



***Borough Administrator's "State of the Borough"***

**Mascot Barry Blockage says "Don't Flush Those Wipes!"**

I recently spoke at a conference exploring approaches authorities might take to educate their communities on wastewater treatment. This gave me the opportunity to introduce Schuylkill Haven's own sewer mascot - Barry Blockage!



**Jessica Seiders  
Borough Admin.**

While you may not think much about where waste goes after you flush the toilet, there are some costly mistakes you can avoid.

"Flushable" Wipes - marketed as safe-to-flush - can cause havoc inside your home/apartment's sewage piping or further downstream eventually reaching

the Borough's Wastewater Treatment Plant. These so-called "flushable wipes" ARE NOT safe to flush.



Recently our Water and Sewer Department crew visited a house where wipes caused an obstruction in the homeowner's sewer line. After hours of a plumber unsuccessfully trying to clear the blockage, the homeowner had to have the pipe dug out in order to access and clear the clog.

The expensive cause? - A lot of wipes!  
- *Continued on Page 2*

**SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS**

- Mon., May 27** – Memorial Day Parade; Service at the Parkway memorial. Lions Club Pancake Breakfast.
- Sun., June 9** – Island Park Car Show (15th annual), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Island Park.
- Fri., June 14** – Rock The Island (live music) & Chicken BBQ, 4 to 10 p.m. at Island Park.
- Sat., June 15** – Schuylkill River Sojourn; canoers and kayakers shove off at 9 a.m. from Island Park.
- Wed., June 19** – Walk, Wine & Wander – 5 to 8 p.m.; Downtown Schuylkill Haven on Main Street between Dock and Parkway. Organized by GSHABA.
- Sat., June 29** – Haven Night @ The Phillies; bus travel, tailgate event, commemorative t-shirt. Level 100 seat.
- Sat., July 6** – Island Fireworks – food, live music starting 4 p.m. with fireworks after dusk; Island Park.
- Sat., Aug. 17** – Island Park Festival, 4 to 10 p.m.; Island Park.
- Sat., Sept. 28** – Borough Day (35th Year) – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at many venues and throughout the downtown, featuring non-stop entertainment, street performers, food, vendors, and so much more!

**BUILDING ISLAND PARK!**  
The Schuylkill Haven Island Committee is conducting its annual fundraising appeal to further develop Island Park. *See page 5!*

**On the inside . . .**

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# Borough Administrator's "State of the Borough"

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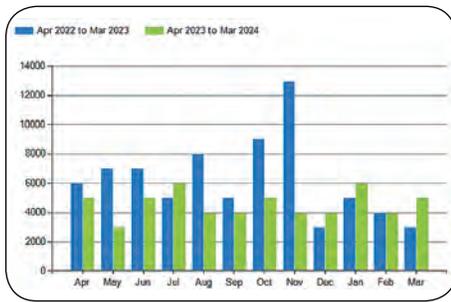
Wipes can cause significant damage to pipes, pumps, and other wastewater treatment equipment. Sewer backups can be a threat to public health and present a challenge to our water utilities by diverting resources away from the essential work being done to treat and manage our wastewater.

Toilet paper and human waste are the only things that should be flushed.

Disinfecting wipes, baby wipes, diapers, and paper towels should **NEVER** be flushed. All wipes and other items should be properly disposed of in the trash, not the toilet. Placing your pipes at risk for serious clogs can result in a hefty bill.

## Utility history at your fingertips

Did you know that you can access your utility usage for electric and water history on your computer? Create an account at [www.schuylkillhaven.com](http://www.schuylkillhaven.com). You do not need to make an online payment to view usage and payment history.



**PRIDE** – Borough Council president Jerry Bowman, left, and DCNR Service Forester Will Thomas

## Three decades – Tree City USA

Schuylkill Haven Borough was named a 2023 Tree City USA Community by the Arbor Day Foundation honoring its commitment to effective urban forest management. Now marking the 30th year with this designation, Schuylkill Haven is one of 117 Tree City communities located in Pennsylvania.

The Tree City USA program was founded in 1976 to celebrate towns and cities committed to growing their urban canopy. Led by the Arbor Day Foundation, with partners at USDA Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters, it provides the foundational framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their tree cover

## Fish stocking

For the second year in a row, trout stocking has taken place ahead of fishing season in both the Schuylkill River at Island Park and Stoyer's Dam at Bubeck Park in the Borough.



