

DANVILLE BOROUGH NEWSLETTER



Fall/Holidays 2016 / Issue 11

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

It may seem too early to start thinking about the holidays, but that time of year is just around the corner. Below is a list of holiday events around the borough.

Downtown Danville Holiday Kickoff
November 19, 5pm – 9pm

Holiday Open House – refreshments and specials throughout Downtown
November 20, 12pm - 5pm

Shopping Pass Day – enjoy discounts at participating merchants, November 25 and 26. Contact Danville Business Alliance at (570)284-4502 for more information.

Small Business Saturday – shop local! November 26

Welcome Santa Parade – Mill Street
December 2

Late Shoppers Night – special discounts and drawings, many stores open until 11pm. December 2

Visit with Santa's Reindeer – feed and pet these beautiful creatures in Canal Park
December 10, 12pm – 3pm

Visit Santa's House – Canal Park,
Friday December 9 & 16 5pm-7pm
and Saturday December 3, 10 & 17
12pm – 3pm.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT RICHARDSON'S REPORT

“Believe it or not, it's once again that time; summer is over, the kids are back to school, and the lazy, hazy days of summer are soon to be replaced with the chilly nights of autumn. But whatever the time of year, your borough staff and elected officials are steadily working towards making Danville an even better place to live, work, and play.

Anywhere that is a good place to live must have a sound infrastructure, and we are working steadily to make sure Danville does. We have been working with Larson Design Group and AMEC on the raising of Hospital Run Levee to finalize levee certification with FEMA. Two sections of Hospital Run must be raised approximately three inches in order to meet FEMA's minimum requirements. There are also two stop log structures that need to be modified as part of the project, at the railroad and at East Market Street. These changes will bring the levee into compliance and allow for certification, which affects flood insurance and, obviously, the safety of the entire borough in case of flooding.

Meanwhile, Borton-Lawson will be doing a traffic study on Route 11 at the middle school to determine the best alternative to improve safety at that highly congested area. We will be working in partnership with the school district, Geisinger, North Shore Railroad, and the Joint Rail Authority. This project will make getting into Danville from Route 11 safer and faster during the school year, and avoid the massive traffic backups we experience now.

We have also selected the pedestrian bridge over Mahoning Creek at Beaver Place for CDBG funding. The concrete section of the bridge that spans Mahoning Creek has long been in need of repairs, and so these funds will be used to improve that area and extend its useful life. That footbridge serves as a pedestrian access to our businesses for the residents of Beaver Place, as well as playing a major role in the overall trail expansion plan, so this project will serve several needs at once.

But, we are always mindful of chances to save money, so we have also been working with the Sustainable Energy Fund and ECON Opportunities to convert borough owned street lights to LEDs, thereby saving on our energy bill.

And finally, we have been starting the process to comply with the Department of Environmental Protection's MS4 storm water program -- which is basically a very fancy way of saying we will be filing a permit and doing pollutant reduction plans and implementing best management practices for storm water management. Washington is requiring Danville Borough, Mahoning Township, Valley Township, and Cooper Township in Montour County to take part in this program because we are now

included in an Urbanized Area according to the Census. In the end, this will make sure the storm water is cleaned before it is returned to the river.

So as you can see, we are all working hard to make Danville an even more wonderful place to live.

May this autumn find you happy, healthy, and well.

Scott Richardson

BOROUGH COUNCIL ADOPTS LERTA ORDINANCE

In an effort to promote growth and development within the Borough of Danville, the local taxing authorities (Danville Area School District, the Montour County Commissioners, and Danville Borough Council) have united to adopt a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Law (LERTA).

The LERTA law was authorized and established in 1974 by the General Assembly to promote development by exempting newly assessed tax on improvements made to eligible business properties or deteriorated properties on a sliding scale as designated by the Municipal Governing Body.

The picture serves as testimonial of the benefit LERTA has to offer.

