

# THE EVERGREEN

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

Vol. IX, No. 2 - Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF PINE GROVE, PA

May 2019

### Water Tank and Lines; Street Paving; Flood Control Effort

## Street and Water Projects Aplenty this Summer

With spring now in full swing, the season for street maintenance is upon us.

The Street Department will put a new truck into service, replacing the Borough's aging plow truck that has been plagued with old age problems. Fortunately, Mother Nature was relatively kind to us this past season. The crew was thankful to make it through the winter with what they had to work with.



**TOM FICKINGER**  
Councilman

A vacuum truck is being used to clean leaves and stone from storm drainage pits throughout town to allow for the free-flow of our spring rains and summer storms.

The crew has also used a leak detection service to help find water leaks before their effects rise to the surface. It is much easier to find and correct these leaks before the loss of water and soil erosion cause the streets above to fail.

Summer street paving season is rapidly approaching. The Borough is inspecting and deciding which streets are most critically in need of paving. Each year the Borough gets back tax dollars collected by the Commonwealth that motorists pay when purchasing liquid (gasoline) fuel for their vehicles. The funds

are apportioned based on the miles of streets the Borough is responsible to maintain.

When our street list is approved, the state allows us to take bids for the paving jobs. The current plan is to have the streets completed before the end of August.

### **Community swimming pool status**

As the weather warms, the Pine Grove Area Community Pool opening is very near. Following last fall's storm flooding, the pool had to be drained and the mud removed. The gang did a great job draining and washing the walls.



As the picture shows, it is now clean and being filled. The pump motor has been repaired and the filters are being readied for use.

### **Water line and flood control work**

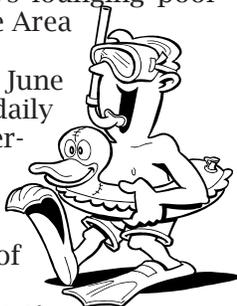
PennDOT permits for a new water line leading from the Echo Valley well area to the water tank in Ravine is on schedule. The new line will be placed in

- Continued on Page 6

## Make A Splash!

It's soon time to enjoy lazy days lounging pool-side and swimming at the Pine Grove Area Community Swimming Pool.

The last day of school at PGA is June 6. The community pool will open daily starting Friday, June 7. Weather permitting, the pool could open on weekends prior to that date, so make sure you grab your season passes to get ready for a summer of fun!



Get up-to-date information online at [PineGrovePool.com](http://PineGrovePool.com) or on Facebook @ [pinegrovepool](https://www.facebook.com/pinegrovepool).

### **Concession stand, birthday parties**

The concession stand continues to be a big hit  
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# 2019 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..... Tom Fickinger  
Vice President of Council..... Leroy Bates  
Pro Tem..... Michael Allison  
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  
Skip Butler • Leonard Clark  
Thomas Fickinger • Rodney Hiester • Terry Noll

## POLICE

Thomas J. Trotter, IV, Chief  
Mike Dissinger • Kurt Emerich • William Gelgot  
Pete Mozurkevich • Cody Mullins  
Gino Ricigliano • Christopher Taylor  
Mark Vandermartin • Beau Yarmush

## STREETS & WATER DEPARTMENT

Len Clark, Streets & Water Supervisor  
John Barr • Jacob Dinger • Brandon Flaim  
Robert Kolb • Earl Kreiser  
John Powell • Jeff Torok

## BOROUGH OFFICE

Melissa A. Dyer • Cindy Fenstermacher  
Sue Stroupauer

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE

Thomas Fickinger • Leroy Bates  
Michael Allison

### PERSONNEL

Leroy Bates • Thomas Fickinger  
Michael Allison

### PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Fickinger • Len Clark • Terry Noll

### PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Leroy Bates • Terry Noll • Skip Butler

### FLOOD MITIGATION

Len Clark • Thomas Fickinger • Skip Butler

### COMMUNITY DEV. • PARKS & RECREATION

Len Clark • Mike Allison • Rodney Hiester

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Leroy Bates • Terry Noll • Skip Butler

# Christmas Lights Update

Thank you to all the members and nonmembers who helped put up the 61 street pole Christmas light decorations this year, those who helped decorate the tree and who helped the night of the community tree lighting.

The tree this year was officially lit by Leah Wolfgang. The Pine Grove Community Band played holiday-inspired music and Colton Butler played beautiful Christmas music on the piano.



