins Landscape Architecture and Urban Partners economic planners.**

**The plan is funded by the Montgomery County Community Revitalization Program and Hatfield Borough.**



Hatfield Borough  
P.O. Box 190  
Hatfield, PA 19440  
[www.hatfieldborough.com](http://www.hatfieldborough.com)

Postage  
permit

