



DANVILLE BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 16/Spring 2018

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON'S REPORT

With the coming of spring here in Danville, we can look forward to warmer days, rains to water the fields, and the melting of any stubborn snow piles. While we appreciate the waters that let flowers bloom, and we all look forward with anticipation to the budding trees, spring also brings with it the increased risk of flood. This has always been of extreme concern to us, but we are taking steps to mitigate the damage floods can do to your properties.

Recently, we have been undertaking specific steps to mitigate the rising cost of flood insurance for our residents by creating a Flood Resiliency Task Force, in conjunction with SEDA-Council of Governments. The purpose of the task force is to find ways to educate and inform our residents about the increasing costs of flood insurance related to the changes in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and to ultimately reduce the impact these changes will have on them.

One important fact for people to understand is that communities that participate in the NFIP, such as Danville, must ensure all new residential buildings constructed in the floodplain are elevated to or above the base flood elevation (BFE). The base flood is the flood that has a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year. Part of our job within the borough is to make sure our residents are aware of these rules, and to help them navigate through changes so there are no adverse effects on their flood insurance.

One way in which the task force is helping to educate people is through a brochure detailing the importance of elevation certificates. This brochure will be made available to banks, realtors, and insurance companies to help them educate their clients; brochures are also available at the Borough office.

A particularly important aspect of these brochures is explaining how important an Elevation Certificate (EC) will be to a homeowner's flood insurance costs. Properties located in "A zone" on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) are in designated flood zones, and if you own property in one of these zones you already know flood insurance is a requirement. An EC is necessary if you build an addition to your home or convert a garage to living space. Also, the lender will now require the buyer to have flood insurance and an EC when buying or selling a home, and may be required to determine the cost of flood insurance.

These are all vitally important things for home owners to know here in Danville. One of the things that makes our borough such a lovely place to live is the easy access we have to bodies of water, but these bodies can become destructive very quickly. We are literally surrounded by water: the river, Mahoning Creek, Sechler Run, Hospital Run, and Blizzard Run. Each of these often benign and serene streams can turn into a torrent given the right conditions, and no one wants to lose their home only to find their flood insurance wasn't in order. SEDA-COG has negotiated a group pricing agreement with Coukart & Associates, Inc. to complete the EC's at a rate of \$450. Applications for EC's are available for pick-up at the Borough Office.

I hope this spring find you happy, healthy, and well, and that all of our flood precautions only ever remain that. But should our rivers and streams again flood, it is good to know you and yours are well protected.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Colors of Hope 5k Walk/Run – Saturday, April 28, 2018, 8:30 A.M.

Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society and Montour County Relay for Life. Registration will begin at 8:30am at the pavilion at Hess Field. Race starts and ends at Hess Field. Similar to the concept of The Color Run, during the Colors of Hope 5K, colored powder will be thrown at you. The color is mostly washable but, don't wear anything that you don't want to get color on because it might not come off. The goal is to become as colorful as possible! We also recommend you wear hair and eye protection, especially for those with light colored hair. T-shirts will be available for purchase on race day on a first come, first serve basis.

Hess Recreation Area (Meadow Lane, Danville, Pa) - <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Danville/ColorsofHope5k>

Scale the Trail 4 Kids – Saturday, April 28, 2018, 9:00 A.M.

Geisinger Janet Weis Children's Hospital's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is hosting a 4-mile trail run to benefit Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger. The third annual Scale the Trail 4 Kids event will be held April 28, 2018 on the Geisinger Stewardship Trails, located in the woods behind Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. Preregistered runners will receive a race t-shirt. Runners must be 14 or older to register. <https://events.geisinger.org/eventdetails.cfm?id=12530>

Spring Fling – Saturday, May 5, 2018, 9:00 A.M.

Rain or Shine. One of the earliest craft fairs in the region, Spring Fling attracts nearly 200 participating vendors to the center of downtown Danville every year, offering a wide variety of crafts and food for people to enjoy. Even better, a large number of non-profit organizations participate to raise awareness of their worthy causes. The Danville Arts Council Spring Fling Art Show will be at The Art Mill, 121 Mill Street. Come downtown for a wonderful, spring day in Danville! www.visitdanvillepa.org – 570.284.4502.

