



HAVEN HIGHLIGHTS

"The Little Town That Could"™

No. 82 – Issued Quarterly | BOROUGH OF SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA | AUGUST 2024

Summer and Fall Events Aplenty in "The Little Town That Could!"™

Island Fest, Borough Day, Halloween Events & More!

Summer fun in Schuylkill Haven isn't over. The 17th annual Island Park Festival - slated Saturday, August 17 - promises non-stop entertainment and activities for all ages. Then the fun continues well into fall with Borough Day, Fall Fest & Pumpkin Patch, the Haven Halloween parade and, of course, Trick-or-Treat on October 31.

Details on these events can be found in this issue of *Haven Highlights*; but first, we start with Borough Day. Now celebrating its 36th year, the area's largest street faire comes alive again on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Trains, food, entertainment ... Oh my!

A popular feature returns once again, drawing thousands of fans to hop on the Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad passenger train. Choose from three round-trip excursions - leaving at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Riders are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance to ensure seat availability. Boarding is at the RBM&N Train Station in the heart of the



Borough Day festivities for approximately a one-hour ride to Port Clinton and back again.

A sell-out every year, tickets are recommended in advance in-person or by phone (610-562-2102) at the Schuylkill Haven Train Station. Or reserve online at www.RBMNRR-PASSENGER.com. Very limited quantities may be possible on Borough Day.

Early risers are welcome to start the day with breakfast, beginning at 7 a.m., at the Schuylkill Hose Company #2, 51 S. St. Peter Street. Catch the R & J shuttle downtown as vendors will line the streets with crafts, jewelry, baked goods, clothing, artwork and food starting at 9 a.m.

- Continued on Page 2

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUG. 17 – Island Park Festival, 2 to 10 p.m.; continuous entertainment, games, and great food at Island Park – Admission \$5; children 4 years and under, free.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 – Borough Day, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. returns once again. Many venues throughout the downtown and on Parkway. The area's largest street faire celebrates its 36th year, rain or shine.

SUNDAY, OCT. 20 – Fall Fest & Pumpkin Patch, noon to 5 p.m.; activities at Island Park. Raindate... Oct. 27.

TUESDAY, OCT. 29 – Halloween Parade; staging begins at 6 p.m.; steps off at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT. 31 – Trick-or-Treat in Schuylkill Haven, 6 to 8 p.m., for children 12 years of age and younger. Residents inviting youngsters to ring their doorbell for a treat are asked to turn their porch light on, as an indication and for safety.

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Haven Borough Day – Saturday, Sept. 28

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Just some of the food options include pork BBQ, fresh cut fries, steak sandwiches, ribs, Philadelphia soft pretzels, lemonade, cotton candy, ice cream, and funnel cake.



In support of the local churches, many will be offering a great selection of hot food, baked goods, and items for sale. Sounds of blues, country, rock, Celtic and folk performers will entertain at every turn from multiple stages located throughout the downtown area.

Parkway Playground

Borough Day's purpose is to provide a day of fun for the whole family. Children are always a focus throughout the town, especially at Parkway Playground.

Listing only a sample of kids' activities featured

in past years are face painting, a mini-train ride, sand art, games, and the "Art Wall" of on-the-spot picture/graffiti creations. Other favorites that could be encountered roaming the 7-block festival site include street performers, the Give-'N-Take jugglers, a stilt-walker, mime, a magician, and much more. It's all free!

Details about events on Parkway and all of the Borough Day venues will be available online at www.shboroughday.com or follow up-to-date happenings on Facebook.

Community pride

As residents of Schuylkill Haven, it's important for all to remember that many people from outside our community attend Borough Day, enabling our town to show visitors the wonderful place in which we live. Longtime merchants, as well as newly opened businesses, have an opportunity to invite new customers into their stores and to serve regular patrons.

Schuylkill Haven has so much to offer, and Borough Day is a special way for us to enjoy the town and share our warmth and fellowship with others outside the community.

For more information and a time schedule of performers and events, pick up a brochure soon to be available at local businesses in and around Schuylkill Haven and on placemats at area eateries. Or, be sure to make your first stop on Borough Day at the information booth located at the train station railroad crossing on Main Street.

