

# THE EVERGREEN

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

Vol. XII, No. 1 - Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF PINE GROVE, PA

February 2020

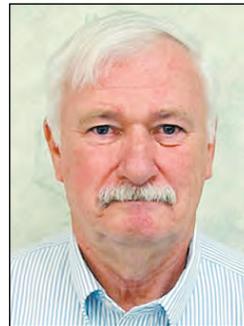
### New Water Wells & Tank, Pool Improvements and So Much More

## State of the Borough is Strong and Ever-Improving

No doubt, residents haven't experienced any significant change with the Borough's water service. Our new water tank is now in operation, doubling Pine Grove's supply capacity by another 1.1 million gallons and ensuring delivery pressure of our high quality water.

Next, the Borough will make repairs to the old water storage tank, including all new internal piping and an access ladder. The tank-to-base seal will be replaced to eliminate leakage. This work will wait only a short time as the contractor will be scheduled to begin work once the weather warms.

The new water wells, located along Berger Road and behind the old PPL plant, have passed their flow tests with impressive quantities of water. One well pump tested at approximately 500 gallons per minute. A second well pump came in at slightly less.



**TOM FICKINGER**  
Council President

Permits will be issued soon to begin use. It is normal procedure to issue those permits at a somewhat lower flow rate.

Contracts for a pipeline along Rt. 443 to connect to the Borough's existing water system will be pursued in the coming months.

### *Getting ready for spring*

The Borough crew has been cleaning storm drains and drain pits in anticipation of spring rains and maintenance needs from winter's debris. Help from residents to clean leaves from street gut-

- Continued on Page 6

### Uphold Democracy - Register to Vote and Then Do It!

## Township Reverses; Says "No!" to Regional Police

*"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."*

- Thomas Jefferson

### *What happened this time?*

As much time and effort has gone into the planning, meetings, studies and analysis to get the Regional Police Force question on the ballot, I have to tell you it just isn't to be.

Pine Grove Borough government - myself and others on Council - really wanted to make this work. A comprehensive study was completed laying out a great plan to implement a Regional Police Department. Based on earlier meetings and consultation with Pine Grove Township supervisors, we thought everything was a "go" to allow voters of the Township and Borough to voice their preference on the upcoming Primary Election ballot.

Let's recap a little history. February a year ago, the Township supervisors could not agree on the wording of the ballot question that the Borough had already considered and approved. When the Supervisors reached agreement, it was too late for the May 2019



**WILL SHIFFER**  
Mayor

Primary so the plan was to put it on the November 2019 General Election ballot.

That didn't happen either. We were not made aware, until too late, that petitions for the ballot question needed to be signed and turned into the Schuylkill County Election Bureau at least 90 days prior to the election.

That brings us to the present, Pine Grove Borough was ready to go with petitions and have them completed and turned in on time. Pine Grove Township, however, revisited the ballot question its Supervisors approved last February, only to rescind that action a month later in March, but never informed the Borough.

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## 2020 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Regular Council Meeting:  
2nd 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..... Len Clark  
Secretary/Treasurer..... Melissa A. Dyer  
Tax Collector..... Sally Burke  
Solicitor ..... Christopher W. Hobbs, Esquire  
Engineer..... Cardno BCM Engineers  
Floodplain Admin. .... Light-Heigel & Assoc.  
EMA Coordinator..... Dave Sattizahn  
Code Enforcement..... Light-Heigel & Assoc.  
Health Officer ..... Lew Moyer

### COUNCIL

Michael Allison • Leroy Bates  
Skip Butler • Leonard Clark • Thomas Fickinger  
Rodney Hiester • Elaine Holley

### POLICE

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

### STREETS & WATER DEPARTMENT

Len Clark, Streets & Water Supervisor  
Jacob Dinger • Robert Kolb  
Earl Kreiser