Montour 24 Endurance Runs – Friday, May 11, 2018 – Saturday, May 12, 2018, 7:30 P.M.

Come to Danville, PA for the Montour Area Recreation Commission's Montour 24! Whether you're ready to compete at the 12 or 24 hour ultra-endurance levels or the 6 hour solo or 24 hour four-person relay team levels, the Montour 24 will be an epic test of your fitness. Held at the Hess Recreation Area, this is a must-do! Hess Recreation Area (Meadow Lane, Danville, PA)

www.rivertownrace.com, 570.336.2060, Registration Details: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Danville/Montour24>

41st Annual Danville Fishing Derby – Saturday, May 19, 2018, 9:00 A.M.

The Montour County Sportsmen Working for Kids is a non-profit organization, run by volunteers, whose mission is to promote the outdoors to young people to keep them active and healthy while supplying outdoorsmen with recreational enjoyment by stocking trout in local streams. Approximately 5,000-6,000 fish are released every year in Montour County for all outdoorsmen and kids to enjoy. Mahoning Creek Levee (Danville Middle School Side) – danvillefishderby@yahoo.com

Free Admission – Donations Appreciated (May be Mailed to P.O. Box 297, Danville, PA 17821)

41st Annual Danville Memorial T-Rail Race - Saturday, May 26, 2018, 7:30 A.M.

Registration is between 7:45 AM and 8:45 AM. The race is five miles. Please contact Tina Bartholomew at tina24@ptd.net or Bob Welby at rwelby@yahoo.com for further information. **Memorial Park (300 Bloom Street, Danville, PA)**

Memorial Day Parade - Monday, May 28, 2018, 10:00 A.M.

The ceremonies will begin at 10am at the Danville-Riverside Bridge where those buried and lost at sea will be remembered. The parade moves from West Market Street down Mill Street and up Bloom Road to Memorial Park. At Memorial Park, a program will be presented to remember the veterans whose sacrifices helped preserve our basic rights and freedoms. Veterans walking or riding in the parade can start forming at 9:00 AM at the corner of Mill St. and West Market St. There will be a County Transit bus to carry any veteran who cannot walk in the parade. The bus will be available at the Court House on the corner of Mill St. and West Market St. It is handicap accessible with a wheelchair ramp. In case of inclement weather, the park program will be held at the Danville Middle School Auditorium. **Questions can be directed to Doug Resseguie, Montour County Veterans Affairs at (570) 271-3061.**

8th Annual DACC Kid's Triathlon – Saturday, June 2, 2018, 9:00 A.M.

9 am race start with a mandatory 8:30 AM pre-race meeting. There will be a swim in the pool, a bike race through protected parking lots, and a running race on a grass course. This event is non-competitive and is meant to introduce children to the sport and encourages physical activity at an early age. Children must have a bike without training wheels and be able to swim without flotation or flippers. **Danville Area Community Center (1 Liberty Street, Danville, PA) – www.thedacc.com**

Wine in the Pines Danville Wine Festival – Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 4:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Featuring wineries, craft breweries, craft and food vendors, and live entertainment, this annual wine festival in Danville, PA is sponsored by the Danville Business Alliance. Tickets will be for sale locally at Old Forge Brewing Company, Red Shale Ridge Winery (Danville), Shade Mountain Winery (Riverside), the DBA office and online at www.visitdanvillepa.org. Join your family and friends for fun, food, and good times at 'Wine in the Pines'!

Hess Recreation Area (Meadow Lane, Danville, PA) – www.visitdanvillepa.org and www.wineinthepinesfestival.com – 570.284.4502

Old Forge 5k Beer Run – Saturday, June 23, 2018 @ 6:00 P.M.

