# Haven Highlights

"The Little Town That Could"™

No. 85 – Issued Quarterly | BOROUGH OF SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA | MAY 2025


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

# Checking the Boxes: ☑ Electricity ☑ Recreation ☑ Safety

### *Challenges facing electric utilities*

Schuylkill Haven is a public power community. That means that the municipality operates its own electric utility dedicated to serving you. But, not every aspect of electrical services falls within our control.



**Jessica Seiders**
**Borough Admin.**

Our municipal system is linked to a regional transmission system, or grid, that helps to ensure that the lights remain on, even during peak electricity demand on the hottest and coldest days of the year. To achieve this, power plants are compensated for their availability (capacity) to meet demand all year long. You can think of capacity as an insurance policy for the grid. Pricing for each power plant's capacity is determined through an auction process.

In the most recent capacity auction, prices rose significantly, resulting in increased costs for utilities to provide electric service. It is anticipated that our community's capacity costs will increase by approxi-

*– Continued on Page 2*




**31 YEARS A TREE CITY USA – Shade Tree Commission members of the Arbor Day Foundation, Alexandra Hill and Ellen Smith hold the Tree City flag presented to Schuylkill Haven Borough officials. Standing behind, from left, are Jessica Seiders, Mykal McCulloch, Will Thomas (DCNR representative), and Jerry Bowman.**

## SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

**Mon., May 26 – Memorial Day Parade**; Service at the Parkway memorial. Lions Club Pancake Breakfast.

**Sun., June 8 – Island Park Car Show** (16th annual), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Island Park.

**Fri., June 13 – Rock The Island** (live music) **& Chicken BBQ**, 4 to 10 p.m. at Island Park.

**Sat., June 14 – Schuylkill River Sojourn**; canoers and kayakers shove off at 9 a.m. from Island Park.

**Wed., June 18 – Walk, Wine & Wander** – 5 to 8 p.m.; Downtown Schuylkill Haven on Main Street between Dock and Parkway. Organized by GSHABA.

**Sat., July 12 – Island Fireworks** – food, live music starting 4 p.m. with fireworks after dusk; Island Park.

**Sat., July 19 – Haven Night @ The Phillies**; bus travel, tailgate event, commemorative t-shirt. Level 200 seat.

**Sat., Aug. 16 – Island Park Festival**, 4 to 10 p.m.; Island Park.

**Sat., Sept. 27 – Borough Day** (36th 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!***

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# Borough Administrator's "State of the Borough"

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mately 1.9 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) this summer. Several factors contribute to this spike in costs.

**Rising Demand** – Nationwide, customer demand for electricity is steadily increasing with new large energy consumers, such as data centers, requiring significantly more electricity for their operations.

**More Regulations** – The government is instituting additional regulations on electric utilities to ensure that generators can operate during extreme weather conditions and meet environmental standards.

**Fewer Power Plants** – A number of electric generators have been retired in recent years. New generation plants are not being constructed quickly enough to address the shortfall.

There are proactive steps we, as a community, can take to help control capacity costs in the future, including:

• **Exploring Options** – Our Electric Department is a member of American Municipal Power, Inc., offering various programs and services to mitigate increasing capacity costs.

• **Load Management** – Every electricity customer can help manage usage during the extreme cold and heat by operating appliances during early morning or late evening hours when electricity demand is lower.

• **Being More Efficient** – Replace older appliances and light bulbs with energy-efficient alternatives, turn off lights and appliances when not in use, and adjust your thermostat to be lower in winter and higher in summer.

• **Peak Alert Events** – Reduce electricity usage during peak alert events. The Peak Shaving Generation Program through AMP helps reduce electric costs during extremely hot and cold days.

Hopefully, efforts at the state level, along with other industry efforts, will help manage future increases. In January, the Borough approved a 5% rate increase effective to offset the anticipated 10% increase impacting utilities this summer. While this may not be the most welcome news, customers won't see this direct hike on an upcoming bill.

We recognize that rising electric rates can strain household budgets, and we remain committed to keeping your rates manageable. If you have any questions regarding capacity costs or utility rates, please contact our utility office.

## *A vision for future recreation*

The Borough has secured a matching grant to create a Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan (CROSP) to outline a vision for the future. It will

*– Continued on Page 4*



# 3 locations in Schuylkill County



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*Supervisor*

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# Borough Administrator's "State of the Borough"

– *Continued from Page 2*

include strategies for development, maintenance, and access – shaped by public input – and an analysis of existing conditions.

