

# THE EVERGREEN

## Historic Pine Grove . . . Early Settlers Noted the Area's "Fine Stand of Pines"

Vol. X, No. 3 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF PINE GROVE, PA

August 2018

Governor, National Guard, State Agencies Ready to Help

## Emergency Permits to Allow Swatara Creek Deepening

Hopefully by the time you read this the rains will have stopped and the town can begin to recover from the flooding.



**TOM FICKINGER**  
Councilman

We've had storm after storm, and the run-off has been extensive. The storm drains have been taxed to capacity time and time again. Wet basements and stream flooding have been an everyday event, it seems.

After the visit by the Governor and his entourage, Borough Council decided to take the bull by the horns and authorize a contractor to go into the stream and remove silt and debris.

The state Department of Environmental Protection has assured it will issue an emergency permit to go into the stream and remove silt as soon as we can walk the stream and photograph storm drain pipes.



**SILT AND SANDBARS ARE MAJOR PART OF PROBLEM**

This was done approximately 12 years ago, protecting the town for many years. It should work again. We must keep the storm drain discharge pipes above creek level at all times.

Governor Wolf offered the services of the Pennsylvania National Guard. A Guard training mission is being planned to provide assistance to the Borough, DEP, and a private contractor to expose the storm drain pipes.

Many thanks are deserving of the Nestle Company for the donation of 2000 bottles of drinking water following the flooding and evacuation of some residents; the Red Cross for supplying cleaning kits, and the First Response Team for curb pick-up of flood trash.

### *Tulpehocken yet to be paved*

The paving schedule for Rt. 443 through the Borough is unconfirmed at this time. The Borough has contacted both PennDOT and state Rep. Tobash's

*- Continued on Page 2*

## COMING EVENTS

**Friday, Aug. 24** – Family Fun Night at the Brickyard next to HH&L Fire Company from 5 to 9 p.m. Benefits Operation Hugs and Kisses – Entertainment, food, and lots of fun.

**Saturday, Aug. 25** – Schuylkill County Firefighters Parade will cap off a week of convention activities hosted by Pine Grove's HH&L #1. This gigantic parade will begin rolling at 1 p.m. through the streets of Pine Grove.

**Saturday, Oct. 20** – Autumn Stroll along Veterans Memorial Drive at Union Canal Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Celebrate the season with family, friends, and join community organizations to enjoy food, crafts, and entertainment in a beautiful setting.

**Saturday, Oct. 20** – Pine Grove Holiday Classic Parade, sponsored and coordinated by the Pine Grove Lions Club, steps off from American Legion Boulevard at 7 p.m. in the region's first and best parade of the season.

**Wednesday, Oct. 31** – Trick-or-Treat night from 6 to 8 p.m. for youngsters, 12 years of age and younger. Turn your porch light on to indicate youngsters are welcome to get a treat.



## On the inside . . .

Borough Services & Events .....	Pg. 3
Mayor Applauds Community .....	Pg. 10
Ruth Steinert SPCA.....	Pg. 13
Stanhope School Open House....	Pg. 14
Union Canal Park History .....	Pg. 16

# 2018 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Regular Council Meeting:  
Third Thursday of Each Month - 7 p.m.  
Municipal Building - 1 Snyder Ave.

## OFFICIALS

Mayor ..... Willard Shiffer  
Chief of Police..... Thomas J. Trotter, IV  
President of Council..... Scott Zimmerman  
Vice President of Council..... Thomas Fickinger  
Pro Tem..... Anthony Gurski  
Secretary/Treasurer..... Melissa A. Dyer  
Tax Collector..... Sally Burke  
Solicitor ..... Christopher W. Hobbs, Esquire  
Borough Engineer..... WJP Engineers  
Streets/Water Engineer ... Cardno BCM Engineers  
Code Enforcement..... Light-Heigel & Assoc.  
Health Officer ..... Lew Moyer

## COUNCIL

Michael Allison • Leroy Bates  
Leonard Clark • Thomas Fickinger  
Anthony Gurski • Terry Noll • Scott Zimmerman

## POLICE

Thomas J. Trotter, IV, Chief  
Kurt Emerich • Travis Fritz  
William Gelgot • Pete Mozurkevich  
Gino Ricigliano • Christopher Taylor  
Mark Vandermartin • Beau Yarmush

## STREETS & WATER DEPARTMENT

Len Clark, Streets & Water Supervisor  
John Barr • Jacob Dinger  
Keith Kopenhagen • Earl Kreiser

## BOROUGH OFFICE

Melissa A. Dyer • Cindy Fenstermacher  
Sue Stroupauer

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE

Thomas Fickinger • Tony Gurski  
Scott Zimmerman

### PERSONNEL

Leroy Bates • Thomas Fickinger  
Scott Zimmerman

### PUBLIC WORKS

Len Clark • Tom Fickinger • Terry Noll

### PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Leroy Bates • Thomas Fickinger • Tony Gurski

### FLOOD MITIGATION

Len Clark • Thomas Fickinger • Tony Gurski

### COMMUNITY DEV. • PARKS & RECREATION

Len Clark • Scott Zimmerman

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Tony Gurski • Terry Noll

## Streets & Water



- Continued from Page 1

office for help. With the county firefighter's parade coming, it would be nice to know PennDOT's plans for Tulpehocken Street.