Pine Grove Area High School's JROTC honor guard presented the colors and Mayor Will Shiffer was the guest speaker. Santa Claus made his early arrival to Pine Grove, riding in style on the HH&L fire truck with gifts for all the children.

Free hotdogs and hot chocolate were served by committee members and nonmembers. Santa hats were given to all the children by Miners Bank. The Rev. Kensinger set up chairs for everyone to sit and enjoy the lighting.

The committee has purchased an 8-foot Santa in full white and red garland for the coming 2019 Christmas season. Six 5-foot green garland Christmas trees, each topped with a white star, will also be newly purchased and erected.

These lights are available for purchase for \$300 in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. In addition to purchasing new and replacement decorations, each year the committee's volunteers replace 500 to 600 bulbs to maintain the quality and enjoyment for residents and visitors alike.

A special thank you, as always, to Santa Claus for being there every Christmas. Thank you to all the people who donated money for expenses.

Interested in helping the committee with this important work each year. Your volunteer help, to whatever level possible, is always welcome. Interested to purchase a light? Please contact someone on the Light Committee or myself, by calling 570-345-3849.

Thank you again to all that make this event possible and make our community beautiful for the holiday season.

- Richard Becker, Chairman  
Christmas Lights Committee



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- Certified Celebrants On Staff
- Veterans Experts
- Grief Support and Aftercare Services



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4. Embalming not required.
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6. Peace of mind for you and your family.
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8. Heritage: We are proud to have served Schuylkill County families in their time of need for over 100 years.



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Gary H. Geschwindt, Supervisor  
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**E**BLING - STABINGAS  
Funeral Home

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C. Elmer Ebling, Supervisor  
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# Make A Splash – Everyone in the Pool!

- Continued from Page 1

with new food items featured. You don't have to be a pool patron to enjoy the food ... an outside window services the general public and non-swimming guests.

Again this year, you can celebrate your child's birthday at the pool. For one low package price, each child will get admission to the pool, a hot dog, bag of chips, a drink, and a shaved ice treat. Other food options are also available. Plus, you'll get exclusive use of an enclosed party room with tables for the duration of the party.

Parents, consider this great option for your next party. The children have all the fun ... and you have none of the mess! More information can be found on the website, Facebook page or pick up an information sheet at Municipal Hall or the pool bathhouse.

Want the pool all to yourself for family, organization or a business get-together? Consider reserving the pool for an evening swim party; but, move fast in order to have the best selection of dates. The cost is based on the number of guests and how long you would like to use the pool. You even have the option to bring your own food or purchasing through the Snack Shack. Check the website for more information or stop by the pool during regular hours.

## Swimming lesson signup

It's time to register for swimming lessons! Registration is now open. For water safety, the impor-

tance of swim lessons can't be overstated. Everyone - especially children - should be able to swim!

Learning to swim is not only important for a person's safety, but it also opens additional recreational opportunities throughout a lifetime and gives children activities to enjoy with friends when it's hot outside.

Not sure which class is appropriate for your child? Let us know if you are unsure and one of our instructors will call to discuss your child's abilities and answer any questions you may have.

Register for swim lessons weekdays at the Pine Grove Municipal Hall, 1 Snyder Avenue, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. through May 31. Saturday registration can be made at the pool from 9 a.m. to noon.

## Get your season pool pass

Season passes are available giving you access to the pool for the entire season for one low price - \$165 for a family, \$85 for an individual, \$55 for senior citizens (62 years old and above), and \$100 for a senior citizen couple. A season "Lap Pass" can be purchased for \$25.



But, if you purchase your season pass by June 1, you'll save! "Early Bird" season pool pass costs are \$146 family, \$76 individual, \$46 senior citizen, \$86 senior couple, and the Lap Pass costs just \$20.

Advanced sale passes are available weekdays at Pine Grove Municipal Hall during regular hours through May 31 and Saturdays (9 a.m. to noon) through June 1 at the pool. Regular price season passes will be available once the pool opens for the season during regular hours.

If you had a season pass last year, we've got a special offer for you! Due to the pool ending the season early in 2018, you'll automatically get "Snack Bucks" to spend at our Snack Shack along with this year's season pass. Family passes will get \$15; Individual passes get \$10; and Senior passes will get \$5.

Complete details and downloadable forms are on the pool's website.