The Borough will appoint a consultant to provide strategic recommendations to enhance our parks, recreation facilities, programs, and services for all ages. If you're interested in participating in this process, please email *secretary@schuylkillhaven.org.*

This year, the Willow Street Playground will get an equipment update, including new swings, a free-standing climbing unit, and an inclusive slide.

### *Pedestrian and motorist safety*

Mandy Fitzpatrick, executive director of Schuylkill Connects, offers the following reminders to motorists and pedestrians.

As warmer weather returns, more residents of Schuylkill Haven are out walking, biking, and enjoying our beautiful town. With this increase in foot traffic comes a timely caution – street safety is a shared responsibility between drivers and pedestrians; both share close quarters on our busy main streets.

Each year there has been a rise in near-miss incidents, particularly near crosswalks, school zones, and downtown intersections. Pedestrians should always use designated crosswalks, obey traffic signals, and stay alert—especially when using mobile devices. Reflective clothing or accessories during dusk and dawn hours can also improve visibility.

Drivers must slow down in high foot traffic zones, yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and never pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk. Pennsylvania law requires motorists to come to a complete stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks. School zones and residential streets demand extra caution—children and pets can be unpredictable.

To help improve safety, the Borough has applied for PA WalkWorks funds to create an Active Transportation Plan to document existing conditions and to guide future improvements for bicycle, pedestrian, wheelchair, bus, and motorist safety.

Whether you're behind the wheel or on foot, stay alert, be courteous, and follow the rules of the road. Let's make Schuylkill Haven a model for street safety.

For more information on the Active Transportation Plan process or to get involved, visit the Borough's website or contact the Borough Office.

# Schuylkill County Fair

This year's Schuylkill County Fair will be held Monday to Saturday, July 28 thru August 2 at the Fairgrounds off Rt. 895 just east of Summit Station.

Truck and tractor pulls are featured Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Amusement rides and nightly entertainment promises fun for all.

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# Schuylkill Haven Island Park 2025 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 seventeen 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, Erecting a Memorial honoring the residents of the former Irish Flats also proudly displaying our US. flag, State flag and Borough flag, and adding the long-awaited **Event Stage** just this past year.


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**
**• 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 2025.**
- ❑ **I will spread my pledge over 3 years – 2025 _____ 2026 _____ 2027 _____**
- ❑ **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

# Can You Say "Bicenterquasquigenary?"– Haven's 275th

Schuylkill Haven is celebrating its 275th anniversary (1750 to 2025) this year. In March 1750 a land grant was given to John Fincher. Martin Dreibelbis settled on this land in 1775. His son Jacob laid out the town plot and gave the area the name of Schuylkill Haven. The family built saw and grist mills, a distillery, general store and blacksmith shop.

As the years passed, Schuylkill Haven would become a funnel for the coal industry where most all of the coal delivered to Philadelphia traversed the town via the Schuylkill Canal (now Dock St. and Parkway) and later by train.

Schuylkill Haven will commemorate this milestone year with exhibitions, sharing of oral histories, and community events. Mayor Mike Devlin kicked off the anniversary last month with a proclamation, citing the Borough's history and its amazing progress over the past 275 years.

The 275th Committee is seeking Schuylkill Haven Ambassador Volunteers as well as financial sponsors. The committee needs all the help it can get to decorate businesses with memorabilia, and sell merchandise like hats and t-shirts, and assistance with planning and attending upcoming events.

Events on the schedule thus far include:

- The Island Park car show on Sunday, June 8 will have a special 275th theme.
- The 275th Committee is cohosting Walk, Wine & Wander along with the Greater Schuylkill Haven Area Business Association (GSHABA) on Wednesday, June 18 (rain date is June 19).
- The American Acoustic Music Festival, to be held on The Island June 27-28, will feature 275th merchandise available for sale.
- The annual Schuylkill Haven fireworks on July 12 will include a family day and a carnival.
- Schuylkill Haven historian, Richard Nagle, will share local history in four lectures at Bubeck Park during the summer.
- The Schuylkill Haven student postcard art contest will have four submissions selected and, along with the anniversary logo, will be sold as postcards. In addition, the post office is supporting the celebration with a cancellation stamp. It will only be available on Borough Day – Sat., Sept. 27 – from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- A time capsule will be buried on Wednesday, Oct. 1 on Parkway and scheduled for unearthing in 25 years during the 300th anniversary celebration in 2050.