The new water line is in service and temporary paving has been completed.

### Water system expansion

Bid documents for the new water tank have been issued. Those bids will be opened, studied, and we should have a contractor very shortly. Two new wells will be pump-tested in the near future. Supply line plans from these wells into town are being completed and automation of the chlorine injection is on schedule.

Future plans to replace the main water supply line from the wells above Echo Valley are underway. The permits to place a future line in the PennDOT right-of-way along Rt. 125 are being researched.



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Sch. County Firefighters Convention

The Pine Grove Hose, Hook & Ladder (HH&L) Fire Co. is proud to host the 2018 Schuylkill County Firefighter's Association's annual convention and parade, August 19 through August 25.

The week-long slate of events gets underway with a church service on Sunday, Aug. 19, featuring the Pine Grove Council of Churches Mass Choir at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 312 South Tulpehocken St., beginning at 6 p.m. Firefighters will hear a presentation on Tactical Decision Making on the Fire Ground on Monday in the PGAHS auditorium.

Tuesday will be History & Mug Night at the host HH&L Fire Company beginning at 7 p.m. Mike Kitsock is the featured speaker on Schuylkill County firefighting. A "Delegates Dinner" is planned Wednesday evening at HH&L and a special Convention Bingo night will be held at the fire hall on Thursday beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Family Night, sponsored by Operation Hugs & Kisses, will be held in the Brickyard on Friday, starting



at 5:30 p.m. LifeFlight5 will fly in and be on display from 6 to 7 p.m.

A gigantic Firefighters Parade will take over Pine Grove on Saturday, Aug. 25, beginning with registration from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and judging from 8 to noon at the Pine Grove school complex. The parade will begin rolling at 1 p.m.

## Family Fun Night set August 24

Operation Hugs and Kisses will again host its 7th annual Family Fun Night on Friday, August 24 from 5 to 9 p.m. All the fun will take place at the Brickyard Fair Grounds of the HH&L No. 1 Fire Company in Pine Grove during Schuylkill County Firefighter Week.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the entertainment provided throughout the evening. Game and activity booths will be operated by non-profit groups. Enjoy a bounce house, games, food, quilt and 50/50 raffle.

Route 61 will perform at 6 p.m. Jerry's choo-choo rides, Life Lion helicopter fly-in and display, Smokey the Bear, Cupcake Wars and a kids Jello eating contest.

The Fun Night will be held rain or shine to benefit Operation Hugs and Kisses.

## Autumn Stroll at Union Canal Park

The much anticipated and always enjoyed Autumn Stroll, organized by the Pine Grove Bicentennial

- Continued on Page 4

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 3

Committee, will kick off a day-long celebration on Saturday, October 20 beginning at 10 a.m. along Veterans Memorial Drive at Union Canal park.

The region's largest marketplace for food, displays, and craft items comes alive once again in celebration of the season through 4 p.m.

## Holiday Classic Parade is Oct. 20

Pine Grove will again kick off the Halloween season in Schuylkill County when the Pine Grove Lions Club coordinates and hosts the 71st annual Holiday Classic Parade on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Billed as the earliest and one of the biggest/best parades of the season, divisions will be staged on Legion Acres beginning at 6 p.m. and step off promptly at 7.

## Trick-or-Treat on Halloween night

Youngsters dressed as princesses, super heroes, movie characters, ghosts and goblins are invited to go door-to-door during Pine Grove's designated Trick-or-Treat on Halloween night, Wednesday, Oct. 31 between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m.

Girls and boys, up to 12 years of age, are permitted to participate and asked to walk with a friend, parent, or



responsible group leader. Residents are asked to turn on their porch light for the children's safety and as an indication the youngsters are welcome to get a treat.

## Damaged by flooding?

Residents and property owners who sustained damage from the recent flooding were asked to complete an SBA Physical Disaster Survey Sheet as part of the Pennsylvania

Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) effort to assess the extent of local damage. The deadline for the survey was earlier this month.

Accurate and timely reporting is crucial to successfully requesting and receiving federal assistance in the form of either low-interest loans or grants to help Pennsylvania's citizens, businesses and infrastructure recover from a disaster.

Flood safety suggestions are available on the Borough website [pinegroveborough.org](http://pinegroveborough.org) by selecting the "Emergency Updates" tab.

## Motorists, watch for school students

Pine Grove Chief of Police Thomas Trotter reminds all motorists the summer season is coming to an end,





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gallery

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Sun., Mon. - Noon to 5 p.m.



