



INFORMER

NEWS FOR RESIDENTS OF HATFIELD BOROUGH

www.hatfieldborough.com

Winter 2011



Green Futures Achievement Award



Each year the Green Futures Program, which is a project of the Montgomery County Lands Trust, pays tribute to local communities for their outstanding achievements and

efforts demonstrating exemplary land protection, effective partnerships, and visionary open space projects. Hatfield Borough was recently honored as one of the 2010 recipients of this distinguished award.

When Montgomery County first adopted its historic open space plan back in 1996, one of the keystone elements was an extensive trail system. The Liberty Bell Trail, which is part of the entire system of trails, traces part of the actual route that the Liberty Bell took as it was smuggled along Bethlehem Pike from Philadelphia to Allentown in 1777.

Thanks to the determination of Hatfield Borough, the historic name lives on with the completion of the first section of The Liberty Bell Trail. When fully completed, the trail will connect 15 municipalities from East Norriton all the way to Quakertown, and **Hatfield Borough holds the distinction of being the**

first and only community to complete its section.

Borough officials were proactive in taking advantage of opportunities to acquire land and buildings to fulfill their vision of the borough's trail segment. They wanted to create a community center that would serve as a trailhead. This has become the Liberty Bell Plaza (pictured below). Parking areas were improved with Montgomery County Community Revitalization grant funds. The Borough also utilized funding from the Green Fields/Green Towns program and PA's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Liberty Bell Plaza and Trail are now easily accessible and the area has become an attractive and true center for the borough with more than just a nod to its history. A mural on the wall of the Trolley Stop Deli depicts the trolley car heritage. Guided by the input of business owners and borough residents, Hatfield Borough officials achieved their vision of a truly vibrant town center and an exciting multi-use trail.



BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOHN H. WEIERMAN, PRESIDENT

KENNETH V. FARRALL, VICE PRESIDENT

LAWRENCE G. STEVENS

BRYAN MOYER

JOHN KROESSER

ROBERT KALER III, MAYOR

MICHAEL J. DEFINIS
Borough Manager/Secretary

LINDA L. WATTS,
Assistant Secretary

Electric Rates Explained/Budget Highlights

Hatfield Borough Electric is one of 35 municipal electric distribution systems in PA and is exempt from the deregulation process currently taking place with investor-owned utilities in the Commonwealth. Borough Council is committed to securing the best rate possible for their residents and businesses.

Like all local government operations, under existing law, Borough Council must be transparent in their handling of all funds, and must publicly disclose the revenue and expenses related to their municipally-owned electric system. The direct accountability of the elected Borough Council to the municipality's voters assures that all internal transfers of borough funds meet the needs and desires of the community.

This chart shows the peak hour usage for Hatfield Borough versus PECO customers. Besides the obvious benefit of a lower energy bill, municipal electric systems also provide local control, local ownership, community development, & reliable service.

ENERGY USAGE (KWH)	BOROUGH	PECO
700	\$116.34	\$126.91
1,250	\$196.09	\$231.10
2,000	\$304.84	\$373.18

Borough Council is also proud to announce that with the approval of the 2011 budget, residents will see no increase in their electric rates this year. Sewer rates will also remain the same along with the Real Estate Tax Rate. The 0.7976 tax mills collected for general purposes and the 0.2024 for fire related purposes has not increased. During these difficult economical times, Council has instructed management & staff, including the Public Works Department, to find ways to reduce costs and implement more efficient purchasing practices. This has allowed the Borough to maintain its current level of services without the need to increase spending, thus reducing the financial burden to residents and business owners.

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Chestnut Street Trail Bridge Open to Pedestrians



The walking bridge on Chestnut Street, which is part of the Chestnut Street Trail, is now open to pedestrians. The bridge rehabilitation project, a vital element in the collaborative effort with the township to link School Road Park with the Borough's Electric Plant Park and the Liberty Bell Trail, will be finished in the spring once the beautification process is complete. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled.