Look for updates on our Facebook page: Schuylkill Haven's 275 Anniversary. For more information please contact: Ceil Michalik 248-975-3569 or email *ceilmichalik@gmail.com.*





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# Enjoy These Upcoming Summer Activities

## *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 8; Rock the Island celebration and Chicken BBQ on Friday, June 13 as a kickoff to the start of the Schuylkill River Sojourn that will shove off on Saturday, June 14 at 9 a.m.; Haven Night @ the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday, July 19; Island Fest on Saturday, August 16; and Pumpkin Patch on Sunday, October 12 (raindate is Oct. 19).

For additional information and updates, like ***Facebook.com/havenislandpark***.

## *Poppies and Breakfast on Memorial Day*

Remember the fallen this Memorial Day on Monday, May 26. Start the day by purchasing a poppy from the Schuylkill Haven American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and enjoy a hearty breakfast offered by the Schuylkill Haven Lions Club at its annual Pancake Breakfast cooked in the Haven Area High School cafeteria.

All-you-care-to-eat pancakes, link sausage, juice and coffee cost 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.


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## *Island Park Car Show*

The public is invited to the 16th annual Island Park Car Show on Sunday, June 8 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.

## *Rock the Island and River Sojourn*

Canoeists and kayakers are invited to be part of the 27th annual Schuylkill River Sojourn that gets underway from the riverbanks at Island Park on Saturday, June 14. 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 multicolored crafts starting a 7-day, 112-mile guided paddle from Sch. Haven to Philladelphia's Boathouse Row.

A pre-sojourn "Rock the Island" event will be held Friday, June 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. with live music, beer garden area, burgers, hot dogs, and ice cream available. Admission is free; the public is invited.

A drive-thru Chicken BBQ meal will be available from 4 to 7 p.m. Please pre-order by calling 570-385-3578. Cost is $10.

## *Fireworks to explode July 12*

Enjoy music, games, great food, informative displays, fun, and probably the best fireworks show in the region on Sat., July 12 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.

## *Island Fest… music and fun on August 16*

Summer fun in Schuylkill Haven continues with the 18th annual Island Park Festival on Sat., August 16 from 2 to 10 p.m. Multiple stages will feature nonstop entertainment with variety acts and a number of band performances. Kids' games, activities, facepainting, horsedrawn trolley rides and bounce houses will delight your youngsters. Live radio broadcasts and refreshment options complete the event.

## *River Front Music Festival*

The first ever bluegrass, folk, Celtic, Americana music festival, hosted by Schuylkill Events, is a 2-day music festival to be held at Island Park on Friday, June 27 from 4 to 11 p.m. and Saturday, June 28 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The festival will feature 16 local and regional musical performances, jam sessions, crafters, games, and food vendors. Join us for a fun two days of music, food, beverages, crafters, activities, basket raffle, 50/50 drawings and workshops.

Save by purchasing tickets in advance online at ***www.zeffy.com/.../tick.../river-front-music-festival*** or email *schevent317@gmail.com* for more information.



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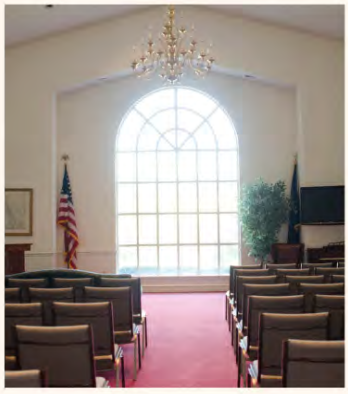



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**info@schuylkillmemorialpark.com**

# Schuylkill Haven Lions Club – We Serve!

Lions Club International is the largest service club in the world and continues to grow. The Schuylkill Haven Lions is a small part of a great team, but just as important to our community.

Members span four generations in age from their 20s to 80 years old. Some have been active with the club for fifty years and continue to participate in our events. Join with us to serve our communities and remember that Lions Care.

Current club officers are Jake Whetstone, president; Gerry Reichert, vice president and programs chairman; Harry Rubright, secretary; and Nicole Bensinger, treasurer.

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays at the Friedensburg Restaurant during fall, winter and spring. Summer meetings begin June 2 and are held at Bubeck Park.

One member recently obtained a Melvin Jones Award to be presented at one of our summer meetings. This award is the highest Lions International honor a member can receive.