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**570-366-8736** or check us out on Facebook  
[Deborah@TheArtsBarn.com](mailto:Deborah@TheArtsBarn.com)

Newsletter Particulars

"The Evergreen" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Pine Grove distributed to 1300 households within the Borough.

The newsletter is designed and printed by South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing  
960 E. Main St. • Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725  
E-mail: [printing@southschuylkill.net](mailto:printing@southschuylkill.net)  
[www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com](http://www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com)

Publication dates for the next three issues are November 16, 2018, February 22, and May 24, 2019

News Submittals

Non-profit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Melissa Dyer in the Borough offices, [pgborough@comcast.net](mailto:pgborough@comcast.net) or call 570-345-3555 for info, three weeks prior to the publication date.

Advertising

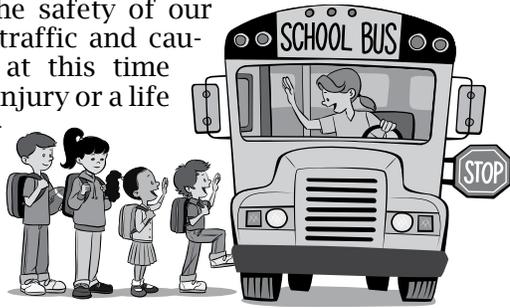
Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Pine Grove are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Pine Grove.

# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

activities on the school campus are revving up, and the start of school is upon us on Monday, Aug. 27.

To ensure the safety of our children, a few traffic and caution reminders at this time could help save injury or a life and avert tragedy for everyone involved.

Be alert to students walking to and from the school or their bus stop locations and to the reappearance of those bright yellow buses making frequent stops.



- There will be a lot of bus traffic in the early morning and mid-afternoon. Be sure to slow for the flashing yellow lights and stop for the flashing red lights.
- Follow the posted speed limit signs. There will be a lot of school children walking to and from school. Stop for anyone crossing the street at the crosswalks. Pedestrians have the right of way and it is state law.

The police department will be strictly enforcing the pedestrian crosswalk law as well as looking for speeders throughout town. If you have any questions, problems or concerns, stop in at the police department or call 570-345-8100.

## Service to your community

Pine Grove Borough is seeking help from any high school student to aid in their Community Service credits and to assist local residents. Work could include lawn care, removal of ashes, and snow shoveling during the winter months. Rewards are gained through self-satisfaction and knowledge that each contributed to the well-being of someone in need.

Contact the Borough at [pgborough@comcast.net](mailto:pgborough@comcast.net) or phone 570-345-3555. You may also message through the Pine Grove Borough Facebook page.

## Jones Foundation Golf Tourney

There's still time to register for the 4th annual Captain Jason Jones Memorial Golf Tournament & Dinner. This event has activities for golfers, spouses and children featuring an ice cream social for kids from noon to 2:30 p.m. with dinner and live music from 6 to 9 p.m. It all takes place Saturday, Sept. 8 at the Schuylkill Country Club, Rt. 443 just west of Orwigsburg.



Additional information can be found at [www.captainjasonjones.com/events](http://www.captainjasonjones.com/events) Online registration can be made at [birdeasepro.com/captainjasonjones](http://birdeasepro.com/captainjasonjones)

- Continued on Page 6



**Jeffrey Spotts**  
President  
[spottsj@nationwide.com](mailto:spottsj@nationwide.com)



**Jeannie Fessler**  
Associate Agent  
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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 5

## Got a question on gardening?

### Ask a Master Gardener

Stumped by a garden issue? Help is just a phone call away ... call the PSU Extension Office of the Schuylkill Master Gardeners on the "Hort Line" at 570-622-4225, ext. 23.

Questions on trees, shrubs, flowers, lawn and much more can be answered by local experts between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesday now to October. Messages can be left at other times.

## No outdoor burning

Borough ordinance prohibits any outdoor burning of trash or yard waste within the borough limits. Over the years, this ordinance has proven its worth by cutting the number of brush fires in Pine Grove to almost zero. Enjoy the summer and fall days ahead and stay safe.



## Hey, buddy! Take a hike!

Schuylkill On The Move is a project of Schuylkill County's VISION promoting positive steps toward

good health through walking and an appreciation of the natural beauty and fascinating history of our area.

A few upcoming hikes include The Pinnacle on the Blue Mountain near Hawk Mountain on Sept. 22, Lebanon Reservoir and Swatara Furnace on Oct. 6, and the Bartram Trail North Stretch on Nov. 4. Many other hikes are scheduled. A full list and description of guided walks can be found at the following online link: [www.schuylkillvision.com/schuylkill-on-the-move](http://www.schuylkillvision.com/schuylkill-on-the-move)

## Holiday closings

Pine Grove Borough services and office will close on the remaining holidays this year - Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 3; Thanksgiving Day and the day after, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 & 23; Christmas eve half day on Monday, Dec. 24; Christmas Day on Tuesday, Dec. 25; and New Year's Day on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.