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# PG Joint (Sewage) Treatment Authority

The Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority (PGJTA) is led by a board of five directors representing the municipalities served - two representing Pine Grove Borough and three representing Pine Grove Township.

Current board members and officers are William Hanson, chairman; Mark Todero, vice chairman; Harold "Bill" Zimmerman, secretary/treasurer; John Stahl and Kevin Rittenbaugh, board members.



Employees are Diane Tobin, general manager; Katie Dinger, administrative assistant; Roger Roadcap, lead operator; Robert Tice, operator; and James Luckenbill, laborer.

The Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority was formed in 1996, and in 2001 was given the ownership and operations of the wastewater treatment plant. A new plant was constructed in 2005-2006.

The Joint Treatment Authority operates the plant located at 235 Suedberg Road with an Administrative

Office located at 115 Mifflin St., Pine Grove.

Customers having questions about their rates, billing, and the requirements for metering should contact the authority in person or call 570-345-6433. Information can also be found on the website

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

## 2019 JTA Condensed Budget

### Revenue

Connection, Escrow/Liens, etc. Fees .....	\$65,252
Quarterly Billings, Late Charges, Interest .....	\$1,398,000
Septage Receiving .....	\$70,000
Transfer from Other Funds.....	\$209,261
	<b>\$1,742,513</b>

### Expenses

Debt Service.....	\$654,452
Payroll Fees/Employees/Board.....	\$294,750
Capital & Special Projects.....	\$306,261
Professional Services.....	\$44,009
Insurance.....	\$64,500
Vehicle Maintenance/Fuel .....	\$5,500
General Operating Expense .....	\$121,525
Electric Expense.....	\$98,516
Repairs & Maintenance .....	\$90,000
Testing Expense.....	\$28,000
Capital Purchases .....	\$35,000
	<b>\$1,742,513</b>



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President



**Jeannie Fessler**  
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[spotts4insurance.com](http://spotts4insurance.com)  
(570) 345-3252

# Borough Streets & Water Report . . . by Tom Fickinger

- Continued from Page 1

the Route 125 highway right-of-way.

These plans can take several years to get approved. In the mean time, an agreement has been reached to protect the existing line for a period of five years.



The flood control project behind Gold Mills plant is moving forward. PPL Electric Services is relocating poles along American Legion Blvd. as the first part of the project.

The Borough has received a time extension of our permit to further clean the creek and has authorized \$50,000 to remove debris. The contractor has, so far, removed about 53 tri-axle truckloads of stone and trees. An additional quote for \$40,000 and the Borough's receipt of necessary funds will finish the job.

## Water Department



This picture shows the concrete base for the new 1.1 million gallon water tank to be completed this month. Upon completion, the tank will be tested and then connected to the Borough water system and put into service.

The existing tank will then be drained and contractors will begin the internal repairs to correct leaks that presently exist. This work should be completed by the end of summer and both tanks put back on line to service the Borough's present and future needs.



The new chlorine injection building is shown here nearing construction completion. This will house a new and completely automatic chlorine injection to disinfect the well water per Pennsylvania standards.

Also this summer, the new wells along Berger Road will be tested for capacity. Level detection devices have been installed in neighboring wells to insure that the neighboring wells are not affected by water draw-down from the new Borough supply.

At a recent meeting between the Water and Joint Treatment committees, the billing dates have been changed to coincide with each other ... a benefit during shut-off and turn-on orders.

## Strouse Brothers, Inc.

### Excavating & Septic Service

P.S.M.A. Member

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**Orwigsburg**

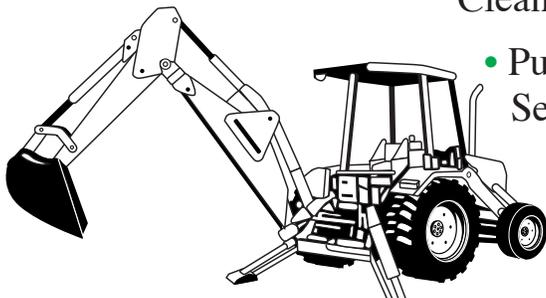
- Septic Systems Installed, Replaced and Repaired

- Septic Tanks & Cesspools Cleaned



- Year Round Cleaning

- Pumps Serviced



## 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 [pghorough@comcast.net](mailto:pghorough@comcast.net)

# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Memorial Day parade and service

Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start to summer, a time to fire up the outdoor grill, and enjoy warmer weather. But, as you are burning your hamburgers on the grill, give a smile and a kind thought to all of those who have and still are sacrificing so that we may enjoy this weekend.