The Haven Lions will honor and award $2,000 scholarships to seven recent graduates at an August meeting. These scholarships, provided through our Lions Education Foundation, are available annually to Schuylkill Haven and Blue Mountain seniors who are pursuing a post high school degree or training in the field of medical services.

Used eyeglasses can be dropped off at the Schuylkill Haven Library, Drs. Roberts office on East Main Street, and Dr. Machamer's office on Parkway. Last year, the Haven Lions turned in over 5,000 pairs of glasses to be repurposed for use in the eye care industry.

Anyone interested in more information about the Lions Club or to become a member, contact Jake Whetstone at 570-990-6821. Call and plan to come out to a meeting with dinner on us.

# Borough Tax Collector

Per Capita bills remain an issue for many residents. How much do I pay? The bill indicates it is a $10 tax. But, if paid in March or April (early payment discount period) you get a 2% discount; pay $9.80.

Somewhat confusing on the bill are the two $5 postings (one for the Borough and one for the County) on the right side, middle of the bill. These two entities split the $10 total charge to the resident.

Residents filing for a homestead rebate should request a receipt when paying your property tax and provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Tax Collector office hours at the Senior Citizens and Recreation Center during May and June are 12-to-3 p.m. or by appointment – call 570-385-1313 or 570-990-6821. Office hours are also posted on the Borough website – ***schuylkillhaven.org***.







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# Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

## *Parks and Recreation*

The Recreation Department is excited to announce several upcoming community events!

• Co-sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven Area PTO, the Children's Fishing Rodeo will be held Saturday, May 24 at Stoyer's Dam / Bubeck Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost will be $5 per child that gets each a hot dog, drink, and will be eligible to win a prize. Age groups will be 5-to-10 years old and 11-to-16 years old. Bring the kids for a day of fun and fishing!

• Our summer Farmers Markets, where you can find fresh, local produce, and goods, will start on Friday, June 13 and continue throughout the summer.

• In June, we will host a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at the Green Goose playground. This event will raise funds to improve that playground's basketball court.

T-Ball has moved to a traditional spring start. We are excited for the Phillies, Mets, Pirates and Yankees taking the field. Island Park will also host our one-of-a-kind NFL Flag Football, youth soccer and softball.

Mad Dog River Kayaking will offer a youth and family kayaking adventure this year on The Island on Saturday, June 7. Sign-ups for this event will take place in May.

Adult Kickball, Mom's for Make-A-Wish Softball and Men's Fastpitch action will return this summer. A recreational Adult Slow-Pitch League will be added.

***– Darle & Mykal, Recreation Staff***

## *Electrical Department*

The Borough Electric Department will be doing more upgrades to our substation this summer, changing out three 15 kilovolt substation feeder breakers and a 69 killovolt air brake.

When this year's work is complete, the Borough will have a new substation with two new transformers, four new feeder breakers, and three new 69KV air brakes. Also new, 120/240 and 48-volt panels along with control wiring to run everything in the substation.

If you see wires down, pole fires, or trees on wires, stay clear of them and call the Borough Office during regular hours or, after hours, call the police station or the Schuylkill County non-emergency number. Each will contact the proper personnel to respond.

***– Jim Haeseler, Foreman***

## *Highway Department*

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 6-to-9, June 3-to-6, July 1-to-3, August 5-to-7, September 2-to-5, October 7-to-10, and November 4-to-7.

Yard waste – limbs, leaves, grass clippings, and other vegetative waste – will be collected curbside the second Friday of each month. Yard waste taken to the







compost area is to be dumped in the designated area.

Call the Borough Office to report potholes.

*– Brian O. Murray, Foreman*

## Water Distribution / Wastewater Collection

Summertime is our opportunity to clean up from winter's stronghold, fill swimming pools, water lawns and gardens, and wash the car. There is one resource that makes it all possible – WATER!

Due to repeated main breaks, this summer the Water Department will replace 600 feet of water main on Spring Street. The road will be closed to traffic while work is being done. Also, several small upgrades will be made to the water system, including replacing old valves, adding water connections to new homes and buildings throughout the system.

*– Carter Hoffman, Foreman*

## Water Treatment Plant

Especially after last season's drought, the need is to replenish our reservoirs with winter's melting snow and spring's refreshing rains. At one point this winter, we were 32 feet below full. As of this writing, we are back to only five feet below full.

As the days get longer and the temperatures start rising, it's always a good idea to try to conserve as much water as possible. 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 remodeling, 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.