Roughly 300 fish, between 12 and 20 inches, were released to local waters. Making this possible was the partnership with the Schuylkill Headwaters Association and help from Mrs. Kay Schwenk's SHAHS Biology Club students and families from the community, totaling 30 to 35 people.



**your staycation starts here**





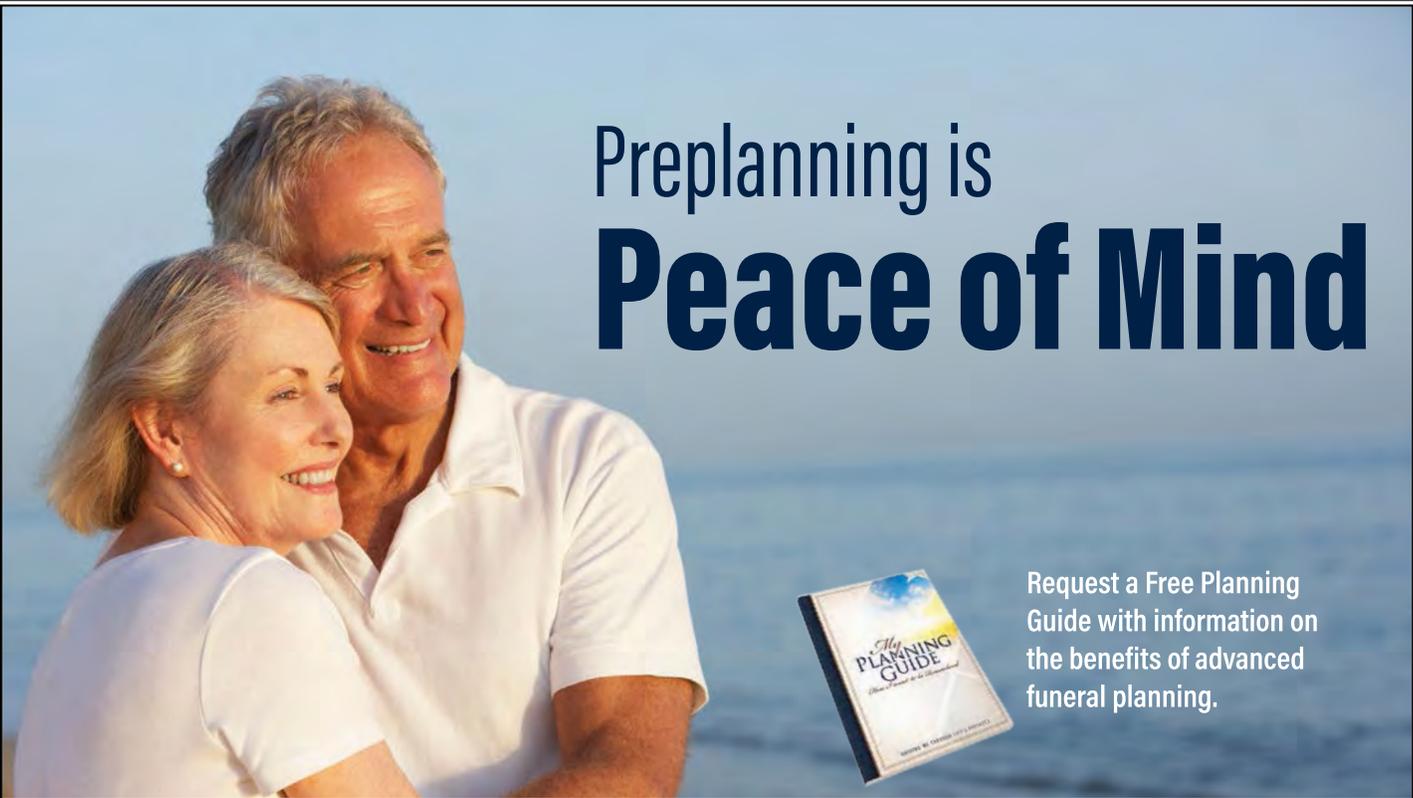
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# GSHABA – Greater Sch. Haven Area Business Assoc.

GSHABA – Greater Schuylkill Haven Area Business Association – is pleased to announce two new officers for 2024 – Robin Merkel as president and Adam Spotts, vice president.

Robin is a long-time Schuylkill Haven resident and secretary/treasurer of Schuylkill Haven Casket Company and Columbia Casket Corp. Adam is also a long-time Haven resident and is the LDC warehouse manager at CJ's Tire and Automotive on Rt. 61.