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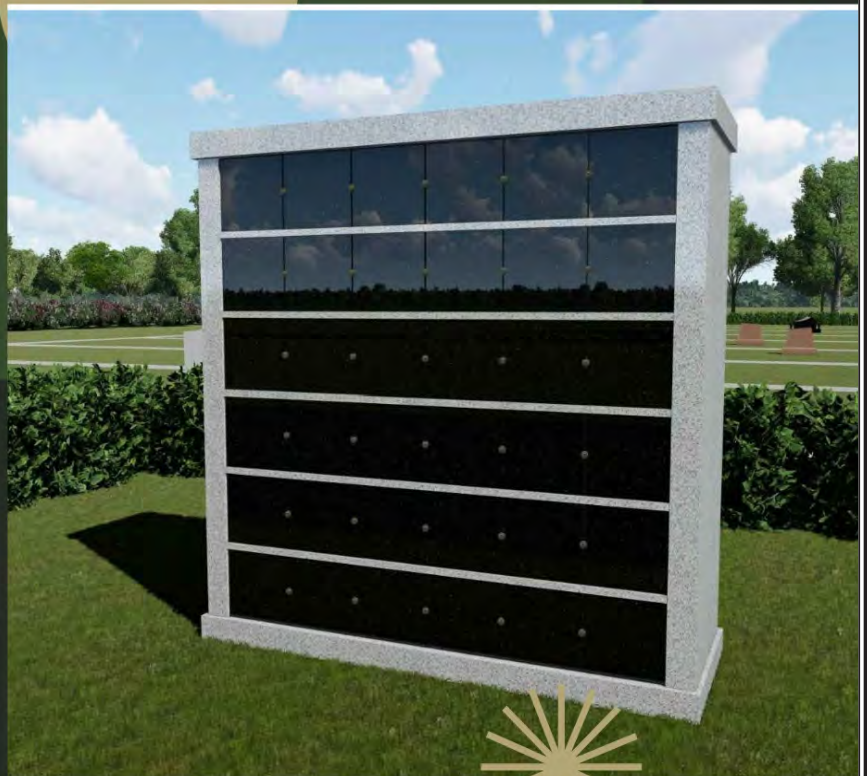
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Island Park Festival – Saturday, Aug. 17

All Day Event Supports Ongoing Development

Entertainment, good food and activities for all ages are three outstanding reasons to head to the 17th annual Island Park Festival at Island Recreational Park on Saturday, Aug. 17. Located on Fritz Reed Avenue (off Dock Street), the Festival activities begin at 2 p.m. and continue through 10 p.m. Kids' activities abound, 2 to 8 p.m. This is a rain or shine event.



LOVELACE

Multiple stages will again be used to provide non-stop entertainment. Headlining the entertainment on the Music Stage are bands The Shenandoah All-Star Polka Band at 2 p.m.; JFK – popular Schuylkill County trio at 5 p.m., and Lovelace – the seventies band at 7:30 p.m.

Performing on the Variety Stage will be The Magic of Tom Yurasits – showtimes at 2:30-4:30-6:30 – and Ridiculous Nicholas – showtimes at 3:30-5:30-7:30.

Take a relaxing ride in a horse-drawn wagon around the Island. Let the kids burn off energy in the bounce house and enjoy kids' games, activities and

get their faces painted free.

Feeling lucky? The ever-popular Dime Pitch and Big Six Wheel are among the games available to play. And for all ages, come, sit and play Bingo.

When you're hungry, visit our Concession Stand for a full menu of delicious food.

Live radio broadcasts will be provided by T102 FM and Magic 105.5 FM

Free parking available on the Island

Admission is still only \$5 per person; children age four and under are free. All proceeds from this fundraising event will be used for the continued development of Island Park.

Bring your lawn chairs, but please leave your pets



and outside food and drink at home. Call 570-385-2481 for more information or visit us at havenrec.com and click on Island Fundraising 2024. Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/havenislandpark.

Hope to see you at this year's Island Park Festival. THANK YOU for your continued support!

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Borough Administrator's "State of the Borough"

Island Park Boat and Kayak Launch Gets Upgrade

The saying "there is strength in numbers" rings true when it comes to the powerful partners working together to impact positive change. What's even better is that we see this here in Schuylkill Haven.



**Jessica Seiders
Borough Admin.**

Schuylkill Haven has been fortunate to benefit from a new asset in the community, thanks to the Schuylkill River Greenways and fellow partners. The Island Park's boat and kayak landing needed some attention while requests for accessibility and use increased.

Island Park Boat Launch is the official push-off point for the annual Schuylkill River Sojourn (SRG), an annual weeklong excursion. Now after a \$150,000 upgrade, it offers an incredible access point for kayakers travelling the 130-mile Schuylkill River Water Trail. Through multiple partnerships, SRG raised funds for the new landing from several sources that includes the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Schuylkill County, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the William Penn Foundation.