**PINE GROVE WAR MEMORIAL MONUMENT  
AT ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY.**

For those of us safe in our own homes, is it too much to sacrifice a few hours on Monday, May 27 — Memorial Day — to participate in the day's patriotic parade through the streets of Pine Grove and the memorial service to follow?

The parade will form at "the brickyard" along

Christ Street adjacent to the HH&L Fire Company beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will step off promptly at 9 a.m.

The parade will feature special guests, Gold Star Mothers, town and area dignitaries, speakers and honorees at the service to follow. Also marching will be the Pine Grove Area Community Band, Pine Grove Area High School Marching Band and JROTC color guard and marching unit. Always a popular part of the Memorial Day parade are community organizations members, children's sports groups, high school teams, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownie troops, floats, church groups and area fire and rescue companies.

The parade will proceed onto East Pottsville Street to South Tulpehocken and continue south to Saint John's Cemetery. The Memorial Day service and keynote address will take place beginning at 9:45 a.m. at and adjacent to the Pine Grove War Memorial monument.

## Community Band concert dates

The Pine Grove Community Band upcoming concert dates started off with a side-by-side concert with the PGA Middle School Band held May 23 in the middle school gymnasium.

But, you catch them again on Memorial Day and throughout the summer. Here are its upcoming concert dates for public enjoyment.

*- Continued on Page 8*

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!



- Continued from Page 7

The Community Band will march in the Pine Grove Memorial Day parade, play during the program at the cemetery, and will again perform afterwards at the Pine Grove VFW. The parade steps off at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 27.

The band will present an outdoor concert on Thursday, June 20 at Providence Place, Hikes Hollow Rd. off Rt. 443 west of Pine Grove, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited, but please bring your own lawn chair.

The Community Band will again perform its annual Independence Day patriotic concert on Thursday, July 4 at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Limited seating is available for the 6 p.m. start, so bring a lawn chair if possible.

A summertime concert will be held at Veterans Memorial (Union Canal) Park on Saturday, July 20.



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Lisa A Harner, Funeral Director

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Again, it is suggested the public bring their lawn chairs to assure enjoyment of fine music at a beautiful setting. The concert begins at 6 p.m.

### **Public meetings regarding regional police**

Borough Council and the Pine Grove Township Board of Supervisors will hold several public meetings to discuss the proposed Regional Police Force to serve the two municipalities.

These meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Hose, Hook & Ladder Fire Company #1 Banquet Hall, One Orchard St., Pine Grove. The double doors on the baseball field side will be open at 6 p.m.

Meeting dates are on Tuesday, May 21, June 25, July 23, Aug. 20, Sept. 24, and Oct. 22. Additional information can be found on the Borough website [PineGroveBorough.org](http://PineGroveBorough.org).

### **Pine Grove "on the move"**

It's spring! Get out and enjoy the outdoors!

Schuylkill On the Move promotes that very idea by encouraging the public to be part of upcoming organized hikes. Here are a couple planned in and around Pine Grove:

- Sunday, June 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. - "Pilgrimage" with John Domalakes. Visit the site of an early American rest stop along Rt. 501 on the Blue Mountain. Meets in the parking lot for the Appalachian Trail along the route. (3 miles - moderate)
- Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - "West Creek to Crystal Falls" with Hiker Jim. The trek begins at the Rt. 901 Pub just south of I-81. The group will head to Old Airport Road to the West Creek headwaters and then to beautiful Crystal Falls. The group will then travel downhill from there (rocky in places), ending in Forrestville and crossing the creek five times. Meet across the street from the Forrestville Fire Company. (7.5 miles - moderate)

### **Think spring ... and summer!**

The Pine Grove Bicentennial Committee is looking forward to a beautiful spring season at Union Canal Veterans Memorial Park.

Residents of Pine Grove and surrounding areas are invited to enjoy a walk around the canal, stop and eat lunch at one of the picnic tables, or simply sit and relax on one of the park benches. While at the park, be sure to stop at the Memorial Pavilion that lists the names of those who purchased trees in honor and memory of loved ones.

While leashed pets are allowed at the park, pet owners are urged to clean up after their pet. We want to keep the park grounds healthy and safe for our children.