GSHABA is grateful for three years of service from former president, Jeff Spotts, of Spotts Insurance Group and former vice president, Jacquie Engel, executive director of the Walk In Art Center (WIAC).

## Club and community activities

All current and prospective business members were welcomed to GSHABA's **Siete de Mayo** celebration held recently at The Cantina restaurant, Adamsdale.

The public is cordially invited to enjoy our annual fundraiser – **Reds, Whites & Brews** – to be held on Friday, May 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Walk In Art Center (rain or shine). Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Multiple wineries, breweries, distilleries and a food truck will provide the tastings. Live music by Gleason's Drift will entertain. Bring a camp chair for seating; enjoy the food, beverages and music.

**Walk, Wine & Wander** is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19. This regular summer event, organized

by GSHABA, has been a town favorite for more than 10 years. Join the community for wine tastings, craft vendors, music and fun on Haven's Main Street Business District. In the event of rain, the event may be postponed to June 20.

GSHABA is also advertising for the first time in "Explore Schuylkill Adventure Guide." If received, find us on page 41. Check GSHABA's Facebook group page for local activities. All businesses are encouraged to post; members get pre-approval authorization.

## Get involved; Become a member

True to its mission, GSHABA was formed in 2004 to focus on economic stability and growth for businesses and residents. Its purpose is to promote existing businesses, welcome new ones, and to improve the enjoyment of community for all with special events, beautification, and supporting visions for the future.

All business members, residents, community and political leaders, and anyone interested in making the greater Schuylkill Haven area a viable economic community are welcome. We meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month.

GSHABA continues to support local businesses and the local community. We encourage everyone to choose your local stores and businesses first before going elsewhere. For more information contact [GSHABAINformation@gmail.com](mailto:GSHABAINformation@gmail.com).

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# Schuylkill Haven Island Park 2024 Fundraising Appeal

The Schuylkill Haven Island Committee is conducting its Annual Fundraising Appeal to continue the development of Schuylkill Haven Island Park into an outstanding natural, recreational and cultural facility ... not only for Schuylkill Haven, but the entire Schuylkill County Region.

## Thousands of people are benefitting from the following activities on the Island:

T-Ball	Little League Travel Baseball	Kick Ball	Fishing
NFL Flag Football	Rock The Island	Biking	Canoeing
Soccer	Schuylkill River Sojourn	Jogging	Car Show
Softball	Island Park Festival	Pumpkin Patch	
Safety Night Out and 4th of July Fireworks		Senior Citizen Appreciation Night	

## With your financial support these activities will continue, while opening other opportunities to serve more people in the years to come.

With the help of local residents and businesses, over the last sixteen years we've completed the following: Soccer Field with Electric Scoreboard, 2 Softball/Youth Baseball Fields, Spacious Pavilion with Lights, Renovations to the Concession Stand, Rehabilitating the Walking Trail and Erecting a Memorial honoring the residents of the former Irish Flats, which also proudly displays our US. flag, State flag and Borough flag.



Flag Football



Memorial honoring the residents of the former Irish flats



Walking Trail



Schuylkill River Sojourn

## With your help, we have accomplished much, but there is still much more to be done.

Your continued help, will enable us to complete the following:

- Walking Bridge to Downtown Schuylkill Haven • **Event Stage w/ Roof (Under Construction)**
- Press Box and other enhancements to the Softball/Youth Baseball fields

Every dollar received moves us closer to turning a dream into a reality for future generations to enjoy.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## Schuylkill Haven Island Project Fundraising Appeal

- I am pleased to support Schuylkill Haven's Island Project Fundraising Appeal with a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- My pledge will be paid in 2024.
- I will spread my pledge over 3 years – 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ 2025 \_\_\_\_\_ 2026 \_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is my check made payable to: **SCHUYLKILL HAVEN ISLAND COMMITTEE, INC.**

Please drop off this form at the Schuylkill Haven Borough Hall or mail it to:

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN ISLAND COMMITTEE, INC. - 333 Center Ave., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
(Envelope Enclosed In This Newsletter)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company or Organization Name if Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your Pledge Is Tax Deductible. Schuylkill Haven Island Committee, Inc. Is A 501-C3 Non-Profit Organization

# Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library

## Summer Reading – Get Your Passport to Adventure!

Plan your summer by including activities at your local Library. Saturday summer hours – from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – begin on July 6 through August 31. Hours during the rest of the week will remain the same.

In case you haven't visited the Library before, our address is 104 Saint John Street in Schuylkill Haven. Follow us on Facebook.com/Schuylkill Haven Public Library; call or email for information – 570-385-0542 or [Schhavenlibrary104@gmail.com](mailto:Schhavenlibrary104@gmail.com).