The new landing now includes a concrete ramp, a paved approach path, a circular gravel drive to pro-



OFFICIAL OPENING - Flanked by representatives making the kayak launch improvements possible, Borough Council President Jerry Bowman, wields the ribbon-cutting shears to mark its completion.

vide a drop-off area for boats and equipment, handicapped parking spaces, water trail signage, and improved landscaping. Additional parking, including a handicapped accessible site, was also part of the project along with handicap accessibility to the river. New trees and shrubbery offer inviting landscaping as visitors are guided with directional signs and a kiosk map with safety information.

Here are a few of the highlights for Schuylkill Haven Island Park Landing:

- SRG partners with municipalities to provide improved water access to the Schuylkill River Water Trail.
- The Schuylkill River Water Trail and the Schuylkill River Sojourn start in the Borough at Schuylkill Haven Island Park, a large, multi-use community park.
- The new landing benefits from its location in the park adjacent to the Irish Flats Trail, ample parking, ballfields, restrooms, a large pavilion and a new stage.
- The new landing will accommodate more boating and fishing, and provide an accessible path to the river's edge.
- The project engineer is ARRO Consulting Inc. The construction contractor was Andy Aungst.

Schuylkill Haven Borough looks forward to welcoming those who want to kayak and fish along the river and can now expand its offering to those with special needs. As it does every year, the Borough looks forward to hosting the 2025 Schuylkill River Sojourn, attracting hundreds of kayakers to visit this area to kick off their weeklong 130-mile water adventure.

The Borough takes great pride in the efforts and activities of its Recreation Department that include youth and sports programs, playgrounds and open space that it maintains. The Department's mission is to continue improvement of park amenities and programs. The improved boat launch will serve as another great reason to live or visit Schuylkill Haven. Get outside and give it a try!

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Fall Fest & Pumpkin Patch

Schuylkill Haven's fall celebration will once again feature the annual Fall Fest & Pumpkin Patch at Island Park on Sunday, Oct. 20. In past years, activities for all ages included a family hayride, pick-and-paint a pumpkin, games, and a hay bale maze.



Kids can ride the barrel train and everyone can enjoy a variety of food celebrating the fall season. A rain date of October 27 is scheduled.

Halloween shrieks and scares

Halloween is a special time in Schuylkill Haven. This year's Halloween Parade will be featured Tuesday, Oct. 29.

As in the past, the parade will form on the Avenues and the Schuylkill Haven Area High and Elementary School parking lots, beginning at 6 p.m. Marchers, floats, and service vehicles will begin the parade, stepping off at 7 p.m. down East and West Main streets, ending at St. Charles Street.

Trick-or-Treat - Youngsters dressed as princesses, super heroes, movie characters, ghosts and gob-

lins are invited to go door-to-door during Schuylkill Haven's designated Trick-or-Treat on Halloween night - Thursday, Oct. 31 - between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m. Children 12-years of age and younger are able to participate, but should canvas streets in a group or accompanied by a responsible adult.



Residents are asked to have their porch light on, or some other inviting gestures, as a sign that the children are welcome to ring the bell and get a treat. Parents and chaperones are asked to be diligent with young children when crossing streets and making them aware of vehicular traffic.

Country Christmas Concert

Mended Heart and the Pine Grove Theater have scheduled three performances of a Country Christmas Concert & Celebration 2024. Choose among Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. or two shows on Sunday, Dec. 8 ... a matinee at 2 p.m. and an evening show at 7 p.m.

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DECEMBER

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8TH 2PM

7PM

Admission to these concert performances is free to the public. Previous year concerts, however, have been sold out well in advance. Because of this, reserved seats are offered with a \$10 donation per seat by mailing a check payable to "PG Christmas Concert" along with the number of seats to be reserved. Indicate the performance date and time of your reservation. Mail reservation donations and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: PG Christmas Concert, 83 Harris Ave., Pine Grove, PA 17963. For additional information, call 570-691-6673. A coupon and additional information are provided on the advertisement in this issue of *Haven Highlights* on the back page.

The country-style Christmas concert features a variety of professional musicians and vocalists that have joined together over the past several years at a local Pine Grove Church to bring this concert to the community. In its first year, the attendance - a one-night performance - drew 350 people. Last year the attendance was nearly 1,000 people over two nights.