### **Schuylkill River Sojourn**

The annual 112-mile Schuylkill River canoe and kayak sojourn to Philadelphia will shove off this year on Saturday, June 1 from the river banks at Island Recreation Park in Schuylkill Haven.

# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!



Boating enthusiasts can register to be part of the trip by contacting the Schuylkill River Greenways Association. Spectators are invited to attend pre-sojourn activities on Friday evening and to witness the colorful and enthusiastic launch on Saturday morning.

## Bear Creek Festival

The 18th annual Bear Creek Festival will take place on Sunday, June 2 at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds from 12 to 4 p.m. This family-oriented event offers visitors fun activities related to all things



**Sunday, June 2**  
**12 p.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Schuylkill County Fairgrounds

Fun & FREE for the whole family!  
**FREE ADMISSION - FREE ACTIVITIES**  
**FREE PARKING**

Celebrating all things  
**Environmental**  
**OUTDOORS**  
**NATURAL**  
*Agricultural*  
in Schuylkill County

environmental, outdoors, natural, and agricultural in Schuylkill County.

The Bear Creek Festival offers many activities for all ages, such as Schuylkill Trout Unlimited's annual fishing derby, build your own bird house with Home Depot, paint your own flower pot, animals from Red Creek Wildlife Center, live music, and much more. Free admission, free activities, and free parking.

## Annual HH&L Carnival

The HH&L Carnival will be held at the Brickyard adjacent to the fire company this year beginning Tues., June 11 through Sat., June 15. Enjoy great food, rides, live nightly entertainment, games, bingo, and much more family fun for all ages.

## Schuylkill County Fair

This year's Schuylkill County Fair, themed "Fairs Feature Agriculture," will be held Mon. through Sat., July 29 to August 3 at the Fairgrounds.

Featured entertainment will include the New Individuals on Monday, Sapphire on Tuesday, Ridgeline and Rhythm and Brews on Wednesday, the Mudflaps Reunion and the Rehrig Brothers on Thursday, American Idol finalist Aaron Kelly on



- Continued on Page 10



**REALIZE THE DREAM.**



29 S Tulpehocken St  
Pine Grove, PA 17963  
570-345-2561

## NEW HOURS:

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**SATURDAY**  
**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 9

Friday, and the Amish Outlaws on Saturday. Lions and tigers will be featured all week long at the amphitheater with "Close Encounters of the Exotic Kind."

## Ask the gardening experts

**Ask a Master Gardener**  The Penn State Schuylkill County Master Gardeners are available to answer questions about your trees, flowers, lawn, garden, soil, insects, indoor plants and much more. The Garden Hort Line (570-622-4225, ext. 23) is open every Monday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. now through October, except for holidays.

Or, stop by the Penn State Extension Office at 1202 Ag Center Drive, just off Rt. 901 (the Gordon Nagle Trail) with a sizeable sample of the affected item and/or photos to discuss concerns directly with a Master Gardener.

Voice Mail messages should include your full name, mailing address, phone number and as much detail as possible about the issue. Volunteers generally respond within a week of your call or your e-mail sent to [schuylkillmg@psu.edu](mailto:schuylkillmg@psu.edu).

## You can do your part!

Mosquito season is right around the corner. Make

sure your backyard is ready! Keep vegetation low and remove standing water to eliminate breeding locations.

It only takes a bottle cap full of water to breed mosquitoes. Turn over buckets, barrels, keep tarps dry, cover tires, and flush bird bath water. It can take as little as 7 days for an egg to become an adult mosquito.



## Compost area available

Open now on Tuesdays and Saturdays, the Borough's composting area behind the municipal garage is available for Borough residents to discard organic materials and yard waste. A \$20 annual permit is required and can be gained at Municipal Hall. An attendant at the composting area will direct you where to place your vegetative waste.

## Summer ash collection

Pine Grove Borough will collect ashes one day per week for the rest of the spring, summer, and early fall. Tubs must have handles and be free of sharp edges.