### Children's events and activities

The Library welcomes Rachael Lentz as our new Children's Library aide. Rachael started in late February and has been developing new programs and activities for our community. Here is a message from her about the summer programs...

Kick off this summer with the Summer Reading Program, guided by Miss Rachael at the Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library! This year's theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library," with a new location to "visit" each week.

Children will be able to immerse themselves in a variety of locations both real and make-believe, while receiving a stamp for each one in their own "Summer Reading Passport!" Events will be held weekly for children of all ages. Tuesday nights will be geared to all ages, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday mornings at

10:30 a.m. will feature activities with children, toddler through four years old. A repeat of the programs will then be held each Saturday beginning at 10:30 a.m.

At the end of the summer, an all-ages art gallery will be exhibited in the Children's Room to display each child's fantastic summer Library adventure.

Be sure to follow the youngsters' progress on Facebook, and [@schuylkillhavenlibraryforkids](https://www.instagram.com/schuylkillhavenlibraryforkids) on Instagram, to stay up to date on all event information and additions. Further questions can be sent to [SchuylkillHavenLibraryKids@gmail.com](mailto:SchuylkillHavenLibraryKids@gmail.com). Miss Rachael looks forward to seeing you and having a fantastic summer adventure.

## Borough Tax Collector

March and April have been a busy time with tax receiving, deposits, and reports that had to be filed. A Tax Collector must remit receivables to the Borough and County twice each month from March through June. In addition, the Per Capita records must be continually updated with people moving in and out.

### Per Capita Tax explained

Let's talk about that "pesky" Per Capita bill. The Per Capita is a "head" tax on adults living in the Borough. The bill has all the pertinent information – name, address and tax collector information.

On the top right of the bill is the bill number and the amount to pay for each of the three possible paying periods – the early pay "Discount," the actual "Face" amount pay period, and the late "Penalty" period. It also notes "Delinquent after 12/31/2024."

The bill then states two amounts for payment – \$5 for the County and \$5 for the Borough. If you follow the payment schedule at top-right you can't go wrong.

### Office hours or by appointment

Office hours for May and June are 12 to 3 p.m. and by appointment. Starting in July there are no set hours. Just call the office to arrange an appointment at 570-385-1313.

Pay bills by check or money order. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you need a receipt.

Per Capita Tax updates need to be provided to the tax collector. If you know of someone that's moved out of town, is recently deceased, or in a nursing home, contact the tax office right away so they can be removed from the tax rolls.

The Borough/County property taxes and per capita taxes must be paid in full when due. Installment plans are not allowed.

If you have any questions on the Borough/County Tax, call my office at 570-385-1313 or 570-990-6821. If you have questions on the School Tax, call Berkheimer or the School District.

Don't forget our email, [taxcollector@schuylkillhaven.org](mailto:taxcollector@schuylkillhaven.org).

– Jake Whetstone, Tax Collector

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# Keep Schuylkill Haven Beautiful . . . from The Code Guy

We all know life sometimes gets a bit busy, unorganized and out of control. We also know getting things back in order, reorganized and back under our control gives one a great sense of accomplishment.

That said, living in a town comes with responsibilities. At times, some residents get too busy or seem to forget those responsibilities and the impact that has on the town as a whole.

**"SHUN" Property Maintenance**



Inspira **"SHUN"**  
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As Code Enforcement officer, probably one of the most frequent responses I hear when giving a notice of violation for an unkempt property is "I've been so busy I haven't had the time" or some variant of that excuse. Many of those in violation are offended and annoyed because a neighbor has complained or that my office has noticed the lack of maintenance, but are forgetting their responsibility of living in a town.

We're all in this together. Because we live and

share this great little town, our properties become a network and the fabric that makes up our community. Each piece, or stitch, is attached and impacts the other. That's why it's imperative every property owner takes care of their little piece of property.



So next time you get a notice, don't perceive it as my office or a neighbor is picking on you; but, rather as a reminder. If we all do our part to keep our town neat and clean, it benefits you, has a positive impact for the town and, most importantly, strengthens that fabric we're all a part of. Remember we're all a team, and sometimes it's your time to carry the ball

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.

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.

### Sidewalk areas

Sidewalks must be maintained and kept in good repair, void of weeds and grass, swept and cleaned of debris, and washed down occasionally.

Curbing must also be kept in good repair, void of all grass and weeds out to where the curbing and street intersect.