Due to the growth of the audience and the overwhelming response, the concert venue is once again at the Pine Grove Theater, 213 South Tulpehocken St., in Pine Grove. Parking is available at School Yard Square, just one block from the theater. Shuttle service to the front door of the theater is being provided by Newhurst Bus Company.

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Haven Lions Club News

So far 2024 has been a busy year for the Lions. We held our Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for youth activities. With the help of Southern Area Baseball players, \$1,400 was raised.

The Lions Foundation awarded seven \$3,500 scholarships to students enrolled in medical professions studies. These awards were presented at the August 19 Lions Club meeting.

Summer and early fall Lions Club meetings are held at beautiful Bubeck Park and open to anyone interested. Join us at the Lion's Pavilion on the first and third Mondays, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Our next major fundraiser is the annual Borough Day festival on Saturday, Sept. 28. The club will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and drinks. Back also is our famous basket raffle with additional prizes this year. We will also have our traditional Lions Brooms for sale. Stop by the Lions stand in front of M&T bank for the best deal on the Midway.

The club will be gearing up for the Sch. Haven Halloween Parade. Look for our hot dog and drink stand on the parade route.

Eyesight preservation is a primary mission of Lions Clubs across the globe. Locally, recycling used eyeglasses is a big part of what we do. We donated over 5,000 pairs of used glasses to be repurposed for sight-related issues. Drop-off locations for the public's no-longer-needed eye glasses can be found

at the Sch. Haven Free Public Library, Dr. Bernice Machamer's office on Parkway and Drs. George and Ann Marie Roberts' office on E. Main Street.

The Schuylkill Haven Lions Club will help sponsor several Boy Scouts, beginning this fall, on Eagle Scout projects to include the Lions Pavilion and other areas of Bubeck Park. And, the Lions will again participate with the Children's Christmas Stroll in downtown Schuylkill Haven.

The Lions are always first in sight and can assist local residents with certain issues relating to vision or eye care. For more information on the Schuylkill Haven Lions Club or to become a member, contact Jake Whetstone at 570-990-6821.

Nip garden problems in the bud!

Having difficulty with a shrub, plant, tree, or houseplant? Need a factual remedy? Ask an expert!

Call the Schuylkill County Master Gardeners regarding plant care, fruit and vegetable insects or diseases, annual and perennial flower problems, lawn care, soils, composting, etc.

Reach one at the Penn State Extension office by calling 570-622-4225 on Mondays and Wednesdays through October 1 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for an in-person chat. Or call any day, 24/7, to leave a message or e-mail to schuylkillmg@psu.edu (with photos if at all possible). Responses or need for additional info will be made to your phone number and name within seven to 10 days, or earlier.



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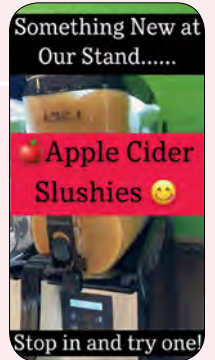
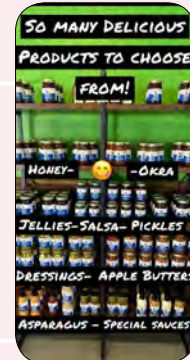


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Keep Schuylkill Haven Beautiful . . . from The Code Guy

I encourage every property owner to walk out their front door. That's right, you're doing great! Now, take a few more steps and look down. See that? It's a sidewalk and it's your responsibility to keep all weeds and grass out of it.

It's really not rocket-science, I recommend spraying with a typical herbicide that can be purchased at any garden center, hardware store or most department stores. After the vegetation dies, remember to remove the defeated vegetation. Brown weeds are just as ugly as green weeds and the citation for either costs the same.

Animal nuisance

It's your pet and your responsibility. Your neighbor and surrounding residents didn't sign on to the care of your pet and shouldn't have to tolerate your lack of consideration and responsibility or the deficiency of training regarding your furry kid (pet).



Outside feeding of pet food, table scraps etc. to pets or other animals tends to encourage regular visits by stray cats, skunks, raccoons, possums, and - last, but of equal annoyance - the Code Officer! No, I won't be eating at the back step... although an amusing image I'm sure... but to enforce the nuisance animal ordinance when justified.

Trash & storage

Schuylkill Haven residents have worked hard over the years to earn a reputation as having the cleanest town in Schuylkill County ... and who would dare refute it? Here are a few things, however, that could get overlooked because of busy schedules.

Remember to remove all trash and recycling containers from street view as soon as possible after the scheduled pickup day. Containers left out more than one day will likely catch the Code Department's attention and generate a warning.