## Borough office holidays

Borough offices and services will observe these

## R&J TOURS - 2019

Call for Dates - NYC Free Day .....	\$45
Call for Dates - Phillies Games .....	\$62/\$67
Call for Dates - Ocean City, NJ .....	\$45
Call for Dates - 911 Memorial & Museum .....	*\$67
Call for Dates - Resorts .....	\$57
Call for Dates - Washington DC Free Day .....	\$49
June 18 & August 10 - Adventure Aquarium & Zoo .....	\$69
June 20 - Queens of Country @ Hunterdon Hills .....	\$102
June 27 - The Righteous Brothers @ Caesars .....	\$99
June 29 - Annie @ DADT .....	\$94
July 6 - Kutztown Folk Festival .....	\$31
July 6 - Smoke on the Mt. @ Totem Pole Playhouse .....	*\$97
July 10 - Divorce Southern Style @ RDT .....	\$84
July 10 - National Zoo in Washington, DC .....	\$48
July 11 - Legally Gray @ The Waterfront .....	\$83
July 12 - The Texas Tenors .....	\$78
July 13 & August 17 - Wildwood, NJ Free Day .....	\$53
July 14 - Finger Lakes Wine Festival .....	\$80

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July 2-5 - Boston POPS .....	\$769 P/P DBL
July 7-11 - Ocean City, MD Quality Inn Boardwalk .....	\$718 P/P DBL
July 12-14 - Busch Gardens & Water Country USA .....	\$469 P/P DBL
July 14-20 - Branson-The Ozarks Hidden Gems .....	\$1399 P/P DBL

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## 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  
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[www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com](http://www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com)

Publication dates for the next three issues are August 23, November 22, 2019 and February 28, 2020

### 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, [pjborough@comcast.net](mailto:pjborough@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!

upcoming official holidays: Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day); Thursday, July 4 (Independence Day); and Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day).

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

## Pay by credit/debit



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

Pine Grove Borough utilizes MuniPAY. 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.

Customers may continue to pay cash, check or money order at the Municipal Building, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additionally, checks can be mailed to Pine Grove Borough, One Snyder Avenue, Pine Grove, PA 17963 or deposited

in the 24/7 Drop-Off Box located on the side of the building located by the Police Department entrance.

The most recent water bills were due on May 5. The next water bill will be sent out on July 1.

## No outdoor burning

Borough ordinance prohibits outdoor burning of trash or refuse 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 outdoor weather ahead and stay safe.

## Car, truck, motorcycle and vendor show

The 5th annual Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show coordinated by Bethesda and Grace Evangelical Congregational churches will be held Saturday of Memorial Day weekend on May 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of Bethesda ECC, 155 Reedsville Road (just off Rt. 183), Schuylkill Haven.

Thirteen classes of show vehicles with the first three finishers in each will be awarded. Show participants and the public will enjoy lots of door prizes, food, and the show vehicles on display.

All ages and all interests will be treated to a craft and vendor show as part of the day's activities, located across the street from the church at the Community Senior Center, 23 Meadowbrook Drive. The kitchen will be open with burgers and dogs, barbecue, baked goods, soft pretzels, ice cream and fresh squeezed lemonade.



**Time: 9:30-3:00 Cost: \$35**

Camp is for children who have completed K through 6th grade.

**June 24-28 Tamaqua**

*Lewistown Valley (near Heisler's Dairy)*

**July 8-12 Valley View**

*Valley View Park*

**July 15-19 Pine Grove**

*Manbeck's E. C. Church, Rock  
(Transportation available)*

**July 22-26 Auburn**

*Christmas Pines Campground*

**July 29-Aug. 2 Minersville**

*(Primrose Bible Church ~ just west of Minersville)*

*Our goal is to give every child in the area, no matter their location or situation, the opportunity to hear about Jesus through a memorable week of camp.*

**Contact: CEF of Schuylkill County**

**570-682-9790** email: [cefschpa@gmail.com](mailto:cefschpa@gmail.com)

Registration form~ [www.cefschuylkill.com](http://www.cefschuylkill.com)

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# Message from the Pine Grove Mayor

## Regional Police Force Vote Still in the Works

Spring has sprung and I hope all survived our milder and less-snowy winter. Compared to last year, hopefully our summer produces fewer rainy days, but enough to keep things green and growing.

### Regional Police vote ... what happened?

What happened to being able to vote on the proposed Regional Police Department? At the time my article was published in February's issue of *The Evergreen*, there was agreement between Pine Grove Borough and Pine Grove Township there would be a May 21 Primary Election ballot question for these municipalities' voters.

A change request from the Township regarding the ballot question wording caused it to not be ready in time to get it on the ballot. Pine Grove Borough Council voted to defer from the May primary and, instead, have the ballot question ready for the November General Election.