### Trash & storage

Remember to remove all trash and recycling containers from street view as soon as possible after the scheduled pickup day.

Prior to pickup day, trash/rubbish must be kept in conventional, well-maintained trash containers with tight-sealing lids. Trash bags are acceptable, but

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# Keep Schuylkill Haven Beautiful . . . from The Code Guy

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, confined within the container, and not allowed to spill out or be blown away.

## Yard areas

Lawns must be kept mowed to a height of 6" or less and trimmed around buildings, fences, play equipment, and the like.

General property areas should be maintained to ensure the attractiveness of the neighborhood.

## Borough compost area

The compost site located at the end of St. Charles Street, a short distance behind the wastewater treatment plant, is great to aid in your seasonal yard clean up. Please remember, the site is for compost items only — grass, weeds, brush, leaf debris and the like.

The following are NOT permissible to be "dumped" at the compost site — trash, garbage, household items, construction material of any kind, dirt, brick, block, stone or like material.

## Fences

Permits are required for all fencing - whether it is new, addition to, or replacement of a fence. Fences must follow height restrictions, location requirements, and minimum open ratio-structural areas as required by the Zoning Ordinance.

- Front yard - any fence located in the required front yard of a lot in a residential district shall have a minimum ratio of 1:1 of open to structural areas (such as picket or split rail fence).

- Height - A fence in a residential district, that is within ten feet of a residential lot and that is not within the required front yard, shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet. Note: Contact the Code Department for exceptions.

- Setbacks - A fence shall not be required to comply with minimum setbacks for accessory structures.

- A fence may be constructed on a lot line; however, homeowners are encouraged, but not required, to set fences at least two feet from abutting lot line in order to allow for maintenance. Exceptions: (1) a fence shall not be placed within a street right of way; and (2) a fence of a business shall be set back a minimum of five feet of the abutting lot line of an existing dwelling or undeveloped residentially zoned lot.

## 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 respon-



- Continued on Page 10

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# Keep Schuylkill Haven Beautiful . . . from The Code Guy

- Continued from Page 9

sibility or the deficiency of training regarding your furry kid (pet).

Borough Ordinance 1000 regulates the keeping of pets. A copy is available at Borough Hall for residents who are interested in obtaining a copy.

## Check smoke/CO detectors

Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors save lives!

Every dwelling should have smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on each habitable level of the dwelling. Every sleeping room should have a smoke alarm.

Basements/cellars with a solid fuel heating appliance should have a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector. Combination units are available and serve a dual purpose where both are needed.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless vapor that is sometimes produced by furnaces and space heaters. Symptoms of CO poisoning include nausea,



dizziness, severe headache, confusion, and unconsciousness. If you notice these symptoms in yourself or a family member, go to the emergency room right away.

If you have a solid fuel heating appliance, use gas-powered space heaters, a kerosene heater, or have a fireplace, install carbon monoxide detectors in your home. If you already have detectors, test them regularly. Make sure they are in proper working order and change the batteries according to manufacturer's recommendations.

## Meter notification requirement

All residents and contractors performing work that requires moving, un-securing, altering or disconnection of the meter or meter base in any capacity must contact the Code Enforcement Department at 570-385-2841.

No utility customer shall permit any person - excepting an authorized officer, agent or employee of the utility - do any work upon any meter, transformer, test switch or other utility apparatus located upon the customer's premises.

Failure to comply or allow work to be performed by any individual, other than stated above, can result in utility disconnection without notice. Service will only be restored on payment in advance of a fee for reconnection and all costs related to disconnection. In the case where evidence of tampering or fraud is evident, the above fees will be assessed plus all related enforcement, restitution and court costs.

- Michael Paulin, The Code Guy

## South Sch. Garden Club

### Plant sale on May 18

The annual plant sale of the South Schuylkill Garden Club will be held Saturday, May 18 at Bubeck Park in Schuylkill Haven from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The selection of plants includes perennials, annuals, herbs, shrubs, natives, heirloom vegetables, succulents, sun-loving and shade-loving plants, small trees and even house plants.

The plants are sourced from club members' gardens right here in Schuylkill County making them especially hardy to grow locally. Prices are hard to beat. Qualified gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice for successful outcomes.

### Club to give \$1000 scholarship

The Garden Club will award a \$1000 Scholarship to a Schuylkill County high school senior furthering their education in related horticulture and agricultural fields.