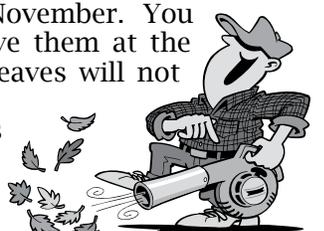
## Ash collection

Ash pickup continues once per week on Fridays now into November. Starting November 6, twice per week collection will begin on Tuesdays and Fridays and continue through the heating season. Tubs are to be placed curbside, have handles, and be free of sharp edges.

## Leaf cleanup

What do you do with all those falling leaves and yard waste? The Borough provides pick-up of bagged leaves every Thursday in November. You must bag the leaves and have them at the curb before 8 a.m. Piles of leaves will not be collected.

The Borough maintains a compost site where residents may take leaves, grass clippings, and other yard vegetation waste. The cost is \$20 per year and is for residents only. The compost site operates from March through the fall season, and is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Permits are available at the Borough Municipal Building.



## Please help your neighborhood

Blocked street drains can create a hazard for you and your neighbors during heavy rain events and

### R&J TOURS – 2018 HAPPENINGS

September 7 – Green Dragon & Kitchen Kettle.....	\$29
September 11 – Mercy Me @ York Fair.....	\$57
September 13 – Anchors Away.....	\$99
September 15 – Gourmet Food Shopping NYC.....	\$43
September 18 – Run for your wife.....	\$87
September 19 – Doo-Wop Sock Hop.....	\$82
September 26 – Ronnie Spector & The Ronettes.....	\$85
September 29 – 911 Memorial and Museum.....	*\$65
September 29 – Doo Wop Cavalcade.....	\$73
CALL – NYC Free Day.....	\$42
CALL – Penn State Games.....	CALL
October 2 – Real Diamond @ Penns Peak.....	\$75
October 6 – Fall Block Party, OC, NJ.....	\$45
October 6 – Patterson Maple Farms & Wagon Ride.....	*\$128
October 7 – Nascar @ Dover.....	\$89 before 9/7/18 .....after 9/8/18 – \$140

#### OVERNIGHTS

\*Child Rates Available

CALL – Dover.....	\$125 DBL Occ.
September 17-21 – Discover the 1000 Islands.....	\$835 DBL Occ.
October 7-8 – Turning Stone.....	\$345 DBL Occ.

### ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

(Training provided) for the 2018-2019 school year.

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

when winter snows and ice occur. If you see the drain near your house clogged with leaves or litter, please take a few minutes to open it with a broom or shovel.

## Water bill payments

Quarterly water bill payments were due August 6. If you missed it, a late fee will be assessed. Upcoming bills are due on the first Monday of November this year and February, May, and August of 2019. Payments can be made by check or money order by mail or in person at the Borough Municipal Building. You can also make a payment electronically online.



## Pay by credit/debit

The Pine Grove Borough office accepts credit/debit card payments, using MuniPAY, for water service. Customers are able to make payment online or at the borough office.

Payments accepted through MuniPAY will be Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, or e-check. Payments made in this way will be subject to service fees of 2.65% or \$3, whichever is greater for credit cards, and \$1.50 for e-check.

The Borough does not collect, receive or retain any portion of the service fees. The fees are charged

by MuniPAY in order to provide this convenient service to you.

MuniPAY is audited on an annual basis by a company that is recognized as a Qualified Security Assessor by the PCI Security Standards.

## 2017 water quality report

The 2017 annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available for viewing on the borough's website (select the Pine Grove Water Dept. tab) or get a copy in person at the Municipal Building, One Snyder Avenue.

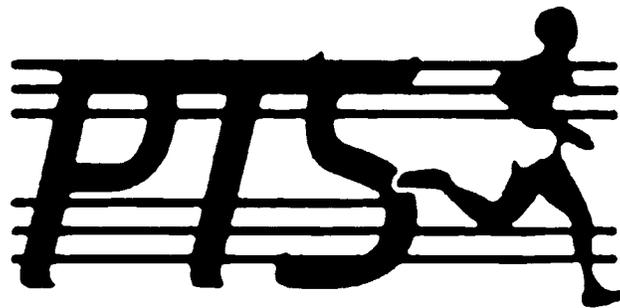
## Food pantry

The Pine Grove Area Council of Churches Food Pantry serves those in need of nutritious food items on the third Saturday of every month. Located in the lower level of the Weekday Church School building, 200 School Street (directly across the street from the entrance to the Pine Grove Area Elementary School), food distribution takes place from 9 a.m. to noon.



The pantry serves families of Pine Grove Borough, Pine Grove Township and Washington Township. For additional information or for emergency food, call

- Continued on Page 8



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 7

570-345-3033 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Leave a message if no answer.

## Become a Lions Club member

"We Serve" is the motto of Lions Clubs throughout the world. The mission of the Pine Grove Lions Club is to improve the quality of life for residents of Pine Grove and surrounding communities by providing support for health related issues, youth programs, emergency relief in disaster situations, cultural growth, and other needs of the local community through giving and personal service. Sight preservation is the worldwide project of Lions International chapters.