The Old Forge 5K Beer Run involves beer, a huge slide, beer pools, and a keg toss/carry/roll! You must be 21 years of age or older to enter. Prizes are awarded for the fastest female and male and for the best beer costumes. Check in is between 4:30 P.M. and 5:45 P.M. No date of race registration is allowed, pre-registration only. No dogs or strollers are allowed. Kids are welcome to attend. There will be live music, and food and beverages available. This race is part of the 2016 River Towns Race Series and proceeds benefit the Montour Area Recreation Commission. Note: parking is limited, so plan to arrive early for this exciting early-summer event!

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

Summer Concert Series – Tuesday Nights through August, 2018

All concerts will be held in Memorial Park. In case of inclement weather concert will be held across the street in Grove Presbyterian Church. Check the Arts Council website for dates and performers.

Danville Memorial Park (Bloom & Church Streets, Danville, PA) – www.danvilleartscouncil.org – 570.284.4502

DUMPSTER DAY

Please take advantage of our Dumpster Day scheduled for April 21, 2018 from 7:00AM-1:00PM at the Danville Soccer Complex East Market Street, Danville. No Charge for Any Items **PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED. DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED.**

ACCEPTING ITEMS: All white goods, tires (6 Tire limit). There is a two load per household limit for all goods. **ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:** TV's of all types, computers and towers, brush, weeds, grass clippings, landscape timber, wood fences, rocks, stones, tree brush, stumps, garden waste, dirt of any type, cement or sod, paint, oils or fuels of any type.



Flood Committee

- Flood Resiliency Task Force meets quarterly to discuss ways to educate the public on issues related to stormwater and flood prevention and mitigation measures to reduce the impact of increasing flood insurance premiums.
- Working with Larson Design Group and AMEC Foster Wheeler to raise portions of Hospital Run and Upper Susquehanna Levees to meet FEMA criteria for levee recertification.
- Borough will be applying for a grant to remove the sedimentation build up from Mahoning Creek, a project necessary for flood mitigation and levee inspection approval.

Streets Committee

- Work will begin on the new traffic signal installation at the intersection of Bloom Rd and Railroad Street later this year.
- Traffic signal retiming will be completed this year to improve traffic flow through Routes 11 and 54.
- No Parking Signs will be erected on Spring Street between Steeb Street and C Street.
- The curb on Spruce Street between Ash and Cherry Street will be modified to improve turning onto Spruce, allow for onstreet parking, and ensure emergency vehicles can get through.

Property Committee

- Offer on the Police Station and apartment building has been accepted by the Borough. We are continuing to evaluate alternative locations for the Police Station.
- The Ballroom will remain open and is available to rent for your event.
- The Borough and the Municipal Authority are working together to erect a monument in recognition of the brick walls that were removed as part of the interceptor project. These walls marked the entrance to the Armory which was in use between 1931 and 1972.

Parks & Rec Committee

- Dog waste receptacles are in Memorial Park, Riverfront Park and along the levee. Signs detailing the fines are mounted with the receptacles.
- The Borough entered into a new intergovernmental agreement with MARC for maintenance of our parks. We would like to thank MARC for the wonderful work they do for the Borough.
- The DBA is working with the Borough to find the remaining funding needed to construct Canal Park. A grant application will be submitted to DCNR this spring.

2018 Danville Borough Flood Awareness Newsletter

As part of its effort to save you money from flood damage and reduce your flood insurance premiums, the Borough of Danville continues to undertake a variety of flood protection activities including regulation of new construction in the floodplain, maintenance of our existing levee protection system, preservation of flood-prone areas as open space, and education of the public through outreach projects like this newsletter. If you have experienced flooding in the past, please take time to read this newsletter to find out what you can do, as well.

The Flood Hazard in Danville

Properties in Danville's floodplain are subject to three flood-related problems: overbank flooding, local drainage flooding, and wastewater backups. You could be faced with one, two, or all three of these hazards.

Overbank Flooding: The major flood problem facing Danville is flooding of the Susquehanna River. Since 1891, 56 floods have caused the Susquehanna River to exceed its channel capacity and inundate riverfront communities. Although some of the most notable floods were the result of tropical storms, the majority of flood events are attributed to snowmelts; 20 of the 25 largest floods of record occurred between January and April. Major flood events occurred in 1936, 1972, 1975, 1984, 1996, and 2011.

