

DANVILLE BOROUGH NEWSLETTER



January 2017 / Issue 12

COUNCIL PRESIDENT RICHARDSON'S YEAR IN REVIEW

As 2016 draws to a close, it is once again time to pause and look back at some of the highlights of what Danville Borough Council and the Borough's dedicated staff members have accomplished over the past year. As usual, it has been a busy one here in the borough and a great many things have been going on to help make Danville a terrific place to live, work, and play.

To begin with, in keeping with our ongoing efforts to communicate with the people of Danville in the most effective ways possible, we have been working with a Danville Area High School co-op student, Gabrielle Ritter, to launch the official borough Facebook page. This will allow us a fast, effective, and flexible way to get information to all of you in as efficient a manner as possible, as well as making direct communication with us easier. Danville Borough's facebook page is live and ready to view on Facebook. Get online and give us a like!

2016 in Danville seems to have been the year of infrastructure improvements, as various projects were started, completed, or approved to finally get underway. Among these projects was the very important one of levee improvements needed for FEMA certification. The engineering for this is currently underway, and will be looking at ways to raise parts of the levee approximately three inches in order to meet FEMA's minimum freeboard requirement. We are currently working with the engineers to determine what other improvements are necessary to meet FEMA requirements. These changes will bring the levee into compliance and allow for certification.

Another much-needed and long-awaited infrastructure project approved in 2016 was the improvements needed on the pedestrian bridge over Mahoning Creek. To be paid for as a 2016 CDBG project, the project includes concrete deck epoxy overlay, replace bearing pads, paint exposed rebar, install transition plate and scubber grate, replace expansion joint material, and caulk joints. The work on this footbridge, which serves a fair number of residents' foot traffic and which will play an important part as MARC plans to expand the borough trail system, will make this unique Danville landmark safe and functional for years to come.

In 2016, we also started looking into converting our current street lights to LED bulbs. The borough owns street lights throughout town, including along Mill Street, Continental Boulevard, West Front Street, Water Street, East Market Street, East Mahoning Street, West Mahoning Street, in Parking Lot #1, and the Ferry Street lots. Most recently, we worked with The Sustainable Energy Fund to determine viability of retrofitting all of these with LED fixtures. Two LED bulbs were put into the street lights next to Continental Boulevard and Canal Streets as an experiment, and the resulting illumination was so much brighter, brilliant, and clear, that council just recently opted to have the LED bulbs put into all the borough's lights. Funding for this replacement was included in the 2017 budget.

We have also been starting the process to comply with the national Department of Environmental Protection's MS4 storm water program as required by September 2017. This involves developing a system whereby runoff from rain is collected and purified before being returned to rivers and streams. What this means in nuts-and-bolts terms is filing a permit, doing pollutant reduction plans, implementing best management practices for storm water management, and ultimately creating a process to properly deal with gallons and gallons of runoff that follows every storm. DEP is requiring the Borough, Mahoning Township, Valley Township, and Cooper Township to take part in this program because we are now included in an Urbanized Area according to the Census.

Finally, in 2016 we have been awarded a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant for the Montour Street bridge project to include replacement of concrete deck, barriers, and sidewalk. The bridge was inspected by LDG in 2015, and the resulting report called out high-priority deficiencies in the deck, parapets, and sidewalk. The 42-year-old superstructure is reaching the end of its useful life. The Montour Street Bridge deck has been spalling in many places, with exposed rebar, while the deck also has several cracks and areas of ponding. The parapets exhibited shrinkage, scaling, hairline cracks, and random spalls, while the sidewalk has an eight foot long area of deterioration near the end with exposed rebar. There is also major spalling with exposed rebar at corners and joints. There are full-width traverse cracks at the bituminous approaches, and 1" of settlement at the corners. This bridge is going to be seeing a very significant increase in traffic load when Geisinger fully staffs the offices at the convent which will drastically increase the speed at which the structure continues to deteriorate. More traffic leads to larger cracks and spalls, which leads to more water leaking into the structure, which weakens the bridge's structural integrity. So, bottom line is this is a bridge in need of repair, especially due to the increased traffic it will soon manage, and it needs to be rebuilt.

All of these projects, whether willingly undertaken or foisted upon us by the Federal government, are all note-worthy and important, but as is always the case, a great place to live is not just because of well-paved streets. In 2016, we continued the trend of attracting new businesses to town, making our downtown area a thriving place for businesses. In this past year, we have seen Valley Ski and Bike Shop, Chez LeDuc Salon, Joe and Jan's Bus Rentals, Stratus Vapor Shop, and Reflex Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

Economic excellence, such as a thriving business district like ours, is always something to be proud of. However, we always want more than that for Danville, and so it was in 2016 that we completed the LERTA ordinance. What this is, via three different resolutions passed by the Borough, the Danville Area School Board, and Montour County, is a way to make starting or transferring commercial or residential properties to town more lucrative and attractive. This is done by offering new development and redevelopment projects a seven year sliding tax increment scale, which in turn allows them to get well-grounded in town before they have to bear the full tax burden for the property. It is our hope that as we use our web page to more aggressively advertise our M-1 industrial area, working together with DRIVE, that the LERTA ordinance will be a key tool in attracting industries back to town.