Applications must be received by Thursday, May 30. An application form can be requested from high school guidance departments or from Scholarship Chair Patricia Wishousky - call 272-245-5050 or e-mail [pjw47@outlook.com](mailto:pjw47@outlook.com). The winner will receive the scholarship at a Garden Club summer meeting.

## Child's play. . . or is it?

**Did you know that when children draw they develop pre-writing skills?**

They strengthen fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination and strengthen pencil grasp, preparing them for writing in school.

**And you just thought they were playing!**

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# Enjoy These Upcoming Borough Events

## Events support Island Park improvements

Residents, businesses, and visitors who enjoy the many activities made possible over the years, thanks to the development and improvements at Schuylkill Haven's Island Park, are asked to continue their support. Information and a donor remittance slip can be found on Page 5 of this *Haven Highlights* issue. A self-addressed envelope is also included for your convenience. Please help!

In addition, you are invited to participate in the following public fundraising events scheduled this year - Island Park Car Show on Sunday, June 9; Rock the Island celebration and Chicken BBQ on Friday, June 14 as a kickoff to the start of the Schuylkill River Sojourn taking place on Saturday, June 15; Haven Night @ the Philadelphia Phillies on June 29; Island Fest on Saturday, August 17; and Pumpkin Patch on Sunday, October 20.

## Poppies and Breakfast on Memorial Day

Remember the fallen this Memorial Day on Monday, May 27. Start the day by purchasing a poppy from the Schuylkill Haven American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and enjoy a hearty breakfast offered by the Lions Club at its annual Pancake Breakfast cooked in the Haven High School cafeteria.

Pancakes, bacon, juice and coffee costs just \$10 with all proceeds going to support local youth activities. The breakfast is served from 7 to 10 a.m. with

plenty of time allowed to get downtown to watch the Memorial Day parade and the service on Parkway.

## Rock the Island and River Sojourn

Canoeists and kayakers are invited to be part of the 26th annual Schuylkill River Sojourn that gets underway from the riverbanks at Island Park on Saturday, June 8. Launch time will be about 9 a.m.

Non-boaters will be treated to a local spectacle as more than 100 river enthusiasts shove off in multi-colored crafts at the start of a 7-day, 112-mile guided paddle from Schuylkill Haven to Boathouse Row in Philadelphia.

A pre-sojourn "Rock the Island" event will be held Friday, June 7 with live music, a chicken barbecue, and ice cream available. The public is invited.

## Island Park car show

The public is invited to the 15th annual Island Park Car Show on Sunday, June 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Purchase breakfast and lunch while taking in the hot rods, antique and collectible vehicles, muscle cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

## Fireworks to explode July 6

Enjoy music, games, great food, informative displays, fun, and probably the best fireworks show in the region on Sat., July 6 at Island Park. The fun will get underway at 4 p.m. with a fireworks display sure to dazzle beginning at about 9:30 p.m.



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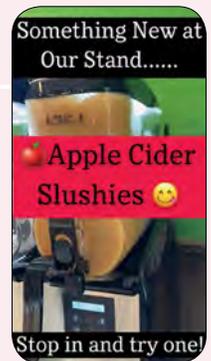


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# Schuylkill Haven Lions Club



The Schuylkill Haven Lions Club is currently 26 members strong. Member longevity ranges from just a few months to over 40 years of service.

This year's officers are Jake Whetstone, president; Gerry Reichert, first vice president; Harry Rubright, second vice president; Nicole Bensinger, treasurer; and Brad Fryer, secretary.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at the Friedensburg Restaurant. Club business is handled on the first Monday; a speaker program is featured on the third Monday. Prospective new members are always welcomed. Interested in more information or becoming a member of the Schuylkill Haven Lions Club? Contact Jake Whetstone at 570-990-6821.

Summer meetings are held at Bubeck Park in the Lions Pavilion. These meetings are open to any one looking to become a member of the largest service club anywhere. The meal to guests, whether indoors or out, is on the Schuylkill Haven Lions.

## Community activities

Residents having no-longer-needed eyeglasses can drop them off at the Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library; Dr. George and Ann Marie Roberts' office, 100 E. Main St.; or Dr. Bernice Machamer's office, 31 Parkway. Last year we turned in over 5,000 pairs of glasses to be repurposed for use in the eye care industry.

This year our Haven Lions Foundation will again provide scholarships on behalf of students enrolled in medical profession studies.

Our Memorial Day Breakfast will be held at the Sch. Haven Area High School from 7 to 10 a.m. The cost is \$10 for an all-you-care-to-eat servings of hot cakes, bacon, juice and coffee. The Sch. Haven American Legion Ladies Auxiliary will be on-site selling poppies during the breakfast. Breakfast proceeds benefit youth activities.