### BOROUGH OFFICE

Melissa A. Dyer  
Cindy Fenstermacher • Mandy Miller

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE

Thomas Fickinger • Leroy Bates  
Michael Allison

### PERSONNEL

Leroy Bates • Thomas Fickinger  
Michael Allison

### PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Fickinger • Len Clark • Rodney Hiester

### PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Leroy Bates • Skip Butler • Elaine Holley

### FLOOD MITIGATION

Len Clark • Thomas Fickinger • Skip Butler

### COMMUNITY DEV. • PARKS & RECREATION

Len Clark • Leroy Bates • Mike Allison

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Skip Butler • Rodney Hiester • Elaine Holley

### STORM WATER COMMITTEE

Leroy Bates • Len Clark • Tom Fickinger

## Help for Heating Bills

Residents who are struggling with their home heating bills can apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) now through April 10, 2020.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through energy assistance grants.

The program

also provides

crisis

grants to

help in the

event of an

emergency

or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat

due to broken equipment, lack of fuel, or termination

of utility service.

The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are

set at 150% of the federal poverty income level.

For example, the income limit for an individual is

\$18,735; for a couple, the limit is \$25,365; and for a

family of four, it is \$38,625.

Grant hopefuls can apply online through the PA

Department of Health and Human Services COMPASS

website at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us); download the

application to complete and take it to the Schuylkill

County Assistance Office at 2640 Woodglen Road,

Pottsville; or apply at the County Assistance Office.

Call toll-free at 1-877-306-5439 for more information.



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program



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

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

**June 22-26 Tamaqua**

*Lewistown Valley (near Heisler's Dairy)*

**July 6-10 Valley View**

*Valley View Park*

**July 13-17 Pine Grove**

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

**July 20-24 Auburn**

*Christmas Pines Campground*

**July 27- 31 Ashland**

*(Higher Ups Park ~ Near the Pioneer Tunnel)*

*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)

Bring this ad to camp and receive 20 points towards the camp store.  
**1 per camper**

# NEW PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENT

*As part of the law firm of Williamson, Friedberg and Jones' continued expansion, the firm is delighted to announce the appointment of two new partners:*



## Ashley Securda, Esq.

A graduate of Misericordia University, cum laude, and the Widener University School of Law, Attorney Securda joined the firm in 2016.

A lifelong member of the community, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John "Bucky" Rogers, Mahanoy City. She resides in Minersville with her husband, Leo A. Securda, and their two daughters, Raegen and Kennedy. Attorney Securda practices primarily in:

Elder Law (Estate Planning, Medicaid Planning  
Asset Protection, Estate Administration  
Wills & Trusts, Guardianships)  
Municipal Law | Civil Litigation  
Real Estate | Debt Collection  
Worker's Compensation | Personal Injury  
Social Security Disability



## Douglas Taglieri, Esq.

A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Baltimore School of Law, Attorney Taglieri joined the firm in 2014.

He is a former Assistant District Attorney and has tried over 25 criminal jury trials to verdict and has argued appeals before both the Superior Court and Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Minersville, Attorney Taglieri still resides in his hometown and is active in his community. He is the son of Joseph and Patrice Taglieri and just welcomed his first child, daughter, Emmalina Joy Taglieri. Attorney Taglieri practices primarily in:

Criminal Defense  
(DUI - Driving Under the Influence,  
Drug Delivery, and Manufacturing, Theft, Assault,  
Burglary, Robbery, and Criminal Homicide)



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# Message from the Pine Grove Mayor

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This January, the Township decided it is no longer interested in forming a Regional Police Force. After several years working on this and believing we were making progress to, at least, allow citizens to have their say at the ballot box, I advised our Borough Council the Regional Police Force is not going to work.

If the Township can't agree on the ballot question, how could we ever go into an agreement to form a commission and conduct a joint police department?

This all got started more than two years ago when the Township approached the Borough about forming a joint force. I fully believed the Township was "on board" to, at least, get this on the ballot, allowing its citizens to determine if they wanted it or not.

I still believe the consolidation or expansion to provide regional police protection is a good thing for communities. Due to limited resources, the State Police are not able to provide the service we need. This is why the governor endorses the forming of regional police.