*– Kevin Butz, Foreman*

## 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 and higher outside temperatures can produce some smells. We do our best to not share our odors with our neighbors, but sometimes they stretch beyond our fence line.

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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# 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..*

## *Faith Church*

I absolutely love the springtime in the northeast. I think one of the reasons I do, is that God is showing off His tremendous creativity by waking up all the trees and grass… the birds of the air come alive. It's a great time to be alive. Hi, I'm Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell or Faith Church, located along Rt. 61 near Geisinger St. Lukes Hospital.



It's an exciting time to be at Faith. We had a tremendous weekend remembering Good Friday and a major two-service Celebration on Easter Sunday. We are seeing more and more people each week and our midweek studies are full. It is our pleasure to welcome people and let them know that we love them and want God's best for all.

Our theme plan for the church is "Loving God, Loving People and Serving the Community". To do that, Faith has 40 ministries that operate within our community from food pantries to Men's Ministry MUSCLE, led by associate Pastor Doug Purin, and a strong women's ministry called Women At Faith. We have just completed a revamp of our Youth ministries and are so excited to welcome more youngsters to our programs Ignite, Inspire and, our youth group, Impact.

Associate Pastor Jim Fidler is leading a weekly study of the Book of Revelations and his meetings have been packed. We would love to have you join us on Sundays or even just be a part of any of our community ministries. I am also excited about the Worship Team Band as we have added a few additional, talented guitarists.

God has given us the opportunity to work for Him and it's a great honor. We are an imperfect church, in an imperfect world and we are imperfect pastors. Faith Church is not a "hotel for the saints"... we are a "hospital for the hurting."

Here's the truth; we are not perfect and we make mistakes... we all do. But we love God and want to be His representatives in this broken world. Ministry is the greatest calling and God wants us to all be ministers of His Word. Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m. as we do our best to build God's kingdom.

## *St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church*

Christians around the world recently celebrated Easter. At St. Ambrose Church, we celebrated an Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday evening prior to Easter day.







# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

The priest sang the proclamation of Easter, known as the Exultet. Prior to this, the priest blessed the Paschal candle (pictured below). The Paschal Candle is lighted throughout the year at baptisms, funerals, and during the Easter season.



The Paschal candle displays several symbols:

1. The Cross, which is the most prominent symbol and most clearly identifies it as the Paschal candle.
2. The Greek letters alpha and omega that symbolize the beginning and the end (from the Book of Revelation).
3. The numbers of the current year between the arms of the cross.
4. Five grains of incense, which are embedded in the candle (usually encased in red or golden wax "nails"). The "nails" represent the Five Holy Wounds: the three nails that pierced Christ's hands and feet, the spear thrust into his side to wound his heart, and the thorns that crowned his head. The grains of incense are to recall the aromatic spices that were used to prepare Christ's body for the tomb.

An excerpt from the Exultet:

"…. for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees, to build a torch so precious."

In the last issue of ***Haven Highlights***, we promised to reveal the bee imagery in our church.

The first is found in the small chapel. On the back wall is the striking wood carving of St. Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan and Patron of our church. The religious symbol of St. Ambrose, one of the four great Doctors of the Church, is the beehive, a symbol of the sweetness of his preaching. The carver captured this in the honeycomb cells around the head and mitre (bishop's hat) of St. Ambrose.

The second is found on the right-hand wall of the church within the stained-glass window depicting St. Ambrose. At his feet are two active beehives, attesting to the importance of this small insect to humanity.

## *A few fun facts about bees…*

Honey has antiseptic properties and was historically used as a dressing for wounds and a first aid treatment for burns and cuts.

Honey has always been highly regarded for its medicinal qualities. It aids in alleviating discomfort from sore throats, digestive disorders, skin problems, and hay fever.

A honeybee can fly up to six miles and as fast as 15 miles per hour.

Just as the honeybee travels swiftly in the summer, many of us are preparing for summer vacation travels. May St. Christopher, Patron Saint of Travelers, watch over all of us and protect us on our journeys.





**Please Join Us – Regular Mass Schedule**

**Saturday 5 p.m.**
**Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.**
**Weekdays – Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.**
**First Fridays 12:30 p.m.**

**St. Ambrose Catholic Church**
**201 Randel Street**
**Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972**
**570-385-1031**

SCAN FOR WEBSITE

**www.stambrosehaven.com**
**Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Edward S. Zemanik, M.Div**




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# *Haven Night @ The Phillies*

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