The Borough has established a committee to gather more information and have a series of meetings with Township supervisors to discuss and develop a more detailed plan for the Regional Police Department. Public meetings, to be held at HH&L Fire Co. each month from now through October, will update citizens with

*"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."*  
- Abraham Lincoln



WILL SHIFFER  
Mayor

information to date and answer questions from the public.

Tremont Township has opted out of a possible Regional Police Force and all data has been updated to serve only Pine Grove Borough and Pine Grove Township. The updated slide show study is on the Borough website - [PineGroveBorough.org](http://PineGroveBorough.org) - and hard copies can also be requested.

Borough Council and the Township Board of Supervisors made the decision at the end of last year to allow eligible voters of both municipalities to cast a vote on the Regional Police Force ballot question. Voter direction is not required, but your elected officials determined informed voters are able to make better decisions when they know the candidate or, in this case, know how a Regional Police Department will function.

The intent of the planned public meetings is for transparency on the status of discussions and to best ensure citizens know the pros and cons, can voice their opinions, and seek more information or clarification.

The public is encouraged to attend these monthly meetings - all scheduled on Tuesday evenings, once per month, at the HH&L Fire Company banquet hall beginning at 6 p.m. One meeting already was properly advertised and took place on May 21; but, you can still get involved on June 25, July 23, August 20, September 24, and/or October 22.

### Help add to Quality of Life in Pine Grove

Spring and summer means things are growing and townspeople want to get outside and enjoy their neighborhood.

To ensure enjoyment for all, I'd like to remind everyone that it takes all of us to comply with our Borough's regulations requiring property maintenance (inside and out) as outlined in our Quality of Life Ordinance.

## Dawn to Dusk Learning & Child Care Center

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# Message from the Pine Grove Mayor



I know from getting around town, 95% of our residents are taking care of the garbage, grass and weeds. But it seems every summer we have a handful of violators that need QOL tickets to get them doing what is required to be a good neighbor.

Do right for your family and your neighbors by taking care of your property and living area. No one wants a smelly junkyard next door when trying to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air of spring, summer, and fall in Pine Grove.

## Complaints and suggestions wanted

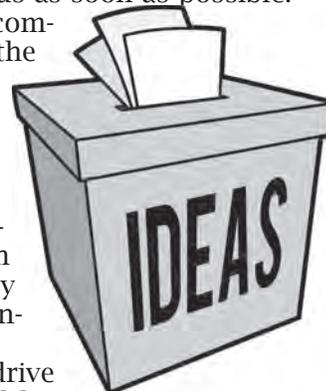
I have said it before in previous newsletters and at borough meetings, if you have a complaint about anything in the Borough, notify us as soon as possible.

Complete and file a complaint form available on the Borough website, call the Borough Office or Police, or send a letter. Please identify yourself and point of contact because all complaints are looked at and appropriate action taken by Borough officials. And, it is also okay to report good things happening in the Borough, as well.

One last thing, please drive carefully and obey the speed limits. We have many people, specifically children and senior citizens, out walking, running and riding bicycles. No one wants to be in a situation in which you were the cause of a serious injury or even worse.

Great things are happening in Pine Grove. I believe we are a friendly and hospitable small town. It's great to see the Little League playing ball again and the Community Pool will have another great season. Get out and enjoy summer!

- Willard Shiffer, Mayor



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# Pinegrove Historical Society Preserves the Past

## *Service Projects Aplenty Can Fuel Helpful Volunteers*

### Restoration Continues at the Stanhope One-Room School

The Stanhope School Restoration Project of the Pinegrove Historical Society has again started work earlier this month with an ambitious list of projects for 2019.

Plans include completion of restoration to the coat room, restoring the school floor, and installation of light fixtures, slate boards, and ceiling insulation-

Stanhope, Mexico, and Camp roads at the village of Stanhope south of Rt. 895 southeast of Pine Grove. Pictures of restoration work so far can be found on Facebook @ *Stanhope School Restoration Project*.

#### *Memories from students and teachers*

Historical documentation from alumni of the Stanhope School or from family survivors will be a



**BEFORE** - This is the condition of the school of five years ago prior to our restoration work.



**AFTER** - Results of much "sweat-equity" and great community volunteer help can be seen at the end of last year's work season.

Site restoration will feature tree removal, and work to the parking lot.