And, again in his budget for this year, the Governor is proposing a fee/tax on residents of all



municipalities depending upon how much they rely on the State Police even when providing their own police protection. Regional departments do work well in many areas across our state. It could have worked here, too.

## Elections and voting

Some of you may have been following the recent developments in the world of politics - from local representatives to our President. As citizens, voting is probably the most important thing you can do to have your voice heard and for you to influence how our system of government works.

For all who are eligible, I urge you to get registered and then to turn out and vote in the upcoming Primary Election on April 28 and General Election on November 3.

To vote in the primary, you need to be registered with a chosen political party affiliation. If not currently registered, you need to do this at least 15 days prior to the election - by April 13 for the Primary. If you miss this date or if you don't want to choose a party affiliation, then the registration deadline for the General Election is October 19.

You can register online at [www.pavoterservices.com](http://www.pavoterservices.com).

## Newsletter Particulars

"The Evergreen" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Pine Grove distributed to 1500 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 May 22, August 28, and November 20

## 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.

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pa.gov, at the Schuylkill County Election Bureau, or complete and mail a completed registration application. This form is available at the Pine Grove Borough Office.

That's just the first step. The next - and most important - is actually voting. To accommodate most people, voting locations are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. every Election Day.

If you know you will not be able to cast your vote in person, you can still vote with an absentee or mail-in ballot. Absentee ballots are typically used by deployed military personnel, people with disabilities, college students, and those away on a planned vacation. The mail-in ballot can be used for any reason. Make sure you get your absentee and mail-in ballots sent before Election Day.

### Remembering my first time to vote

The eligible voting age was reduced from age 21 to age 18 - the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - back in 1971. I graduated from high school that year and enlisted in the Marine Corps that summer.

The following year, I was part of an expeditionary force on the USS Denver, one of many troop carrying ships of the Navy off the coast of Vietnam.

One day our Lieutenant asked if anyone was interested in voting. He had registration forms in hand that he explained and distributed. I recalled conversations I've had from my high school days about how unfair it was that young men could be drafted and sent to war, but weren't able to vote due to age.

I filled out the voter registration form and requested an absentee ballot. I was not overly politically motivated at the time, and never thought much about the registration I had sent from the USS Denver. Several weeks later, I received the absentee ballot through the mail and voted for the first time when I was 18 in that presidential election year.

I've voted in every Presidential election since and only missed a couple non-presidential years. Do your part, get involved, vote the candidates of your choice and help make a difference.

Historical data from previous elections show that around 60% of eligible voters turn out to vote. That means, for most presidential elections, only about 30% of eligible voters choose the winner.

County and local municipal elections took place last November. Elections this year will be for US Congress, state House Representatives and President of the United States.



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# State of the Borough . . . by Tom Fickinger

- Continued from Page 1

ters and other areas is appreciated and will help avoid problems from storms.

Dog walkers, be advised that under Borough code 67-67-9 all dog waste must be cleaned up after deposit by your dog. Please respect other property owners and do your part for the sanitation and health of your community.

## Improvements at the pool



The Recreation Committee is in preparation for another great summer swim season at the Pine Grove Community Pool. Work on a new water pump and filter system is underway. Grant applications, if successful, will help finance this effort.

Boy Scout Logan Zimmerman is creating a new seating area adjacent to the Snack Shack as a community project in quest of his Eagle Award. More information will be available in the near future.

Looking for a summer job working at the pool? Applications are now being taken at Borough Hall for all Snack Shack and lifeguard positions. Anyone 15 years old or older is eligible. Current certifications are required to be a lifeguard.

With spring certainly on its way, the Borough encourages all residents to think "Spring Cleanup" by making their property enjoyable for outdoor activities and the beauty of new growth. Now is the time to put things in order, remove trash, and clean up yard waste.

The Borough hasn't forgotten its planned development of the Pleasant Valley Recreation Park. Discussions are underway to find funds for the initial work. Certainly subject to changes, residents can view the Master Site Plans created a number of years ago on the Borough's website [www.pinegroveborough.org](http://www.pinegroveborough.org).