Consider becoming a member of the Pine Grove Lions Club. Stop in at the Lions Den headquarters building at 1 Veterans Memorial Drive during the Autumn Stroll and find out more. Or call 570-345-7446 to see how you can be part of building your community and caring for others.

The club meets regularly on the second and fourth Thursday each month at the Lions Den. The Pine Grove Lions Club has served the Pine Grove community since 1947.

## Recycling electronics

The Covered Device Recycling Act of 2010 prohibits the disposal of desktop computers, laptop computers, monitors, peripherals, televisions, and hand-held electronic devices. Do not place with your household trash as your refuse collector and landfills will not accept these items.



The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) urges you to do your part for the environment by recycling all unused electronic devices.

Unfortunately, the Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste & Resource Management decided not to include these electronics in its annual Fall Cleanup. Please continue to store unwanted electronics until the next collection in the county.

Thanks to all residents helping to keep Pine Grove Borough a cleaner place and responsible in its waste and recycling efforts.

## Police remind of QOL requirements

Thank you to all residents and property owners who have kept Pine Grove looking good this year by cutting their grass and weeds ... and for removing unsightly furniture, trash etc.

But, there are a few who are not keeping up with the Quality of Life ordinance. For those - and you know who you are - Officer Applegate will continue to ticket you.

Comments or complaints? Contact the police department office for any non-emergency communication at 570-345-8100.

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1 to reach the Schuylkill County Emergency Operations office. A trained person will be able to evaluate your situation and quickly dispatch the necessary first responders.

## Historical research

The research library of the Pinegrove Historical Society, located in its headquarters building at 205 North Tulpehocken St., is open each month on the first and third Sunday and the second and fourth Saturday, from 1 to 4 p.m. each day.

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# Swiftreach – Getting You Critical Info Fast!

Swiftreach is a communication service that allows the Pine Grove Borough to notify residents quickly and efficiently in the event of an emergency or need to convey critical information.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection mandated all water systems are required to notify customers quickly when a situation with the water system arises. From time to time, we have had to contact our customers when our water system was compromised and issue a Boil Water Advisory. In years past, we have relied on newspapers, news stations, radio stations, police announcement over a loud-speaker, and word of mouth to accomplish this task.

Pine Grove Borough has contracted with Swiftreach Networks, Inc. to contact our customers and residents. Swiftreach is a Public Notification System using cutting-edge technology to swiftly contact our residents via telephone or e-mail. Now when a Boil Water Advisory is necessary, or any time the Borough needs to be in contact with its residents such as a declared snow emergency, we can do so in a matter of minutes. This would also include other states of emergency, disaster announcements, road closures, parking restrictions, and other announcements as necessary.

## *We need your help!*

In order to make Swiftreach work, information regarding you, including your address, phone number, cell phone number, e-mail address, and your preferred method of notification is necessary. If you have not sent this to date, complete the form and mail it in, deliver in person, call or e-mail your information today!

Mail or deliver to Pine Grove Borough; One Snyder Avenue; Pine Grove, PA 17963. You can also call 570-345-3555 with the information or e-mail us at [pgborough@comcast.net](mailto:pgborough@comcast.net).

Property owners with apartments should provide information regarding their tenants. Tenants should also complete the form to assure optimum notification.

### Pine Grove Borough • Water Customer Information System

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the line for your preferred method of notification.

Primary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the information sheet to the borough office at  
Pine Grove Borough: One Snyder Avenue, Pine Grove

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# Message from the Pine Grove Mayor

## Strong Community Helps Us “Weather” the Storm

It's been a tough summer for Pine Grove and surrounds, dealing with torrential rains and the flooding that resulted. It wasn't quite as bad as the flood of 2011, but bad to inconvenience all, create havoc and hardship for many, and destroy possessions and damage property of some.



**WILL SHIFFER**  
Mayor

That first day of the heavy rainfall, Pine Grove was landlocked briefly as you could not get in or out of town ... and residents began the task of cleaning and drying. Days extended into weeks afterward with persistent

rain threats - torrential downpours at times - returning street flooding and bringing water levels up, then down, then back up again.

Emergency groups were immediately mobilized to assist Pine Grove, Tremont, and surrounding areas affected. The Schuylkill Emergency Management Agency was in place at the high school along with the National Guard, Red Cross and Salvation Army ready to take in citizens who had to be evacuated from their homes.

Fire chiefs Mike Stalnecker (North End) and Dave Sattizahn (HH&L) and their volunteer crews assisted



**SUBMERGED VEHICLES IN NORTH PINE GROVE**

where necessary, remaining on standby for contingencies as they developed. Fire companies from nearby communities also rushed to the scene to help in the cleanup. Our ambulance crew was also at the ready.

On behalf of Pine Grove residents and businesses, I want to commend and thank all of these groups whose volunteers cast aside their personal time to respond rapidly in our time of need.