The concept behind LERTA is to entice people to invest in Danville, which is why the construction and official opening this year of the new Buttonwood Rentals apartment units is such an exciting development. After having started construction earlier this year, we now have three new apartment buildings set to open over the next several months. Last month the first building, address 1 Co-Op Court, with 12 units, opened, while 2 Co-Op Court with another 12 units will open in February and 3 Co-Op Court, with the final 12 units, will open in May. The entrance to the buildings is directly off of Wall Street, near the intersection with Market Street.

There are any number of additional smaller accomplishments we could note -- one of which being our second annual Community Cookout, in which your Councilmen prepared hot dogs during the Heritage Festival, giving residents a chance to chat about issues -- but I wanted to end the 2016 year in review by noting a real feather in our cap. In March, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) held their annual Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence, where it was announced Danville Borough, together with our engineers at Larson Design Group, had won their prestigious Diamond Award. The Dike Closure Structure project received the Diamond Award from the ACEC/PA in the Water Resources category. Larson Design Group designed the Dike Closure Structure along Mahoning Creek at the intersection of Routes 54 and 11, and obtained a PA H2O grant on behalf of the borough to complete the project. Our Borough Manager, Shannon Berkey, together with Administrator of Governmental Affairs Jamie Shrawder, and Councilman Dr. Ed A'Zary, attended the awards gala to receive the award.

These are some of the primary things we have been up to in 2016. This year has been a busy one in Danville, but one that has seen what I believe will be the beginning of many things for the borough that will develop in the coming year. I hope you have personally had as excellent a 2016 as possible, and may 2017 find you happy, healthy, and well.

Scott Richardson
Council President

MEET YOUR COUNCILMEN

In this edition of our newsletter we wanted to introduce you to your councilmen. These gentlemen serve as your points of contact for Borough related concerns, issues, and maybe even some compliments.

<p>Dr. Ed A'Zary – 4th Ward, Finance/Streets/Parks & Recreation/EMA/Flood Committees Ed has been on Borough Council since 2014. He is a part-time Laboratory Director for eLab Solution out of Atlanta, Georgia, and part-time Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Bloomsburg University. Ed is a member of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry and the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. He has co-authored 17 publications in his field. He is a member of the Philadelphia Analytical Toxicology Forum, serving as President for one year and secretary for three years. He is also a member of the Northeast Association of Forensic Scientists.</p>	
<p>Kevin Herritt – 4th Ward Property/Parks & Recreation/EMA Committees, Montour Area Recreation Commission, and Montour County Council of Governments. Kevin has been active in the Danville community over the years coaching T-Railers Football, Little League Baseball and as a Little League umpire for the Danville Little League. Often this year you'll find him supporting his son Daniel as he completes his senior seasons in football and track.</p>	
<p>Scott Richardson – 3rd Ward, President, ex-officio member of all Committees Scott has served on Danville Borough Council since 2010, serving as President since 2013. He came to council with three major goals in mind; goals he continues to work towards now that he's president: First, attracting industries to our industrial area so we once again have quality manufacturing jobs in town. Second, work to make downtown Danville a destination for entertainment, shopping, and the arts. Third, to beautify the borough, primarily through trees being planted along our streets. Scott has lived in Danville since 1992 with his wife Anna and four daughters, Dana, Devon, Bailey, and Antonia, and though not native-born, he is proud to call Danville his hometown.</p>	
<p>William R. Rogers III – 2nd Ward, Vice President, Water/Sewer/Codes/Police/Streets/Safety/Flood Committees Bill was born and raised in Danville and graduated from Danville High School in 1966. He was an active firefighter in the 1970s. He spent four years in the Navy and is a Vietnam veteran. He is a retired engineering field supervisor for FM Global. Bill was a Boy Scout Assistant Scout Master for six years, and also President of a Board of Directors for a four years at a credit union. Bill was a Building Inspector/Zoning Officer from 1980-1985 and Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board from 1986 through the early 1990s. This is his third term as a Borough councilman and he services as Vice President.</p>	
<p>John Rodman – 1st Ward, Finance/Property/Codes/Personnel Committees John attended the University of Pennsylvania and Boston University School of Law. His practice concentrations are corporate business reorganizations and real estate development. He is a member of the Danville Business Alliance Board of Directors. He has been married to Pamela for 40 years and has two adult children.</p>	
<p>Max VonBlohn – 2nd Ward, Water/Sewer/Police/Safety/Flood Committees Max moved to the Borough in 1977. He has served on Borough Council for the past nine years. Max worked for TRW for 32 years and Textron for 10 years, retiring in 1993. He has served the Washington Fire & Hose Company for 56 active years and is a social member of the Continental Fire Company. Max is a lifetime member of the Moose and the American Legion. He has been married to Dorothy for 64 years, and has four children and nine grandchildren.</p>	
<p>Wes Walters – 1st Ward, Finance/Water/Sewer/Personnel/Safety Parks & Recreation Committees</p>	
<p>Tom Wickham – 3rd Ward, Property/Codes/1st Time Homebuyers/Personnel/Streets/EMA Committees Tom is married with three children. He is a physician assistant at a United States Penitentiary. He worked at Geisinger for 22 years.</p>	

Happy New Year!