The Borough of Danville offers free map information services at the Municipal Building, **463 Mill Street**. Find out if your property is in the mapped floodplain and subject to overbank flooding by calling Jamie Shrawder, Admin. of Gov't Affairs, at **570-275-3091, x3**.

Mahoning Creek drains from the area northwest of the borough into the Susquehanna River at Danville. Mahoning Creek is subject to flooding from heavy local storms and backup flooding when the Susquehanna River floods. Sechler Run drains from the east and flows through concrete channels and underground conduits in the borough until it reaches Mahoning Creek. Blizzard Run also drains from the east into Sechler Run.

Local Drainage: There are several areas of local drainage problems where storm water may collect. Often, flooding is aggravated by debris that has been carelessly thrown into the storm water outlet, so the borough works to ensure that all drainage areas are clear of materials. Water that ponds behind the levee is pumped over or through the levee. However, ponding can also occur from intense storms not associated with river flooding.

Wastewater/Sewage Backup: Some portions of the borough's wastewater treatment system may back up during high water events and flow into the lowest opening in the sewer line, flooding streets or basements.

Insure Your Property for the Flood Hazard

Property owners need flood insurance because no flood-proofing measure is ever 100% foolproof, and most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover a property for flood damage. Renters should also buy flood insurance to protect the personal contents of their apartment units. The Borough of Danville participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Local insurance agents can sell an NFIP policy under rules and rates set by the Federal government. Any agent can sell a policy and all agents must charge the same rates.

Any house in Danville can be covered by a flood insurance policy. Detached garages and accessory buildings are covered under the policy for the lot parcel's main building. There are two types of coverage to consider:

- **Building** coverage covers everything that stays with a house when it is sold, including the furnace, cabinets, built-in appliances, wall-to-wall carpeting, etc.
- **Contents** coverage covers furniture and other personal possessions except for money, valuable papers, and the like. Renters can buy contents coverage, even if the owner does not buy building coverage.

There is no coverage for assets outside of the house, like the driveway and landscaping. **If you have a policy, check it closely.** Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or

a home improvement loan. Usually, these policies only cover the building's structure and not its contents. If you only have building coverage, your furniture, carpeting, and appliances are not covered.

An NFIP policy covers sewage backup and basement seepage if there is a general condition of flooding in the area. Sump pump failure or sewage backup coverage may also be available at a more affordable rate as an addition to your regular homeowner's insurance policy. However, be aware that most homeowner's policies exclude damage from surface flooding that is covered by an NFIP policy.

Don't wait for the next flooding event to buy insurance protection for your home and its contents! Contact your insurance agent today for more information on rates and coverage.

Protect Yourself and Your Family

Flooding events of every kind represent a serious hazard not just to property but to human life, as well. Protect yourself and your family during and after a flooding event by keeping the following safety tips in mind:

- **Designate** a place where your family can rendezvous after an evacuation order has been issued.
- **Do not walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood-related deaths. Currents can be deceptive; only six inches of moving water can knock a person off their feet.
- **Do not drive** through a flooded area or around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.
- **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** The number two cause of flood-related deaths after drowning is electrocution. Always report downed power lines to the Police Department by calling 911.
- **Look before you step.** After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be slippery and dangerous.
- **Look out for animals** that have been flooded out of their homes and may try to seek shelter in yours.
- **Be alert for gas leaks.** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you are 100% sure that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.
- **Carbon monoxide exhaust kills.** Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Charcoal fumes are especially deadly, so only use charcoal outdoors.
- **Clean everything that got wet.** Flood waters have residual sewage and chemicals in them from roads, farms, factories, and storage buildings. Spoiled food, flooded cosmetics, and medicine can be health hazards and should be discarded. When in doubt, throw it out.
- **Take good care of yourself.** Recovering from a flood is a big job. The effects of a disaster on both the body and the spirit are difficult. Be aware for signs of anxiety, stress, and fatigue in you or your family.