We have highly skilled and experienced first responders. They were ready and, thankfully, the devastation was not prolonged to require their services for an extended period of time.

Our neighboring community of Tremont seemed to experience a much greater “hit” than we had. For those affected there, we hope for a quick recovery.

Our citizens were outstanding in how they all came together to help each other in this time of need. No one likes a flood, but our citizens demonstrated a great positive attitude in the wake of the mess the flooding created - neighbors helping each other to pump flooded basements, hauling the trash and cleaning up. Volunteers from our local churches and several youth groups all pitched in for the cleanup.

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# Message from the Pine Grove Mayor

Borough office staff, police, and streets and water department employees were instrumental in doing everything they could to deal with the flooding and then the process of cleaning up.

The ladies in the office were busy taking calls and coordinating with citizens and first responders. Our Borough maintenance crew, under the direction of Lenny Clark, did not get many breaks as they were clearing blocked drains and other issues with flooding on our streets. Police were on duty and provided the needed safety support to control traffic and closed roads when required.



**SWATARA CREEK DEBRIS ADDS TO WATER RISE**

## **Concern appreciated, but money talks**

Governor Tom Wolf's visit along with state agency personnel from Emergency Management, the Dept. of Environmental Protection, and even the general in charge of the National Guard put focus on the crisis and plan for its aftermath. The immediacy and concern showed empathy with what our citizens have been dealing with.

Borough officials emphasized to the governor and accompanying state senator and congressmen that Pine Grove needs funding to better deal with the Swatara Creek and the runoff of water during these heavy rains. They all shook their heads in agreement and want to help, but we will wait and see if they are able to come through with the cash needed.

One last comment about the flood - a big "thank you" goes out to our council president Scott Zimmerman, Lenny Clark and all the volunteers who, as soon as the flooding stopped, quickly drained the Community Pool (that was a muddy mess), cleaned the inside and all the filters, and returned it to swimming condition within a few days.

## **Police officer at PGA schools**

Pine Grove Area School District Superintendent Heath Renninger requested, of the Borough and Police Department, the possibility of providing a police officer in the school during the school day.

Research included checking with other local districts that have police in their schools, how the operation is set up and their experience. We used their proven practices to formulate a Memorandum of Understanding between Pine Grove Borough and PGA School District.

A police officer would be on the school district property 7-1/2 hours during the school day. All compensation, logistics, training, uniforms and equipment will be paid by the school district. The Borough will bill the district each quarter for all expenses.

It's unfortunate that, in society today, we have to resort to placing police officers in our schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. This year's Pennsylvania Commonwealth budget has even included \$60 million for school safety. That money could have been better used for improving the education of our children, but we must devote this taxpayer money for something years ago we would never have thought necessary.

Times change and with that change comes both good and unforeseen bad. One of the biggest changes over the years is how social media (phones, comput-

*- Continued on Page 12*



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# Message from the Pine Grove Mayor

- Continued from Page 11

ers, etc.) have become a part of our daily lives. No question, this technology has many good aspects. But, it also facilitates the bad in our society.

PGASD is still a relatively quiet and easy-going school district, providing a great educational experience. The school board and the superintendent are being proactive to have a police presence to impact safety on campus. No guaranties that incidents can be prevented, but having a police officer in the school will certainly be a deterrent and provide an immediate response if necessary.

## Regional police feasibility study

The regional police study being conducted by the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is on track.

Representatives from Pine Grove and Tremont townships and the Borough have signed the required document to move forward on the no-cost feasibility study. The study results will be released to the public after it is completed.

## Quality of Life; Back-to-School

For the most part, residents have done a great job throughout the summer keeping properties maintained. There are still a few - and it seems the same ones - who must be told with a QOL ticket or warning to cut the grass, get rid of the weeds and/or dispose

## "SHUN" Property Maintenance



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of the garbage around their homes. Thank you to all who take pride in their properties by keeping them neat and clean.

Yes, it was an inconvenience to motorists and property owners when the new water lines were installed on Tulpehocken Street. PennDOT paving was to be done in August prior to the Schuylkill County Firefighters Parade, but it looks like it will not be completed until after Labor Day.

After paving, I know there will be a tendency to move faster through town once the road is completed, but continue to obey the speed limit. Please, stop and allow people to cross at all crosswalks. It is a state law.

And finally, students, parents, educators, and sports fans are always excited about starting a new school year. Be a safe driver, our youngsters depend on it! And, if your teen is driving, monitor and encourage them to drive safely.