Don't miss us on Borough Day - Saturday, Sept. 28. We will be at our usual location at the M&T parking lot area along W. Main Street near the train station offering pulled pork sandwiches and drinks at a good price. The Lions will also have a Chinese Auction featuring many nice items.

## 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](mailto:printing@southschuylkill.net) for pricing and info..

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Faith Church, located at 1168 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61) near St. Luke's Geisinger Hospital, has many ministry and learning opportunities for church families and community. Our plan is to Love God, Love People and Serve our Community... and we need your help.

We are planning our 25th anniversary on July 21 and welcome all for that special Sunday with a dinner afterwards. It's hard to believe we have been here for that long.

We are not sitting still as we begin a major re-creation of our entire Children and Youth Ministry and their worship areas. It's exciting as we have just completed an overhaul of our flooring throughout the building. God has been good to us.

Our annual picnic is coming up and our multiple ministries are scheduling meetings and events. There is a ministry gathering on almost every night of the week. Our Campaign of Kindness has begun organizing for its summer effort to get into the community with several needy projects. Check our website for details.

We have a Celebration Service every Sunday at 10 a.m. with a live band, prayers and an encouraging, uplifting message. We would love for you to join us. We are gearing up for our summer Vacation Bible School in our community... all are welcome.

We would love for you to consider being a part of our active, non-judgmental, God-loving, Bible-teaching church. Everybody is welcome and Pastor Doug Cresswell would love to meet you. If you can stop by, ask for him.

# Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

## Parks and Recreation

This spring has been very busy for the Recreation Department. Our youth T-Ball program has moved to a more traditional spring start and will be playing games on the Island. We are excited for the Royals, Athletics, Diamondbacks and Giants to take the field.

Island Park is also the site for our one-of-a-kind NFL Flag Football, youth soccer and softball programs. This summer the Recreation Department will host Adult Kickball, Mom's for Make-A-Wish Softball and Men's Fast-Pitch action.

In partnership with the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, fish stocking has commenced at Stoyer's Dam and the Schuylkill River at Island Park.

A community favorite, the annual Independence Holiday Fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 6 at Island Park. Enjoy a variety of food, music and, as always, an amazing fireworks display.

The Island Park Spotts Fields will host the



Schuylkill County Youth Softball Championships over three days - July 9, 10 & 11.

There sure are a lot of things to see and be part of this summer. Stay up-to-date with all Recreation Department happenings at [havenrec.com](http://havenrec.com) and on Facebook at *Schuylkill Haven Recreation Department*.

- Darle & Mykal, Recreation Staff

## Electrical Department

'Tis the season for spring and summer storms! And, with those storms comes potential power outages. As always, in an emergency situation, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, when problems arise that are not an emergency, call one of the following phone numbers to report the situation.

If a power outage happens during the hours of 8 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday notify the Borough Hall office at 570-385-2841.

After business hours or on holidays or weekends, call the non-emergency number at the Schuylkill County Communications Center at 570-628-3792 or the Schuylkill Haven Police Department at 570-385-9111. Either of those options will get the problem reported to the proper personnel and get your problem on the way to being solved as quickly and efficiently as possible.

When reporting a problem, please be as descriptive about the problem as possible and give the per-

- Continued on Page 14



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# Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

- Continued from Page 13

son as much information as to the address or location of the electrical problem.

As a friendly reminder, please keep the path to your electric meter clear and free of obstructions so our meter reader can safely access and read your meter.

- **Jim Haeseler, Foreman**

## Highway Department

Time to clean up the town! The street sweeper will be in operation the first whole week of each month with hours of operation 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. Check the sign posting on your street for the days of operation.

The street sweeper will be operating May 7-to-10, June 4-to-7, July 2-to-5, August 5-to-9, September 3-to-6, October 1-to-4, and November 5-to-8.

Yard waste - limbs, leaves, grass clippings, and other vegetative waste - will be collected curbside the second Friday of each month. Biodegradable bags made of recycled paper are a great substitute to plastic garbage bags.

All compost that is taken to the compost area is to be dumped in the designated area. Please do not dump in the area of the tub grinder. This area is for yard waste ONLY! No dirt, rock, sod, or lumber, and no logs larger than nine inches in diameter.