Prior to pickup day, trash/rubbish must be kept in



A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Editor's Note: Area churches are invited to submit news of events and services along with advertising to support this publication. Email South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing at printing@southschuylkill.net for pricing and info..

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It's hard to believe we are about to pass through another summer season in the Northeast, but we can look forward to fall with beautiful colors that we are gifted each year. This is truly God's country.

I love it here and I love pastoring. The people are kind and willing to help others.

Located at 1168 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61) near St. Luke's Geisinger Hospital, Faith has many ministry and learning opportunities for the community.

If you have a need, the people of Faith step up and are willing to help. Our motto for over a decade has been, "Loving God, Loving People, Serving the Community." At one point, before Covid hit, we had over 40 active ministries that were busy in our church and community. We also support ministries outside our church rather than "re-creating the wheel." We support the Orwigsburg Food Pantry and the Bridge 127 Ministry in Pottsville.

Just launched, our new youth ministry led by pastor Bobby Oravitz, is called 1 Timothy 4:12. The program serves four age groups - nursery to age 3, the Ignite Group pre-K to 1st grade, Inspire for grades 2 thru 5, and Impact for those in grades 6 to 12.

This fall we begin our Campaign of Community. Led by Dan and Karen Eifert, our church reaches out to others with love and care.

Each week we offer a 10 a.m. service with prayer, uplifting live music and a bible-based message. Multiple mid-week small group meetings are offered. Visit our website - atfaithchurch.com - for more information. All are welcome here.

- Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell

Keep Schuylkill Haven Beautiful . . . from The Code Guy

conventional, well-maintained trash containers with tight-sealing lids. Keep containers clean, organized and out of street view, if possible. Trash bags are acceptable, but must be stored in a way that does not encourage or allow animals to rip them open.

Recyclables may not come with any household trash/rubbish. Prior to pick-up, keep recyclables in the Anthracite Waste Services containers out of street view, if possible.

Fall spruce-ups; get ready for winter

As summer gives way to fall, its not too early to plan yard and household maintenance that should be done before winter. Here are a few chores to consider:

- Cut grass one last time.
- Rake up all leaf litter and debris.
- Trim all shrubbery and tree limbs around buildings, sidewalk, and street areas.
- Organize trash storage areas; neatly stack firewood/lumber and other items that will be stored outside.
- Clean and store patio furniture, umbrellas, and children's summer toys.
- Touch up paint on trim, railings, and decks. Use a wire brush to remove flaking paint; prime bare wood first.
- Check caulk around windows and doors. Follow manufacturer's recommendations to re-caulk if needed.

- Inspect external doors and garage doors. Do they close tightly? Install weatherstripping, door thresholds if needed.

- Drain and store garden hoses. Install insulating covers on exterior spigots. If installed, have sprinkler systems blown free of water.

- Have chimneys and flues inspected and cleaned if necessary.

Leaf litter, safety and nuisances

The fall foliage will be doing just that ... falling! The Borough's Property Maintenance Code requires residents to keep leaf litter cleaned up.



Allowing leaves and leaf debris to accumulate on public sidewalk areas, public streets or alleys is a violation of the Property Maintenance Code and carries fines and penalties of \$300 to \$1000 per violation.

Your mind in the gutter? Take control of your gutters and downspouts and be sure all dead leaves, debris and pine needles are removed, allowing the gutters to work properly during the cold, wet months ahead.



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Haven Community Garden at Bubeck Park

VISION Hands the Shovel to Recreation Department

In 2019, Schuylkill County's VISION, in collaboration with Schuylkill Haven Borough and partners like Hannah Burke, broke ground on a community garden.

Located at Bubeck Park, the garden now consists of four raised beds, a handicap-accessible bed, several container plots, and more. Plots are made available to community members at a nominal fee and some at no cost to senior citizens, first responders, and veterans.

In 2021, the garden experienced a "glow-up" with the addition of fencing. In an effort to keep costs low and reduce waste, VISION, Girl Scout Troop 03120, and volunteers refurbished chain link fencing from Schuylkill River Greenways to enclose the garden. In 2022, Jefferson Grange #1384 and volunteers managed the community plots that benefit the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry and expanded its reach by donating harvest to additional pantries and projects. In 2022, the Girl Scout Troop built the first handicap-accessible raised bed in the garden.

To make it a true community garden with a sustainable impact on the Borough, VISION worked with Recreation Department staff member, resident, and gardener David Noll to assist with the management of the garden and the now transition of ownership to the Borough.