The 7.43 acre tract of vacant land was a designated brownfield which posed a challenging and costly project. By providing tax relief through the LERTA, the developer is able to invest more monetarily to his project during the build while obtaining a generous time frame to recover his investment once the improvement is complete.

To view the ordinance in its entirety, log on to the Borough website, www.danvilleboro.org, click on the Codes and Zoning page. Individuals interested in applying for eligibility to take advantage of this new law my contact the Borough at 570-275-3091 X 1 during regular business hours.



WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON...

Flood Committee

- Submitted a Flood Mitigation Grant program application to DCED for security cameras to be located along entire flood protection system.
- Working with Larson Design Group and AMEC Foster Wheeler to raise portions of Hospital Run required to meet FEMA criteria for levee recertification.

Streets Committee

- Held a public meeting to discuss the Residential Parking Permit System at the 4th Ward in response to citizen complaint.
- Created a School Zone around St. Joe's, enacting fines for speed limit violations.
- Completed a study of stop sign placement and speed limit on Spruce Street with PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program.

Property Committee

- Formalizing Memorandum of Understanding with neighboring property owners for use and maintenance of the River Drive Property.
- Installed new restrooms at Hartman Fields. Please do not throw any foreign objects down the toilets or vandalize the facilities. We are proud to be able to keep them open and available for all to use.

Hazard Mitigation Committee

- Discussed need for improved storm water drainage and pump station at Foust and Cooper Streets along Hospital Run. Researching funding options for this project.
- Meets yearly to discuss hazard mitigation related issues, and has annual training exercise.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Power of Water: 5 years after – September 2nd, 2016 through October 28th, 2016

The Danville Arts Council presents The Power of Water: 5 Years After at the Artmill in Downtown Danville. Visit this 2 and 3 dimensional exhibit showcasing works of art depicting images of the flood and its aftermath, or simply the power of water!

The Artmill (121 Mill Street, Danville, PA) – www.danvilleartscouncil.org – 570.284.4502

Robbins Run 5k & 10k – Saturday, October 15th, 2016 @ 9:00 AM

The Robbins Trail and the Old Reading Line Trail at the Hess Recreation Area is a beautiful place that Danville area residents have enjoyed since the 1890s. Originally created as part of our Earth Day celebration, the Robbins 5k & 10k Trail Races happen on tree-lined trails that parallel Mahoning Creek. The Robbins Run promises to be one you will want to add to your “must do” list each year. Registration closes on October 12th. Check-in is from 7:30 AM to 8:50 AM.

Hess Recreation Area (Meadow Lane, Danville, PA) – www.rivertownrace.com – 570.271.1055

DCDC Bell Ringer 5k & 10K Runs – Saturday, October 22nd, 2016 @ 9:00 AM

These races are not your typical "find a flat place and put a course on it" type of race. Truth is, you won't P.R. on this course. But you could hold the record on this course. And you DEFINITELY WILL hold your own personal record on this course, and you can return year after year to see if you are getting faster or slower at hill blasting. Both distances of this run are a challenge. It's almost entirely uphill heading out, and almost entire downhill heading back. Registration opens at 7:30 AM. T-shirts to all registered for race by October 10. All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast option! Register to participate online.

Danville Child Development Center (2719 Bloom Road, Danville, PA) – 570.275.4047

<http://david-decoteau.squarespace.com/competition/dcdc5k10krun>

Annual Danville Halloween Parade – Thursday, October 27th, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

A great Danville tradition with marching bands, fire trucks, and young and old in costume. Join us for this once-a-year opportunity to get in touch with your inner ghoul!

Mill Street in Danville, PA – Halloween Parade Committee – 570.275.4863

Free

21st Annual DACC 5K Walk & Run – Saturday, November 12th, 2016 @ 9:00 AM

For the FUN of it. Everyone is welcome. Great course: some neighborhood, some levee, some hills, and some flat sections.