The bridge, originally used for vehicular traffic years ago, has been closed due to the questionable integrity and deterioration of the structure.

Save Our World



Non-Hazardous Waste

Non-hazardous materials that prove difficult to dispose of include: Latex or Water-based Paint, Appliances (refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, washing machines, dryers), Tires.

Where can I dispose of non-hazardous waste and other bulky items? First, call your trash hauler to see which items are allowable for curbside pickup. Some fees may apply.

- **Latex Paint:** This is a water based product and is safe for disposal once dried out completely. Remove lid & mix kitty litter in to absorb.
- **Freon Containing Appliances** (refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner): Contact a certified technician/company for Freon removal & recycling:
Joe Mattero Recycling Inc.
Lansdale - 215.855.4808
- **Refrigerant-Recovery & Equip. Co.**
Telford - 215.723.8219
- **Tires:** Improper disposal may create a fire hazard & harbor disease breeding mosquitoes. Local drop off location:
Vespia Tire
Lansdale - 215.362.6969

Questions?
Montgomery County Recycling
610.278.3618 or online @
montgomerycountycycles.org

Borough Street Projects for 2011

The following is a list of the Public Works Department projects set to take place in the Borough for 2011.

Road Projects

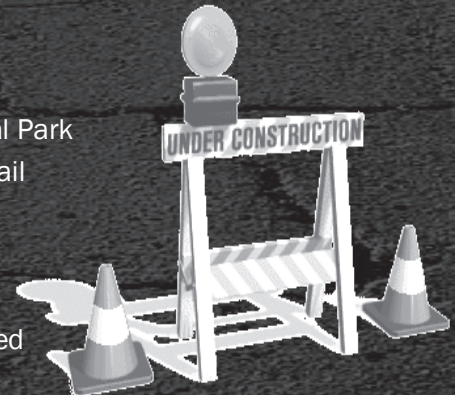
- Seal Coat Program for Fretz Street, Diamond Street, North Market Street, and North and South Girard Avenues.
- Mill, Nova Chip, Line Painting, & Brick Cross Walks for East Lincoln Avenue
- Mill & Overlay for West Vine Street
- Storm Sewer Repair & Improvements for Maple Avenue
- Crack Sealing

Parks and Open Space Projects

- Extend White Grit Trail at Centennial Park
- Install Trash Cans on Liberty Bell Trail
- Tree Removal at the Scout Cabin

Electric Department

- Continue to Replace Poles as needed
- Tree Trimming along Power Lines



Mark Your Calendars for 2011

Daylight Savings Time Begins	Sunday, March 13
Spring Curbside Chipping	Monday, May 2
Taste of Hatfield	Monday, May 9
Primary Election Day	Tuesday, May 18
Memorial Day Parade	Monday, May 30



From the Desk of Nancy DeFinis

Happy New Year to you and yours, I hope it is a healthy, happy and prosperous one. I need your help. Did you know that the state of Pennsylvania through the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee is conducting a study of the current tax collectors and of real estate property tax collection? In an effort to be proactive versus reactive, I went to the Montgomery County Borough Association and received their unanimous support and endorsement for locally elected tax collectors. Please contact our local State Senator and Representatives to voice your opinion by calling, writing or emailing. Please let them know that as a taxpaying constituent of this Commonwealth, how you feel about any plan that would attempt to privatize or remove the responsibility of real estate tax collection from the duly elected Tax Collector of **OUR** municipality. By utilizing the elected Tax Collector, fiscal safeguards are in place as well as personal and professional services that would be greatly compromised if this responsibility is taken from the elected Tax Collector. Savings (if any) would likely not make up for the removal of the duty and personal service provided by a **LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIAL**. Help me help you, please contact our representatives, thank you so much! **Watch you mail, tax bills will be postmarked by March 1, 2011.**

Senator Stewart Greenleaf, 12th District
711 North York Road, Ste 1
Willow Grove, PA 19090
(215) 657-7700/(800) 924-3300
sgreenleaf@pasen.gov

Robert Godshall, State Rep. 53rd Dist.
1702 Cowpath Road
Hatfield PA 19440
(215) 368-3500
rgodshall@pahousegop.com

Richard Ludwig was recently awarded the Hatfield Borough "Person of the Year" by Mayor Bob Kaler and Council President John Weierman, for his professional services to the residents and businesses of Hatfield Borough & community.