COMMUNITY GARDEN TRANSITION TEAM
Back row, left to right, Hannah Burke, founding member; David Noll, Recreation Department and community gardener; Mykal McCulloch, Park and Facilities Manager; Michael Devlin, Schuylkill Haven Mayor; Jerry Bowman, Borough Council president and VISION board member; Mandy Fitzpatrick, Schuylkill VISION Executive Director; and, front seated, Amy Burke, volunteer.

This transition is a prime example of VISION's mission to connect community resources to create change. The Borough had an idea. VISION assisted with making that idea a reality and now the community garden is turned over to its rightful owner, the Borough of Schuylkill Haven.

Community gardens are an example of an environmental change approach to a public health concern - increasing access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables, while providing opportunities for socialization, exercise, and getting outdoors. VISION partners with Lehigh Valley Healthy Network, one of the garden funders, to provide programs and community assistance around consumption of healthy foods and increased opportunities for physical activity. These projects range from assisting with community garden creation to assessing the bike- and walk-ability of communities to attending/organizing walks or health fairs.

Additionally, Evans Network of Companies, a Schuylkill Haven business, was a pivotal financial partner and supporter of the Schuylkill Haven Community Garden.

For more information on the Community Garden, contact the Schuylkill Haven Recreation Department at havenrec@comcast.net or 570-385-1313.

Special thanks again to our key partners - Lehigh Valley Health Network-Schuylkill, Evans Network of Companies, Schuylkill Haven Borough, Hannah Burke, Girl Scouts Troop 03120, David Noll, and Jefferson Grange #1384.

For further information about VISION and Healthy Schuylkill Communities, contact Mandy Fitzpatrick, Schuylkill County's VISION at 570-622-6097 or mfitzpatrick@schuylkillvision.com.

Borough Tax Collector

Schuylkill Haven Borough Tax Collector office hours for the remainder of the year are by appointment by calling 570-385-1313 (please leave a message) or by calling 570-990-6821.

I check in at my office in the Recreation and Senior Center, 340 Haven Street, numerous times during the week for messages and mail. Those with questions or needing help can also call the Borough Office at 570-385-2841 and leave a message with the Borough Secretary. The tax office can also be reached by email at taxcollector@schuylkillhaven.org.

For last minute taxpayers, my office will be open the last few days of 2024 - Friday, Dec. 27 as well as Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 30 and 31 - from noon to 4 p.m. for cash or money order payments only.

Borough property tax and per capita tax bills were mailed March 1, 2024. If you did not receive a bill, call the office. Payments are in the penalty phase, now until the end of December. Any Real Estate or Per Capita bill not paid by then will be turned over to Tax Claim for collection or any additional service.

Tax bills may be paid by check or money order only. Anyone paying a tax bill after December 14 should pay by cash or money order so that payments can be properly credited by December 31. Keep in mind your tax is not paid until the check clears the bank.

When paying a tax bill, include the proper amount on the check. If the check is incorrect for any reason, it will be returned to the taxpayer.

- Jake Whetstone, Tax Collector

Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

Parks and Recreation

This July, the Recreation Department was excited to host our Annual Food Trucks and Fireworks event at the Island Park. The event was a huge success and the fireworks from Skyshooters Displays were amazing.

We could not have pulled it off without some help. We would like to thank our Liberty, Schuylkill and Rainbow fire companies for their involvement. Also, a special thank you to the Schuylkill Haven fire police for helping with parking and the Schuylkill Haven PTO for running the Dime Pitch and Ring Toss games. We enjoyed an amazing performance from the Radioactive Munsters. Rides and food trucks were provided by Huey's Amusements. Plan to join us again next year on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

At the beginning of this summer, Schuylkill Haven Borough and the Recreation Department became the new caretakers of the community garden. Until recently, Schuylkill County Vision coordinated this valued service. We thank all those involved in bringing this project to life and its continued success.

We are proud to announce the new kayak launch at Island Park is officially completed. This beautiful project will greatly benefit kayakers as well as people fishing and allow easier handicap access and parking to the Schuylkill River. We are excited by this new addition to our beautiful park complex made possible by the Schuylkill River Greenways, members of local government, and businesses.

Our Halloween parade is slated for Tuesday, October 29. Registration of entries will be available through the Recreation Center or email havenrec@comcast.net. The 2024 approved parade route will continue to start at the high school and go down Main St. ending at the St. Charles and W. Main streets intersection.



Kindergarten Basketball will return for its third season. Registration will take place September 3 through October 4, open to the first 60 children to register.