## Flood control work is still ongoing

The Swatara Creek Flood Control Project is underway and approximately 40 per cent complete at this time.



When completed, this project will divert high floodwater flow to a lowered wetland area behind the Guilford Mills Penn Dye & Finishing complex, off North Tulpehocken St.

The flow will enter a secondary flow path near the ballfield at the North End Fire Company and flow

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- 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 [pgborough@comcast.net](mailto:pgborough@comcast.net)

# State of the Borough . . . by Tom Fickinger

around the wetland area. Eventually, as the creek subsides, the retainage will flow back into the creek behind Werner's Hardware store.

Work on the project has been efficiently developed, allowing for additional work to the eastern branch of Swatara Creek behind the trailer plants.

Plans are underway to remove the center support of the old railroad bridge. During high water events, this support becomes a collection point for debris, thus contributing to water backup.

The old bridge will be preserved to allow access for a walking trail beginning from behind the ambulance building and connecting to the Sweet Arrow Lake County Park walking trail at the junction of Berger Road and Route 443.

## ***Borough to sell Armory building***

The Borough purchased the Pine Grove Armory building at 143 South Tulpehocken St. a number of years ago at the request of several community service organizations. The hopes and desires were to convert and utilize the facility as a Community Center.

There has been no movement with these plans to date. The Borough is now exploring the sale of the property. The 10,680 square foot building sets on a 0.35 acre lot. A commercial realtor has been contacted to evaluate and prepare a proposal for sale. More information will be presented as it develops.

Currently vacant, the building was constructed,



circa 1908, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Pine Grove Historic District. It was formerly occupied by members of D Company, 228th Brigade Support Battalion, prior to their move to the Hershey Readiness Center.

## ***Police cruiser to be replaced***

The Pine Grove Police Department's oldest vehicle has reached the stage that it will no longer pass PA Vehicle Inspection. The Borough has authorized the purchase of a new police pick-up under its Commonwealth supply contract.

The truck cost is the same as a sedan police vehicle. Police Chief Thomas Trotter requested the truck for its more flexible use.

- Tom Fickinger, Borough Council President

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Fri. & Sat. - 10 am - 5 pm



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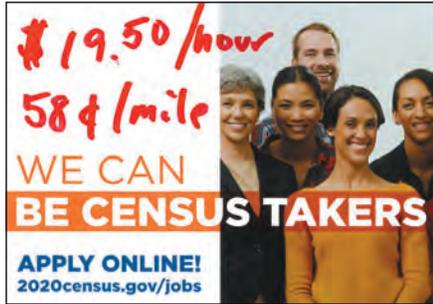
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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Be a local census worker

The U.S. Constitution mandates that the federal government conduct a census every 10 years to determine how to distribute representation and funding to the states. This year is it!

Census forms will be available on the Internet and by mail. To ensure that as many people as possible are counted, the U.S. Census Bureau is seeking local people to work as Census Takers. As the graphic above suggests, information can be found and applications submitted online.



## Community Band concert dates

The Pine Grove Community Band has scheduled the following engagements for 2020. More may be added and announced at a later time.

- A concert will be held at the Swatara Village Retirement Community on Tuesday, May 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- The band will march in the Pine Grove Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 25 and perform in concert later that day.

- On Tuesday, June 9, enjoy a concert to be held outdoors at Providence Place Retirement Community beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- It wouldn't be Independence Day at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park without the patriotic sounds from the Pine Grove Community Band. Enjoy the concert beginning at 6 p.m.
- On Saturday, July 25, the band will perform at Union Canal Park, beginning at 6 p.m.
- The Community Band will march in the Pine Grove Holiday Classic Parade, scheduled this year on Saturday, Oct. 17.

New band members are always welcome. Plan to attend a rehearsal and find out more. Rehearsals begin April 14 at 7 p.m. in the Band Hall located at 312 South Tulpehocken St.