Protect Your Property

Flood proofing a house means altering it so that floodwaters will not cause damage. Different flood proofing techniques and methods are appropriate for different type of buildings. Use the following as a guideline:

If you have a basement, split level, or other floor below ground level, there are lots of ways to protect your basement or lower floor from seepage and sewer backup. A backup valve is one way to prevent sewer backup.

If your house is on a slab foundation, investigate a low floodwall, berm or "dry flood proofing" method.

If your house is on a crawlspace, a low floodwall, berm or "wet flood proofing" may be a good option. "Wet flood proofing" means moving all items subject to damage out of harm's way so water can flow into the crawlspace and not cause any problems or damage to contents. If floodwaters go over the first floor, explore the possibility of elevating the building in order to get the ground floor above the expected flood level.

An excellent source for additional information is FEMA's **Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting** Read it at the Thomas Beaver Free Library, order (for free) from the FEMA by calling 1-800-480-2520, or downloaded from FEMA's web site at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/480?id=1420>. You can also contact Jackie Hart, Director of Codes and Development for the Borough, at (570)275-3091 for assistance on making flood proofing improvements.

Emergency measures: No matter what kind of building you have, some last minute emergency measures can always help. For example, you could move valuable items (photos, antiques, and other important possessions) or items that are most damaged by floodwaters (upholstered furniture, stuffed toys, mattresses, etc.) up to a higher floor. You can also place sandbags or plastic sheeting in front of doorways and other low, ground-floor entry points.

Whatever emergency protection measures you use, it is always best to have a plan written in advance to make sure you don't forget anything after you hear the flood warning.

Responsible Development & Floodplain Protection

Property lots in the Borough of Danville were originally designed so water would drain away from the building and along property lines to the public street, storm sewer, or ditch. Fences, railroad ties, landscaping, sheds, and construction projects in the floodplain can block this flow and increase the risk of floodwater damage.

Always check with the Danville Borough Code Enforcement Department before you build on, fill, alter, or re-grade your property. A permit is needed to ensure that such projects do not cause flood problems.

Every piece of trash can contribute to flooding. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels. If your property is next to a ditch or storage basin, please keep the banks clear of brush and debris.

Do not dump or throw anything into drainage ditches and basins or near the Levee Protection System.

Dumping in the borough's drainage ditches and storage basins is a violation of Borough Code. You can do your part in helping the drainage system work. Sweep or pick up debris in your gutters to prevent blockages in the storm sewers. Pick up trash and fallen branches in the ditches.

If you see someone dumping debris in any drainage ditches and basins, filling or doing construction activities near property lines, or performing construction activities in a floodplain without a permit sign posted, do not hesitate to report it to the Danville Borough Municipal Building at 570-275-3091.

New buildings constructed in the floodplain are required to be protected from flood damage. The borough's development regulations require that new residential buildings must be elevated above base flood level. These regulations are designed to protect both you and your neighbors from increased flooding. By getting the proper permits and approvals before you start construction, flooding and other drainage problems can be prevented.

Borough Code also requires that all substantial improvements and substantial damage reconstruction to a building be treated as new construction. A project is "substantial" when the value of an addition, alteration, repair, or reconstruction exceeds 50% of the value of the existing building. With an addition, only the addition must be protected. With an improvement to the original building, the whole building must be protected.

Flood Warning System

The borough's Emergency Operations Center is located at the Municipal Building. If a flood warning is received, the Borough will notify the public using its emergency sirens that are strategically located in various places around Danville.

Contact Information

If you have questions about this informational, your property's flood risk, flood insurance, the borough's levee protection system, or anything else flood-related, please contact Jamie Shrawder, Administrator of Governmental Affairs, using the below information or by visiting the Municipal Building located at 463 Mill Street, Danville. Office hours are from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Mondays through Thursdays and from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Fridays. Information is also available by visiting danvilleboro.org and clicking "Flood Information" under the Community Resources tab at the top.