Our Bidy League will open registration September 16 thru October 21. Practices will start the week of November 11. Volunteer coaches are needed. Contact the Recreation Department at havenrec@comcast.net.

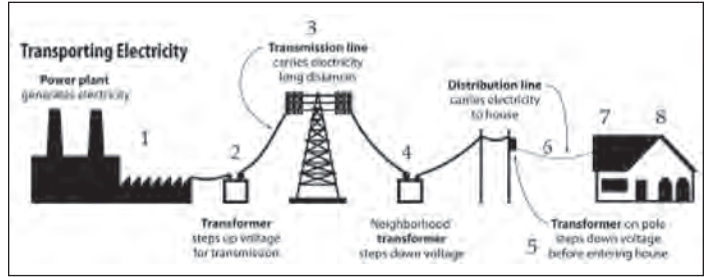
Also, our Haven Hoops county basketball program is looking for coaches for our third and fourth grade boys and girls teams.

To stay up to date with all of our recreation news follow us on Facebook: Schuylkill Haven Recreation Department or check out our website at havenrec.com.

- Mykal and Darle with the Rec Department

Electric Department news

On-demand electricity may be as close as your nearest outlet or light switch; but, the journey it takes to get there is far from short and simple. The following is a look at the fundamentals of how power travels from a power plant to your house.



1. The first step in electrical power starts with producing or generating energy in the form of electric current. This almost always comes from a power plant with a spinning electrical generator.

2. The power heads to a substation at the plant, where it is converted into a very high voltage so it can travel long distances on the transmission grid.

3. The transmission grid is comprised of wires carried on large towers that move the electrical power between the power plant and local substations.

4. At the local substation, the voltage is lowered using a transformer and carried to homes or businesses over distribution lines. These lines are wires typically supported by wood poles or buried underground along roadways.

5. The power headed to your house will need to be stepped down to a lower voltage again. This is done using pole-mounted transformers (power poles with a gray transformer drum attached) and pad-

- Continued on Page 14

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mounted transformers (usually green steel boxes on the ground).

6. Power from the transformers travels via an overhead or underground line to the meter on your house.

7. The meter is connected to the circuit breaker panel, containing fuses and breakers that keep wires from overheating and becoming dangerous.

8. The circuit breaker panel then connects the power to the outlets and switches in your home, bringing electricity into your daily routine to help provide comfort, convenience, security, entertainment and much more.

- Jim Haeseler, Electric Foreman

Highway Department



Leaves and yardwaste will be collected every second Friday of the month and every Friday in the month of November. The Borough's compost area, located at the southern end of St. Charles Street, is for yardwaste only. This consists of grass clippings,

leaves, tree branches smaller than nine inches in diameter... no sod, rock, dirt, or building material.

Newsletter Particulars

"Haven Highlights" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Schuylkill Haven distributed to 3,000 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

E-mail: printing@southschuylkill.net
www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.net

Publication dates for the next 3 issues are
November 7, 2024; February 13 and May 8, 2025

News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Kaitlyn Tinari in the Borough Offices, secretary@schuylkillhaven.org or call 570-385-2841 for info, four weeks prior to the publication date.

Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Schuylkill Haven are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information by calling 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 Schuylkill Haven.

To report a pothole or blocked storm drain, contact the Borough Office at 570-385-2841

The street sweeper is still operational during the first full week of each month through November - August 6-9, September 3-6, October 8-11, and November 5-8. Check the sign on your street for the appropriate day and time to make sure you move your vehicles.

- Brian O. Murray, Foreman

Wastewater Treatment Plant

This newsletter I decided to do something a little different - spotlight our staff here at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our facility is a 24/7, 365-day operation. The incoming flow never stops and our machines run constantly.

There are three of us that operate the plant. Our typical workday is Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Since we need to take readings every day, we take turns working weekends and holidays. Occasionally we will have to work unexpected times due to emergencies... and typically, these emergencies happen during high rainfall events. We can get called in any hour of the night and, in rare situations, we have worked over 30 hours straight trying to fight floods.

The first member of our crew that I would like to introduce is Nick Scheithauer. Nick has been working at the plant for 3-1/2 years. He comes from the manufacturing industry and is great at thinking outside the box. Outside of work, Nick is an avid outdoorsman and performs in his own band called the "Nick Tauer Band." Nick decided to take a big step and will be getting married in mid-August to his fiancée, Brittani.