## Summer work at the Community Pool

Pine Grove Borough is taking applications for all positions - pool manager, lifeguards, concession stand workers, and water safety instructors - to work at the Community Pool this summer. Details and an online application can be found on the Borough website: [www.pinegrove-borough.org](http://www.pinegrove-borough.org). Click on the link "Pine Grove Community Pool."



Applications may also be obtained at the Pine Grove Borough Municipal Building, One Snyder Avenue, Pine Grove, PA 17963 during office hours.

Hurry, the deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 28.

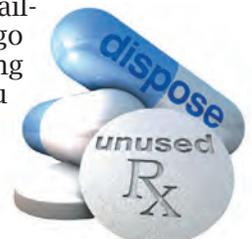
## Borough Office holidays

Pine Grove Borough offices and operations will be closed in observance of the following holidays in 2020: Friday, April 10 (Good Friday); Monday, April 13 (Easter, observed); Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day); Friday, July 3 (Independence Day, observed); Monday, Sept. 7 (Labor Day); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27 (Thanksgiving); Thursday (half day) and Friday, Dec. 24-25 (Christmas); and Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 (New Years Day).

## Dispose of unused/outdated drugs

Each year the Pine Grove Police Department coordinates the local DEA Drug Take-Back Program. This service provides for the safe and secure disposal of expired and unused prescription drugs commonly found stored in area households. To protect our landfills and waterways, drugs should not be thrown away with your household trash nor by toilet flushing.

This drop-off service is now available on a continual basis. Simply go to Pine Grove Borough Hall during regular office hours - Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A safe and secure Red Box depository is available for your use. The drugs will be properly disposed of



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

during the Drug Take-Back Program. Contact the Pine Grove Police Department at the non-emergency number of 570-345-8100 with any questions or concerns.

## Clear snow at fire hydrants

A reminder to residents ... during the remaining snowy winter weeks, please clear snow away from any fire hydrants near your home. The Borough crews are out clearing the streets and battling to keep water, sewer, and drainage moving. In the event of a fire emergency, you want the firefighters to be able to have quick access to their source of water. Help them out before the emergency occurs.



## Snow emergencies

When an official Snow Emergency is called in Pine Grove Borough, vehicles parked on streets designated as Snow Emergency Routes must be moved to allow for efficient and effective snow removal. Streets affected are East and West Mill, East Pottsville, Wood, North and South Tulpehocken, Orchard, and Snyder Avenue. Parking is available in the lot behind Borough Hall.

All residents should clear sidewalks and the area around fire hydrants.

## Spring cleanup in the Borough

As we move from winter to spring, homeowners will feel the urge to venture outside and begin the renewal of promising growth and greening of their property ... maybe even start planning this year's flower and vegetable gardens.

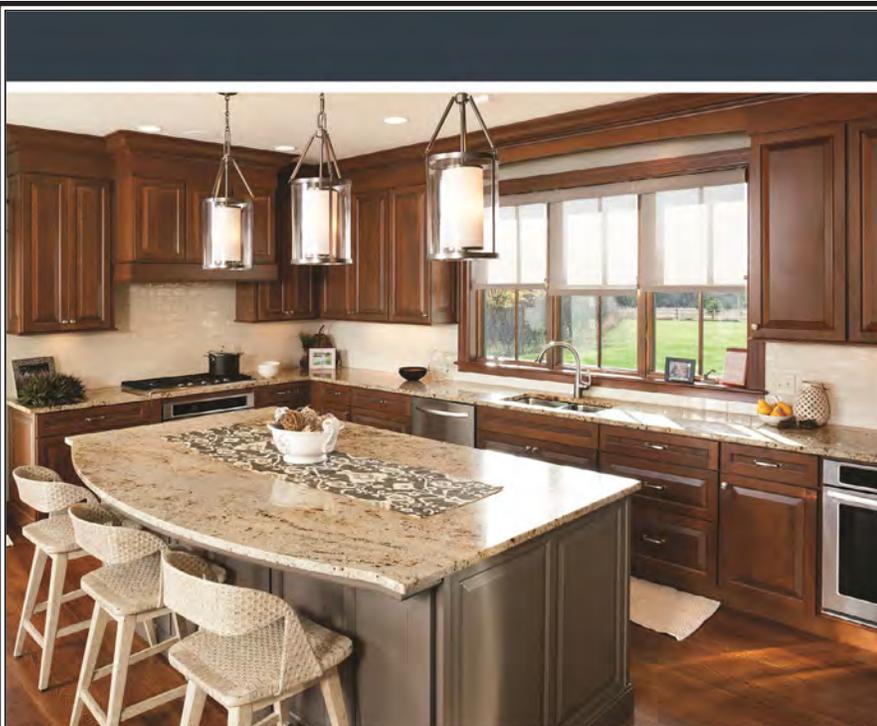
Pine Grove Borough has already planned its spring cleanup of winter's dirt and grime. Residents and motorists should be on the lookout for these scheduled activities by its streets crew.