The staff of Danville Borough wishes you and yours a very happy, healthy and prosperous year in 2017!

BOROUGH STAFF DIRECTORY

Donna Murphy	Receptionist	dmurphy@danvilleboro.org	(570)275-3091, 0
Shannon Berkey	Borough Manager	sberkey@danvilleboro.org	(570)275-3091, 4
Brindy Feese	Finance Director	bfeese@danvilleboro.org	(570)275-3091, 2
Jamie Shrawder	Director of Governmental Affairs	jshrawder@danvilleboro.org	(570)275-3091, 3
Jackie Hart	Director of Code & Building Development	jhart@danvilleboro.org	(570)275-3091, 1
Bill Brady	Code Officer	bbrady@danvilleboro.org	(570)275-3091, 5
Eric Gill	Police Chief	danvilleboropd@netscape.net	(570)275-2101
John Hack	Street Superintendent		(570)275-4600
Brad Horne	Water Superintendent	danwater@ptd.net	(570)275-1070
Jane Graham	Sewer Superintendent	jgraham@danvilleboro.org	(570)275-2731
Scott Smith	Health Officer	smithscottalan@gmail.com	(570)275-3992
Richard Blosky	Emergency Management Coordinator	dblosky@ptd.net	(570)275-4002
John Moyer	Fire Chief	n3xjz@verizon.net	(570)271-1689
Lisa Strausser	Tax Collector		(570)271-0409

If you would like to continue to receive a copy of the Danville Borough Newsletter via regular postal mail, please contact Jamie Shrawder, Director of Governmental Affairs at (570)275-3091 ext. 3. You can also sign up to receive the newsletter via email on our website at www.danvilleboro.org. It will also be available to read on our website. Follow us on Facebook!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Art of the Body and On the Body – January 13th, 2017 through March 25th, 2017

"What is the body? That shadow of a shadow of your love that somehow contains the entire universe." – Rumi

The Danville Arts Council invites area artists to explore their bodies - by creating art of the body or even on it. We welcome pieces 2D and 3D dealing with the human form or pieces depicting art ON the human form - tattoos, piercings, make-up art, whatever you can conjure. Art drop-off will be Monday, January 9, 5 pm - 7 pm @ the Art Mill. Opening reception on January 21 from 6pm-8pm.

The Artmill (212 Mill Street, Danville, PA) – www.danvilleartscouncil.org – 570.284.4502

4th Annual Destination Blues Music Festival – February 17th, 2017 through February 19th, 2017

Attracting people from far and wide, the annual Destination Blues Music Festival takes place in Columbia and Montour Counties, featuring acts ranging from solo acoustic performers to electric bands to a full Gospel choir. Most of the performances take place in family-friendly restaurants and bars with no cover charges; attendees enjoy the best of our area's food and drink – think brewpubs - in addition to the music.

Various Locations around Columbia and Montour Counties - www.destinationblues.org – 570-317-2596

Humdinger Trail Races – Saturday, March 4th, 2017 @ 10:00 AM

The Humdinger Trail Races are designed to test your early season stamina while shaking off the cabin fever. What could be more fun than racing through snowy and muddy central PA fields and forests with 300 or so costumed friends and family? Whether you're up for roughly 5, 7 or 12 miles of early March trail running and you're in it to win it or just have fun with your family and friends, we have a 'Dinger for you!

The 'Pig Barn' (State Hospital Dr., Danville, PA) – <http://www.rivertownrace.com/humdinger/>– 570.271.1055, See website for registration cost and details.

DCDC Play Group – Fridays, January 6th, 2017 through March 31st, 2017 @ 10:00 AM

Join us for play group each Friday throughout the winter months. Children have a big gymnasium to participate in activities as well as socialize with other children from within the community!

Danville Child Development Center (2719 Bloom Road, Danville, PA) – www.danvillecdc.org – 570.284.4955 ext. 100, \$5 per family

DCDC My Toddler & Me – Wednesdays, March 1st, 2017 through April 19th, 2017 @ 10:00 AM

My Toddler & Me is a learning time for children that are walking up to age 3. Great socialization with other children while having circle time, activities, and lots of play instructed by an Early Childhood Certified teacher.

Danville Child Development Center (2719 Bloom Road, Danville, PA) – www.danvillecdc.org – 570.284.4955 ext. 100, \$10 per family

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something. So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life. Whatever it is you're scared of doing, Do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever." – Neil Gaiman

Danville Borough
239 Mill Street
Danville, PA 17821

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