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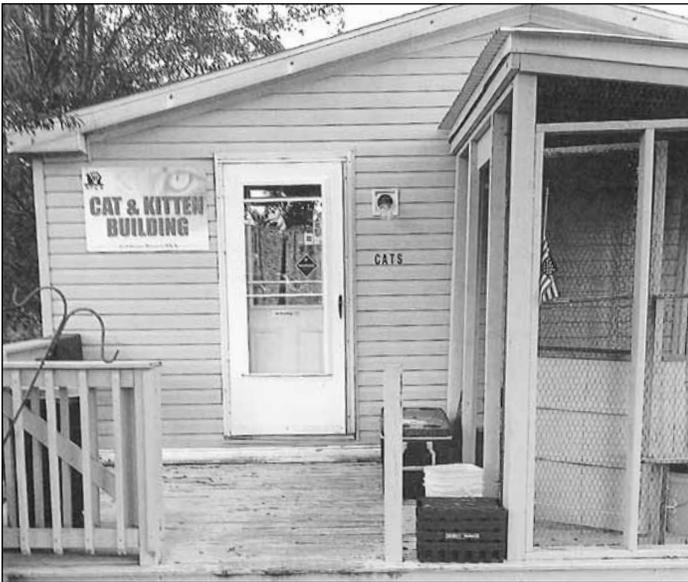
**SEEDS**

Corn; Whole, Coarse Cracked, Fine Cracked and occasionally, Cob Njyer • Peanuts • Safflower | Sunflower; Black Oil & Striped

# Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA

## Providing Many Services to Our Community

Ruth Steinert Memorial (RSM) SPCA is a no-kill animal shelter. It originally opened its doors in Tamaqua in the early 1970s, thanks to the caring spirit and dedication of its namesake, Ruth Steinert. Later the shelter was relocated to Airport Road at the top of Broad Mountain north of Minersville. In 2009 it moved again to its present location at 18 Wertz Drive in Pine Grove Borough.



RSM experienced a devastating fire on January 21, 2010, forcing its closing for a period of time. Determination by its board, shelter workers and volunteers plus generous donations from individuals and businesses, allowed RSM to reopen its cat facility in June of that same year. The dog facility reopened in August of 2011. Operating continuously since then, RSM has been upgrading its facilities and managing its finances ever since.

As your local shelter, RSM serves Schuylkill and surrounding county areas by providing a temporary shelter to dogs, cats and other domestic animals as they await adoption. Part of the shelter's mission is to educate the public on the importance of spaying/neutering and to share healthy practices with pet owners.

### *Made possible by many caring volunteers*

The Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA shelter employs two - Lori Sult, shelter manager, and Bridget Barder, assistant manager - both of whom are designated Animal Cruelty Officers to assist law enforcement with rescue services for abused or lost animals.

Volunteers complete an amazing and caring staff of caregivers and temporary family for more than 150 animals. The RSM Board of Directors numbers nearly a dozen of your friends and neighbors. Together, all dedicate their time to the cause of saving and loving animals while providing compassion and selflessness every day.

RSM is appreciative to have its location in Pine Grove, providing a serene backdrop for its animals to reside until their "forever" families visit to adopt them.

### *Services help the region, but funds needed*

RSM's services limit the number of strays in your neighborhood, help to reduce feral reproduction, and

provide a means to pair up families with animals who will quickly claim those families' hearts. For the community service we provide, we humbly ask that you include RSM SPCA in your periodic donations and think of us for donations in honor of birthdays and in memory of animal lovers who have passed.

We are grateful for every monetary and pet supply contribution we receive. We can't stay open without your charity. Being a no-kill shelter, we are not eligible for state, ASPCA or other national funding. Our funding is provided completely by the generosity of donors within our community.

Finally, when you are considering welcoming the sound and joy created by paws on your floor, please "adopt; don't shop." There are so many loving shelter animals waiting for you. Come visit us at 18 Wertz Drive in Pine Grove. Rescue a pet, and it will be your heart that feels rescued.

- Doreen R. Hancock, Board Secretary



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# Pinegrove Historical Society Preserves the Past

## Stanhope School Open House Set Sept. 11

Restoration work continues this summer and early fall on the Stanhope School. More volunteers are needed to complete the mission to open this school and be the only one-room schoolhouse open to the public in Schuylkill County. To learn more, contact Linda at [LSMillsGSO@aol.com](mailto:LSMillsGSO@aol.com) or Tina at [tiki5977@verizon.net](mailto:tiki5977@verizon.net)

What was it like to attend school at Stanhope? John Ziegler, former Stanhope pupil and retired Pine Grove Area School District teacher, provides the following narrative.

The school day for the youngsters living in Pine Grove and Washington townships began at 8:30 a.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The days included a 15-minute break in the morning and another in the afternoon plus a half hour to eat lunch. The school year began in early September and ran through the end of May.

If weather conditions allowed, the students would spend free time outdoors getting exercise. There was no gym or organized team play. The girls would jump rope or play jacks, while the boys would play marbles.

There was also a ballfield near the Stanhope



school where the boys would play a game similar to baseball using a broom handle for the bat and a rubber ball. One of the rules for determining when the batter was "out" required the ball be caught on the first bounce. This applied to the catcher as well. When a player was running to a base, he would be "out" if the ball was tossed and caught between him and the base.