Street sweeping and storm drain pit cleaning will take place in the April and May time period. Street sweeper notices will be posted 24 hours in advance as each section is cleaned. Move your vehicles so the street sweeper can be efficient and do an effective job.

Hydrant flushing will be conducted during May and June. Hydrant flushing allows the Borough to flush its fresh water system. Property owners may experience times of low water pressure and discolored water. Simply let your tap water run a few minutes until it becomes clear. Flushing also allows the Borough to monitor and maintain fire hydrants throughout the system.

Line painting of crosswalks and curb painting, where needed, will take place during May and June.

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REALIZE THE DREAM.



29 S Tulpehocken St  
Pine Grove, PA 17963  
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## NEW HOURS:

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



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 9

Pedestrians are asked to cross streets at the crosswalks. Motorists are reminded it is state law to stop to allow pedestrians to cross the street when they present themselves in the designated crosswalk.

Curb painting is an important reminder to motorists when parking near an intersection. The yellow painted curbs indicate a "no parking" area to allow other motorists and pedestrians a safe view when attempting to cross an intersection.

## 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.

## Get your compost site permits

Those sunny and warmer spring days are sure to come. Property owners will begin clearing the remnants of fall and winter yard debris and will want to dispose of this vegetation at the Borough's compost site located behind the municipal garage.

Permits for 2020 are now available for purchase at the Pine Grove Municipal Building, 1 Snyder Ave. Permits are for Borough residents only at an annual cost of \$20.

The compost site only accepts organic materials and yard waste - leaves, grass clippings, and other yard vegetation. The site operates from March through the fall season on Tuesdays and Saturdays. An attendant will direct you where to place your vegetation waste.

## "SHUN" Property Maintenance



Inspira "SHUN"  
Inclina "SHUN"  
Dedica "SHUN"  
Perspira "SHUN"

## Think spring ... and summer!

The Pine Grove Bicentennial Committee is looking forward to a beautiful spring season at Union Canal Veteran's 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, which 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.

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Water bill payments

Quarterly water bill payments were due February 5. Additional payment due dates in 2020 are May 5, August 5, and October 5. After these dates, a late fee will be assessed.

## Pay by credit/debit

The Pine Grove Borough office now 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.

## Spring and summer ash collection

Following the winter heating season, curbside ash collection will change back from two to only one day per week for the spring, summer, and early fall seasons. Residents are reminded that ash tubs must have handles and be free of sharp edges.

## Suggestion/complaint forms

Do you see a problem in the Borough that needs to be corrected? Or, maybe you have a suggestion to save money, provide better services, or a solution to one of those problems. The Borough has created a "Suggestion/Complaint" form and procedure to make it easier for residents to alert us and for Borough services to receive, review, and possibly implement suggestions.

A form can be downloaded from the Borough website or get one at Borough Hall. Once completed,

it will be time-stamped, dated, and passed on to the appropriate committee for consideration or action. In this way we hope to address these concerns and ideas in the most efficient way.

## 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.

## 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 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.

- Continued on Page 12



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# Why Do We Celebrate Presidents Day?

Presidents Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February – this year on February 17.

Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers.