Participants will be divided into age groups. Door prized and lots of fun! After the race, if the weather cooperates, there will be food and conversation while waiting for race results. Call the Danville Area Community Center to register.

The Danville Area Community Center (1 Liberty Street in Danville, PA) – www.thedacc.com – 570.275.3001

\$20 with Shirt (\$10 without Shirt)/\$25 day of race with no shirt guarantee

Downtown Holiday Celebrations –November 19th, 2016 through December 17th, 2016

An opportunity to visit Danville’s unique shops to enjoy the warmth of their festive holiday decorations and refreshments while taking advantage of great deals, plus visit with Santa and his reindeer! For more information, call the Danville Business Alliance or visit its website (see below).

Downtown Danville – www.visitdanvillepa.org – 570.284.4502

Free

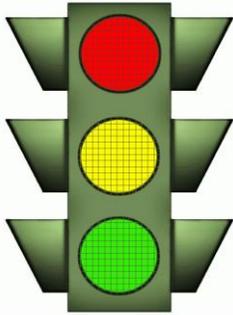
Boneshaker Cyclocross – Saturday, December 10th, 2016 @ 12:00 PM

The course is about 1.5 miles/lap, designed to favor those with cyclocross gear (meaning about half is paved or equivalent). But all bikes are welcome! The route crosses Fishing Creek - sometimes just a little ankle-deep affair, sometimes a waist deep affair. The crossing is immediately followed by a very muddy sloppy sections of woods and mush. Good, dirty fun! Visit the website for registration information.

100 Avenue D&H North, Riverside, PA Downtown Danville – <https://david-decoteau.squarespace.com/boneshaker>–

SEWER PROJECT CONTINUES

As the weather turns cooler, the work on the sewer project will be wrapping up for the year on West Mahoning Street. The crew will be back in the spring to finish restoration including final paving. The borough would like to thank everyone for your patience and understanding throughout the project which took much longer than originally anticipated.



PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL CHANGES

The Borough Street Committee is working with PennDOT to remove the pedestrian traffic signal on Mill Street, and replace it with safer, more

modern pedestrian crossing warning devices. The Borough will be considering the options available, and should make a decision in November. We encourage you to reach out to Jamie Shrawder, Administrator of Governmental Affairs, at (570)275-3091 X3 if you have any suggestions or concerns about this crosswalk.

WEBSITE TO GET UPGRADE

www.danvilleboro.org is the place to go to get all of the up to date borough news and information. However, our site is in need of a serious upgrade. We have contracted with SEDA-COG to create a new, more user friendly website for us. Working with the COG allows us to get a fully functional, modern website at a fraction of the cost of a private designer. If you have any suggestions for improvements that should be added to our website, please contact Jamie Shrawder, Administrator of Governmental Affairs, at (570)275-3091 X3.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Danville Police Department, along with other local and county agencies, participated in the annual National Night Out on August 2, 2016 at the Washies Playground.

GREENWAYS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

The Borough was awarded a grant to do an Open Space Master Plan for a possible park project at Canal Park and the former Doc's parcel right next to the Borough Building on

Mill Street. The Danville Business Alliance will be managing this planning project, working with Larson Design Group. The process will involve a lot of public input and is the first step in creating the vision for this park, which can then be used to apply for grants for construction dollars.

FOURTH WARD PARKING PERMITS

The Street Committee held a meeting on August 31, 2016 to discuss the Fourth Ward Parking Permit system with residents of that area. The majority of residents supported the system, stating that before the permits were in place they could not find parking spaces near their homes. Now with the permit system they have no trouble finding parking spaces and the sight distance at intersections has vastly improved. The concerns raised included permits for visitors and misuse of permits. The Street Committee will be working to draft a revision to the system to accommodate visitors, caregivers, and workers while decreasing misuse of permits. Temporary parking permits are available at the Borough Building at 239 Mill Street. *REMINDER – make sure your permit is visible inside your car!*