In addition to these projects, foundation stone-work repointing, restoring of the windows, exterior painting, upgrades to the heating system, and landscaping are also needed.

In order to complete this work and move one step closer to a public opening, volunteers are needed to help with the restoration work. Eagle Scout, Gold Award, and school district Senior Projects are available for youth to provide this valuable community service.

The Stanhope one-room school site is located in Pine Grove Township near the intersection of

project coordinated by Savannah Potts-Krammes with the assistance of John Ziegler and Joan Schwer.

Memories from former students, teachers, or their families are of great importance so this piece of history can be captured before it's gone. This information will be compiled and used for programs at the school-house and publications in the future. These memories will be augmented to include what was going on in the world and in the local area during the time the school-house was open from 1876 through 1952.

You can help support the restoration project in one of four ways this summer.

- Restoration Volunteers - Volunteer for an hour, a day, a week, or ongoing when available helping with projects listed above. Contact Linda at [lmillsgso@aol.com](mailto:lmillsgso@aol.com), George at [mrgiorgio@comcast.net](mailto:mrgiorgio@comcast.net), or leave a message at the historical society at 570-345-0157.
- Historical Documentation Information - If you or someone you know is a Stanhope School alumni, teacher, family member or have historical information about the Stanhope School or local area

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[www.pinegroveborough.org](http://www.pinegroveborough.org)

# Historical Society

between 1876 and 1952, contact Linda, Savannah at [SMP130@pitt.edu](mailto:SMP130@pitt.edu), or leave a message at the historical society.

- Pinegrove Tote - Canvas bags spotlighting your town and our area are for sale as a 2019 fundraiser. No, the spelling of Pinegrove (as one word) is not a misprint. Back in the day - this is a historical society, don't you know - is how Pine Grove was spelled. The totes measure 13" w x 10" deep x 15" high and have an inner bottom board to help protect from wear and tear. Contact Linda at [lmillsqso@aol.com](mailto:lmillsqso@aol.com) or go to Century Antiques to purchase at \$10 each. If mailed, shipping and handling is extra.
- Cash Donations - You can also help in numerous ways by writing a check, payable to "Pinegrove Historical Society" and noting "Stanhope School Project" in the memo section. Mail it to the Pinegrove Historical Society, P.O. Box 65, Pine Grove, PA 17963

## Activities coming this fall

A public Restoration-in-Progress Open House to view the project and its progress and a Hoss's Sea & Steakhouse dine-in fundraiser events will be scheduled this fall. Details will be available in the next issue of *The Evergreen* or follow us on Facebook to find the latest information.



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# Memorial Day – More Than Parades and Bar-B-Q

For nearly 150 years, Americans have gathered in late spring to honor the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in service to their country. What began with dozens of informal commemorations of those killed in the Civil War has grown to become one of the nation’s most solemn and hallowed holidays. From its earliest incarnation as “Decoration Day” to its modern-day observances, here are some surprising facts about the history of Memorial Day.

In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Union veterans’ group known as the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the more than 620,000 soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War.

On Decoration Day, as Logan dubbed it, Americans should lay flowers and decorate the graves of the war dead “whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.” According to legend, Logan chose May 30 because it was a rare day that didn’t fall on the anniversary of a Civil War battle, though some historians believe the date was selected to ensure that flowers across the country would be in full bloom.

Although the term Memorial Day was used beginning in the 1880s, the holiday was officially known as

Decoration Day for more than a century, when it was changed by federal law.

Four years later, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 finally went into effect, moving Memorial Day from its traditional observance on May 30 (regardless of the day of the week), to a set day – the last Monday in May.



For almost as long as there’s been a holiday, there’s been a rivalry about who celebrated it first. Boalsburg, Pa., bases its claim on an 1864 gathering of women to mourn those recently killed at Gettysburg. In Carbondale, Illinois, they’re certain that they were first, thanks to an 1866 parade led, in part, by John Logan who two years later would lead the charge for an official holiday. There are even two dueling Columbus challengers (one in Mississippi, the other in Georgia) who have battled it out for Memorial Day supremacy for decades.

Despite the increasing celebration of the holiday as a summer rite of passage, there are some formal rituals still on the books. The American flag should be hung at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day, then raised to the top of the staff. And since 2000, when the U.S. Congress passed legislation, all Americans are encouraged to pause for a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time.