While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

The story of Presidents Day's date begins in 1800. Following the death of George Washington in 1799, his February 22 birthday became a perennial day of remembrance. At the time, Washington was venerated as the most important figure in American history. Events like the 1832 centennial of his birth and the start of construction of the Washington Monument in 1848 were cause for national celebration.

While Washington's Birthday was an unofficial observance for most of the 1800s, it was not until the late 1870s that it became a federal holiday. Senator Steven Wallace Dorsey of Arkansas was the first to propose the measure, and in 1879 President Rutherford B. Hayes signed it into law.

The holiday initially only applied to the District of Columbia, but in 1885 it was expanded to the



whole country. At the time, Washington's Birthday joined four other nationally recognized federal bank holidays—Christmas Day, New Year's Day, the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving — and was the first to celebrate the life of an individual American. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, signed into law in 1983, was the second.

## Uniform Monday Holiday Act

The shift from Washington's Birthday to Presidents Day began in the late 1960s, when Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

The proposed change was seen by many as a novel way to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers, and it was believed that ensuring holidays always fell on the same weekday would reduce employee absenteeism.

The main piece of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act passed in 1968 and officially took effect in 1971 following an executive order from President Richard M. Nixon. Washington's Birthday was then shifted from the fixed date of February 22 to the third Monday of February. Columbus Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day were also moved from their traditionally designated dates. Widespread criticism, however, returned Veterans' Day back to its original November 11 date in 1980.

## Did you know?

President's Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American president. Four chief executives—George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan—were born in February, but their birthdays all come either too early or late to coincide with Presidents Day, which is always celebrated on the third Monday of the month.

# Borough Services Update

- Continued from Page 11

## 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.



## Joint Treatment Authority

The Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority sewage treatment plant is at 235 Suedberg Road. The Administrative Office is at 115 Mifflin St., Pine Grove.

Customers having questions about rates, billing, and the requirement for metering should contact the Administrative Office in person or call 570-345-6433. Information can also be found online at [www.pinegrovejta.com](http://www.pinegrovejta.com).

## Pine Grove Borough Info



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# State Senator David G. Argall

## Census 2020 – Stand Up and Be Counted!

With 2020 just getting underway, people across the country will soon mobilize to undertake a monumental task – counting all the people in the country.

Every 10 years, the U.S. Constitution mandates that the federal government conduct a census to determine how to distribute representation and funding to the states. As you could imagine, this is a very daunting task. We need YOUR help to make sure that we are as accurate as possible in 2020. Undercounting can have huge impacts on our state, especially since the census takes place only once a decade.



**Senator  
David Argall**

I recently held a hearing with census experts to learn more about how the process works and determine what still needs to be done to get the most accurate count possible. Specific emphasis was placed on how to ensure every citizen is counted in rural areas that typically have the lowest response rates.

The U.S. Census is vital to the health of the Commonwealth for a variety of reasons. The most impactful of these is the distribution of funding. The Census determines how \$675 billion a year in federal funding is distributed among the 50 states. For every person that is not counted, Pennsylvania will lose approximately \$2,100 a year in funding over the next decade. This funding supports many types of government services, such as infrastructure upkeep, health programs, social services and education.

This information is also used to redraw district lines to determine representation in all levels of government, from Congress to local school districts. Pennsylvania lost one of its members in the U.S. House of Representatives back in 2010, and this could easily happen again this time around. Losing representation means fewer people in Washington looking out for our state-specific interests.

### Several ways to get counted

There are new options this year for how to fill

out the required form that should make the process easier for residents. The U.S. Census Bureau is rolling out a new online form that can be easily accessed on their website next year beginning in March.

If you do not have reliable access to the internet or do not feel comfortable filling out the form online, you can choose to have the form mailed to your house or to call the Census Bureau and submit your information over the phone. If you do not respond by any of these three methods, a representative from the Census Bureau will visit your residence to assist you with filling out the form.

It's important to remember during this process that all representatives of the Census Bureau go through extensive training and are legally bound to handle all the data they collect confidentially. Violating this confidentiality can result in a prison sentence, a fine, or both.