A member of the Hatfield Economic Revitalization Committee, the Revitalization Task Force, and the Hatfield Chamber of Commerce, Dick has been a Borough business owner since 1984 (*Ludwig Engineering*).

Along with his many contributions to the Borough, Dick is also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Lansdale, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the PA Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Institute of Steel Construction. **Congratulations Dick!**



Snow Removal / Winter Guidelines

Sidewalks: Property owners are responsible for keeping public sidewalks adjacent to their property clear of snow and ice within 24 hours after being deposited. Failure to do so may result in a fine.

Fire Hydrants: The Fire Department asks residents to shovel out fire hydrants near their homes.

Mail & Other Services: Keep your mailbox clear of snow to ensure mail delivery. If it snows on collection day, keep trash and recycling bins away from the end of the driveway to avoid mishaps with the plows.

Child Safety: Please educate your children on the dangers of snow removal & make sure they play safely. Remind them to:

- Never build tunnels or snow forts in the snow banks near the street. The plows can collapse the tunnels and harm the child.
- Keep sleds and toys out of the street and away from the edge of the road. Snow banks make it difficult for drivers to see children.
- And **STAY AWAY FROM THE PLOW!** If a plow is on your street, children should stay back at least 20 feet or more from the road.

Motorist Safety: Motorists should also use caution around plows. Reduce your speed, keep your distance, and don't pass snow removal equipment while it is plowing or spreading de-icing material. Their visibility is very restricted to the rear of the vehicle.

Winter Shoveling Tip:

Our Public Works crews are ready for the winter season and they have some suggestions for every resident and business owner who want to eliminate the need to re-shovel their driveways during the snow removal process.

Always clear the area next to your driveway (as seen in the diagram at right) to give the snow on the blade of the plow a place to empty before it gets to your driveway. This way you won't have to do the same job twice.

A smart way to shovel your drive

How to reduce the possibility of getting a huge pile of snow in your driveway opening when snowplows clear your street:



Community Events

WinterBlast

Saturday, January 29
11 am - 4 pm

Montgomery Mall
 lower level courts



Stage acts, roving acts, and artists doing art about you or on you. Make "n" take crafts, entertainment, and light refreshments are also offered at no cost to people of all ages through sponsor donations. Info: 215-855-0900.

Hatfield Chamber of Commerce Business Mixer/Card Exchange

Tuesday, February 15
5:00 - 6:30 pm

LA Fun Zone Party Center

127 Union Street, Hatfield
 Reservations required 215-855-3335
 (Co-hosted by Lansdale Amusement & Hatfield Borough.)

Butlered appetizers by Crystal Rose Catering



Ham & Roast Beef Public Supper

Hatfield Firehouse
75 Market Street

Saturday, March 19th
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Benefits

the Hatfield Fire Company
 Ladies Auxiliary

Hatfield Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16
10 am @ School Road Park

For Hatfield area children ages 1 through 10 years, accompanied by an adult.

**Rain
 or
 Shine**



2011 Spring Season Registration

Hatfield Baseball
www.hatfieldbaseball.com

North Penn Valley Girls Softball Association
www.eteamz.com/northpennvalleygirlssoftball



Hatfield Borough Office

401 S. Main Street
 PO Box 190, Hatfield PA 19440
 Telephone.....215-855-0781
 Fax.....215-855-2075
www.hatfieldborough.com

Office Hours:

8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday - Friday

Borough Meeting Schedule

Borough Council

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