When the swamp near the school froze over, a flattened tin can was used to play a loosely similar game of hockey. There were no rules except that the can be driven to a certain area on the ice.

The boys and girls also played games together. "Red Light, Green Light" and "Red Rover" were the two favorites.

In Red Rover, there were two teams. The members of Team #1 would hold hands while a member from Team #2 would try to break through. If that person did break through, the youngster would return to the same team. If the person wasn't successful, the capturing team would get that player. The winning team was the one with everyone on its side.

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# Pinegrove Historical Society Preserves the Past

In Red Light, Green Light, a player would turn his back on the other kids and count to a certain number. When the person turned around, whoever was moving was out.

In the winter, the students would sleigh ride in the ruts left by cars on the dirt roads - much like the trough a bobsled would use. "The only cars we'd see," Zeigler said, "were the mailman's and the hucksters'."

Occasionally, the students would enjoy a special treat in the winter! Ziegler remembered how the cream on the bottled milk, delivered by the milkman, would freeze and expand with the cardboard cap separating from the bottle. This made for a nice frozen popsicle the children loved to eat.

## Project Open House & on the road

The Stanhope School project will have an information table at the Family Fun Night on Friday, Aug. 24 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Brickyard - on the Pine Grove HH&L No. 1 grounds. Stop by, learn more about this restoration project, and learn how you can support the effort. Pinegrove tote bags will be available for sale.

All are invited to the "Preservation in Action" Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Stanhope School. It's located at the intersection of Mexico, Camp, and Stanhope Roads in Pine Grove Township. Stop in at your convenience to see the progress made to restore this one-room schoolhouse.

Pinegrove tote bags will again be available for sale.

A dine-out supporting the Stanhope restoration project will be held Saturday, Sept. 29 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Hoss's Steak & Sea House on Rt. 183 just off Rt. 61 and adjacent to the Cressona Mall. Eat lunch or dinner and Hoss's will donate a portion of your food and beverage sales that day. Download a coupon from [facebook.com/pg/stanhopeschoolrestoration](https://facebook.com/pg/stanhopeschoolrestoration) with details to give to the server. The coupon will also be available at any of the above events or by emailing [tiki5977@verizon.net](mailto:tiki5977@verizon.net) and an appetite.

If you are attending Schuylkill Haven Borough Day during the day, plan to eat dinner at Hoss's.

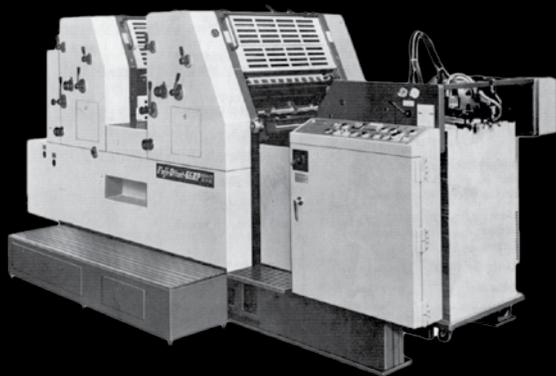
## SPREAD THE WORD

Interested in submitting an article for next quarter's issue of *The Evergreen*? We welcome community service and nonprofit organization information. Please contact Borough Secretary, Melissa Dyer at 570-345-3555 or [pgborough@comcast.net](mailto:pgborough@comcast.net)



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### The Union Canal Park and Bicentennial Committee

As July 4, 1976 approached, the citizens of the United States prepared to celebrate the 200th year anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Pine Grove citizens were no exception. They anxiously formed committees to celebrate with the bicentennial parade. The Bicentennial Committee was formed to organize the celebration. Many local people worked long and hard raising money and creating floats to enter into the parade. The parade was a huge event in Pine Grove. The hard work and community involvement was evident as the parade wound through the streets of Pine Grove proudly celebrating our country's Bicentennial.



After the celebrations the left over funds were invested in the bank. There the money sat, growing, waiting for a purpose.

Meanwhile, Boy Scout Troop 111 saw the eyesore at the edge of their town - the canal area - as a challenge. They decided to take on the community service project donating time and manpower to clean this area. The boys of that troop nearly 25 years ago

soon realized regardless of their endless hours of commitment, hard work and sweat, their efforts were being strangled by the thick growth. It was too much.

At a meeting at HH&L on Mifflin Street, it was decided. The former members of the Bicentennial Committee voted to use the nest egg of funds to dredge and clean the canal basin. This undertaking used all remaining funds the committee had in addition to the money raised once again through

bake sales, fundraisers and public support. There was also money raised to purchase the land on the Carbon Street side of the canal to enlarge the park area.

The intent of the Union Canal Park Area is to give the public a beautiful park to enjoy. An eyesore at the edge of town has become a treasured part of Pine Grove. Since its inception it has been used for weddings, craft shows, holiday events, ice skating, fishing, and walking. Various Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops have continued to improve the park.

As you take the relaxing drive by the Union Canal Park, take a moment to enjoy it!