## Newsletter Particulars

**"Haven Highlights" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Schuylkill Haven. Circulation is 3,000 copies mailed to every household and free at public locations within the borough.**

**Designed and printed by**

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**Publication dates for the next 3 issues are  
August 15, November 7 and February 13, 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](mailto: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.**

The Borough will be performing several projects this summer that will cause parking restrictions, closed streets and detours. Please use caution when approaching these areas.

To report a pothole, call Borough Hall at 570-385-2841

- **Brian O. Murray, Foreman**

## Water Distribution / Wastewater Collection

Summertime, yay! Beginning with Memorial Day and winding down on Labor Day, it's the best time when lawns and gardens are green and growing, school is out, vacations enjoyed, part-time summer jobs, or simply enjoying it all without set plans.

What a great time of the year. It's the time when short sleeve shirts, shorts, and flip-flops are the norm and everything looks fresh, new, alive and the windows are open!

Summertime is also our opportunity to really clean up from winter's stronghold, fill swimming pools, water lawns and gardens, and wash the car. Other than your own enthusiasm, there is one resource that makes it all possible - WATER! What a remarkable and cheap resource! We are very fortunate to live in an area of the country that has an abundance of good, pure, easy to treat water. We work very hard around the clock to provide you with this great life sustaining resource.

Schuylkill Haven has been in the water business since 1881 when the Schuylkill Haven Water & Gas Co. was formed. Around 1890, the Borough purchased the Panther Valley Reservoir and laid new pipes into Schuylkill Haven and Cressona to provide residents with fresh, clean water along with meeting the demands of a growing area. As it was back then - and holds true today - to keep a safe, clean water system running 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, it costs a lot of money.

We all need water to survive and still, what a bargain water is. Since the last water rate increase in 2016 (that had not been raised since a decade before), water costs for a residential user is about \$8.50 per 1,000 gallons used. Compare that to your Comcast bill that, if it's like mine, goes up every year no matter what. What would 1,000 gallons of gas cost today?

This summer the Water Department will be replacing 600 feet of water main on Caldwell Street due to repeated breaks on that line. The road will be closed to traffic while this construction is being done.

Also this summer, several small upgrades - replacing some old valves and adding water connections to new homes and buildings - will be made to the water system. Be aware of road closures during these repairs.

Enough said; use the water! It's the best deal out there by far. Enjoy your summer and stay safe.

- **Carter Hoffman, Foreman**

## Water Treatment Plant

Hello summer! Those that have been reading these little articles know that I'm not a person that likes winter. I am a "summer person" especially after a

# Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

winter like we just went through. Plentiful snow fall is good for the Borough's drinking water supply. I touched on this in the last issue of *Haven Highlights* - the need to replenish our reservoirs with winter's melting snow and spring's refreshing rains.

Now we have to prepare for the warm summer months, and it's a good feeling to know we are going to do that with reservoirs overflowing with fresh water. As the days get longer and the temperatures start rising, we don't always know how much rain will be in the forecast. So, it's always a good idea to try to conserve as much water as possible. It not only helps us maintain a good supply for the water system, it also helps the customer save a few dollars. Here are a few easy ways to do just that.

Indoors, wash only full loads of laundry and dishes, saving up to 50 gallons per week. Fixing household leaks can result in up to 20 gallons per day. Limiting your "shower time" to only five minutes saves up to eight gallons each time. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth saves up to 2-1/2 gallons per minute. When making repairs or planning a remodeling project, purchase high efficiency toilets and fixtures.

Outdoors, water your lawn only one or two days per week instead of five. This can save a whopping 840 gallons weekly. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks, saving up to 500 gallons per month. Add a 2-to-3 inch layer of mulch

around plants to reduce evaporation.

And finally, urge your family and friends to conserve. If everyone does a little, we all benefit a lot. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

- Kevin Butz, Foreman

## Wastewater Treatment Plant

"Oooh, that smell! Can't you smell that smell?!" That Smell by Lynyrd Skynyrd is a classic hit and it is one that we tend to hum to ourselves each spring down here at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

During the spring and early summer, we like to complete our tank cleanings and inspections. This involves draining the tanks, washing them out, and going over each mechanical component inside the tanks.

This not only takes a long time to do, but also creates some pretty smelly odors. The higher temperatures also tend to make the smells a bit worse. We do our best to not share our odors with our neighbors, but sometimes they stretch beyond our fence line.

As a reminder, the Wastewater Treatment Plant is for authorized personnel only. No resident should enter the property without permission. If your key fob for the compost/cardboard recycling area gate is not working, contact Borough Hall located at 333 Center Avenue.

- Zack Faust, Chief Operator



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