The second member of our crew is Kyle Morgan. Kyle has worked at the plant for 12 years. Before working for the Borough, Kyle worked 11 years in the plumbing/HVAC industry. He is our "go to" maintenance man and is always good for a laugh. During his free time, Kyle is an active member of Schuylkill

Haven's Fire Department and Dive Rescue team. He is married to his wife Jenn and has a son and daughter, Timmy and Maci.

The final member of our crew is myself, Zack Faust. I have been working at the WWTP for over seven years and have been the department foreman for the



Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

past three years. Before working at the Borough, I spent my professional career in manufacturing, construction and project management. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my son Riley, wife Kelsey, and cheering on my favorite sports team. Go Raiders!

As you can see, all of us have come from many different career paths and we bring many different experiences to the table. Our department is very unique because, not only are we the youngest department in the Borough, we are also one of the youngest wastewater plants in the state. We take pride in our work and look forward to many more decades of working together.

- Zack Faust, Foreman

Water Treatment Plant

UGGH! MY WATER TASTES LIKE CHLORINE! Well, we're sorry for that; but, it's beyond our control. As a treatment facility, we have regulations and procedures that require compliance.



These regulations are set by two governmental agencies - first you have the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington D.C. and then we have the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Pennsylvania.

When the water enters the distribution system from our storage tanks at Willow Lake, there is a minimum level of chlorine that must enter the system. Our system consists of approximately 50 miles of pipeline. Consumers at the beginning get hit harder than those at the end of the system. Requirements call for a minimum level at the end, known as a residual. This number tells us that our disinfection is working throughout the system and the residual is the little bit we have left over. In the past, this number was set at 0.02 mg/L; it now has been increased to 0.20mg/L.

We check for this minimum number once per week. Samples are checked for Total Coli Form Bacteria. There are seven DEP-designated collection sites in our system, mainly close to the ends of the system. We must record this residual number and report it to the DEP every month.

There are three basic mechanisms by which coliform bacteria can occur in treated drinking water. First is break-through from the treatment process, possibly from a high turbidity reading at the plant that would trigger an alarm for the operators.

Secondly, coliforms can regrow typically in the bio films in the distribution system. We try to control this with a chemical addition at the plant and through flushing the system two times during the year.

And, thirdly, organisms result from a recontamination of the treated water within the distribution pipeline system. This could come from events such as a water leak or water main break, thus triggering a "Boil Water Advisory." This is for your safety and is a

requirement. We also try to have enough chlorine in the system to control this type of contamination until the issue, if any, is corrected.

So, the next time you take a drink of your water and taste or smell some chlorine, don't complain. Feel safe, it's for your protection. Here's a quick fix... fill a pitcher and put it in the fridge overnight. The chlorine will dissipate on its own.

Have an enjoyable and safe rest of the summer.

- Kevin Butz, Chief Operator

Water Distribution / Wastewater Collection

Well, the days are growing shorter and the morning air is cooler. Leaves will soon be changing color and starting to drop; so, it must mean fall is nigh. With the temps dropping, it's the perfect time to address any issues that popped up last winter that you didn't have time to finish before the summer heat kicked in (i.e. drafty basements that can cause frozen pipes). Taking care of those issues now will make winter a little more bearable.



In my department, fall brings with it one semi-annual and one annual maintenance project each year.

Every spring and fall, we clean our water distribution system and check our fire hydrants. This is mandated by DEP! Our water system has grown over the years, so what used to take two evenings now takes three eight-hour workdays to complete. This flushing serves two functions - it cleans out the water main lines and moves fresh-treated water around the system.

Each year in October, we subcontract with Dukes to apply an EPA-approved herbicide to our sewer collection system in areas that are lined with mature trees. This process kills the tree roots that enter our 1950 sewer collection system thru cracks and defective joints, preventing major sewer blockages.

What's nice about this procedure is it really works! We have many years of data proving this. They guarantee it and that it will not kill the trees or shrubs that line our streets.

Because we live in a very old town that has many beautiful mature trees, this has always been an issue. What we did was to identify the trouble areas that had re-occurring blockages and divided them into four years of treatment. This also spreads the cost out over the four years and maintains Duke's guarantee. The end result? No more sewer blockages in these areas and beautiful trees in our community.

Be assured that both of these tasks are vital to the Borough, providing you with trouble free utilities.

Note: Due to several water main breaks in recent years, the Water Department will replace 600 feet of 6" diam. main line pipe on Caldwell Street during the August time frame. As always, please plan an alternate route, as the road will be closed to all traffic. This will be a temporary inconvenience necessary for a permanent improvement.

- Carter Hoffman, Foreman



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