It is very important that every resident is counted once and only once. Your participation helps our state receive the proper funding and resources that we need. Census Day is April 1st, 2020, but the online form will be available starting in March of 2020. If you have questions or concerns about the process, contact my office or consult the Census Bureau website.

To learn more, you may wish to get my weekly e-newsletter. Visit the following link and subscribe: <https://www.senatorargall.com/e-news/>.



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# Historical Society Preserves the Past

## 2020 Stanhope “One-Room School” Restoration Update

The Pinegrove Historical Society kicked off its 2020 activities at the Schuylkill County History Fair held once again at the Fairlane Village Mall in early February. The society’s ongoing restoration of the Stanhope School was a focal point of its display, sharing its story, progress, and generating interest in the project.



Reconstruction work at the Stanhope School – located in Pine Grove Township at the intersection of Mexico, Stanhope, and Camp roads – will continue as the weather allows.

The 2020 goal is to restore the floor, insulate the ceiling, repair sections of the exterior and work on the parking area. Volunteers of all ages who are interested in short-term or longer-term projects are needed. Contact Linda at [lmillsgso@aol.com](mailto:lmillsgso@aol.com) or leave a message at the Pinegrove Historical Society (570-345-0157) to volunteer.

### Many ways to support this project

Pinegrove totebags are still available. Contact Linda by email at [lmillsgso@aol.com](mailto:lmillsgso@aol.com).

Donations of time, materials and skills are much appreciated. Funding for the work comes from many sources. Plan to dine out at Hoss’s Steak & Sea House near the Cressona Mall on Sat., April 25 with a portion of your bill going to support the Stanhope School. A special coupon for the event is necessary.

An online fundraising event – Schuylkill Gives – is scheduled for Thursday, May 14. Also online, a purchase from Rada Cutlery with a portion of the charge



going to Stanhope is ongoing. Be sure to indicate this project.

And, of course, straight donations of money are always appreciated. Make checks payable to Pinegrove Historical Society and note “Stanhope School” in the memo and mail to Pinegrove Historical Society, PO Box 65, Pine Grove 17963.

### Education, a historical observation

*The following comes from “The Story of America’s One Room School Houses” originally published in Appalachian Magazine.*

Many students today attend multi-million dollar facilities, complete with full handicap accessibility, athletic fields with lights, computer labs and state of the art security systems. In addition to the buildings, there are an army of educators, support staff, administration and resource officers.

In the early days, schoolhouses had only a single teacher instructing all students in all grades. The countryside of America was peppered with rectangular shaped buildings that served as the shared school for local children of all ages. In an era when meeting buildings were at a minimum, these structures often doubled as the Sunday morning local chapel and Saturday evening community meeting centers.

Most buildings were of simple frame construction, some with the school bell on a cupola. In the Midwest, sod construction was also used, as well as stone and adobe in areas like the Southwest where trees were scarce. In some locations, the schoolhouse was painted red, but most seem to have been white or left in their natural brick.

Life in the rural one-room schools was hard and water would often have to be carried by the teacher or students from a neighbor, nearby creek, or snow would be melted in the winter.

At the centerpiece of most of these schools was a large potbelly stove which kept the students warm during the coldest of winter days. Younger students and girls were often given a seat closest to the fire while older boys would sit along the edges of the room.

If the teacher was a married man, communities would often attach a living area onto the schoolhouse for the teacher’s family to reside. The wives and children of teachers became an integral part of the school experience. When young and unmarried women were hired to teach, they were often boarded with local families and required to adhere to strict personal behavior and dress standards.

A typical school day was 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with morning and afternoon recesses of 15 minutes each and an hour period for lunch. The older students were given the responsibility of bringing in water and carrying in coal or wood for the stove.

The younger students would be given responsibilities according to their size and gender such as cleaning the blackboard, taking the erasers outside for dusting, plus other duties they were capable of doing.



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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 loudspeaker, and word of mouth to accomplish this task.

Pine Grove Borough has contracted with Swiftreach Networks, Inc. to contact our customers and resi-

dents. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



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