



No. 83 - Issued Quarterly | BOROUGH OF SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA | NOVEMBER 2024

Small Business Saturday • Tree Lighting • Children's Main Street Stroll

Enjoy the Holidays in the Little Town That Could

Great Christmas seasonal events planned in downtown Schuylkill Haven are sure to bring smiles and joy to residents and visitors of all ages. Mark your calendars and make your reservations!

Shop locally this season

The Greater Schuylkill Haven Area Business Association (GSHABA) will once again kick off the holiday season with a celebration of Small Business Saturday on Thanksgiving weekend, November 30. Participating local businesses will feature special offerings, treats, and discounts. Residents and visitors are encouraged to “shop small” this day and throughout the holiday season, supporting all of our fine businesses of the greater Schuylkill Haven area.

When you shop small, it leads to big things! Research indicates 52 cents of every dollar spent locally stays in the community, supporting local organizations and services.

Watch for signs posted at downtown and surrounding area establishments encouraging you to “shop locally” this holiday season. Enjoy this greater Main Street shopping experience.

Look for updates on the GSHABA Facebook page for more details as plans unfold, or e-mail GSHABAinformation@gmail.com.

Christmas tree lighting

The 40th annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on the Parkway at West Main Street on Sunday, Dec. 1 - beginning at 5 p.m. Come, sing carols, and be delighted in the lighting of the community tree and all of the other ornamental lights and scenes on Parkway and street decorations throughout the town.

Children's Christmas Main Street Stroll

GSHABA and the Schuylkill Haven Recreation Department will again host the annual Children's Christmas Stroll along Main Street on Saturday morn-



SANTA IS SCHEDULED FOR AN EARLY VISIT

ing, Dec. 7. The celebration will again be a stroll up and down Main Street of the Downtown Business District, held rain or shine. Free parking is available at the municipal lot across the railroad tracks opposite the train station.

Participants are asked to check-in at the train station's covered walkway between 10 and 11 a.m. There, each child will receive a tote bag to gather “goodies” from participating businesses along their stroll.

Schuylkill Connect (formerly Schuylkill VISION) again invites families to participate in a free Christmas Stroll Scavenger Hunt. Schuylkill Connect representatives will be available at check-in to assist with setting up the scavenger hunt on phones.

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SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY
The Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library needs your help to maintain its services to the community. **See page 9.**

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Children and parents/guardians will stroll up Main Street to the Santander Bank. From that point they will cross Main Street and continue down the opposite side to The Little Dipper Ice Cream Shoppe side lot in order to see and speak with Santa who will make a special early visit to Schuylkill Haven.

During their stroll through the Downtown Business District, children are encouraged to study business and store windows in order to spot an ELF. Participating businesses will have someone outside to greet and distribute treats and/or other items to the children.

This event is open to children up to 10 years of age, living within Schuylkill Haven Borough or attending Schuylkill Haven Area School District.

Registration on or before Monday, Dec. 2 is required. Complete the form shown to the right; mail or drop it off at the Senior/Recreation Center, 340 Haven Street. Call the Recreation Office at 570-385-1313 or email to havenrec@comcast.net with questions or need for further information.

Christmas tree collection

Youngsters, parents, and leaders of Schuylkill Haven Boy Scout Troop 622 and Cub Scout Pack 622 will conduct their annual Christmas tree collection on Saturday, Jan. 11. In the event of inclement weather,

the collection may be delayed to Saturday, Jan. 18.

The tree collection will begin at approximately 9 a.m. Residents are asked to place their trees at a visible location for pickup. Donations will be greatly appreciated to help support the many activities of both scouting groups, sponsored by the George D. Keller Memorial Association.

All former members of Troop 622 are invited to participate in this annual community service project.

Make your own holiday wreath or swag

Evergreen wreaths and swags convey the spirit of the holidays through their unique scents. Create your own at the Schuylkill County Master Gardeners

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DEC. 7 CHRISTMAS STROLL REGISTRATION

| Name of Child | Age | Male/Female | Name of Child | Age | Male/Female |
|---------------|-------|---|---------------|-------|---|
| 1. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F | 4. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F | 5. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F | 6. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F |

Number of Adults attending with child(ren): _____

Pre-registration is required on or before Monday, Dec. 2. Mail or drop off at:
Schuylkill Haven Rec. Department, 340 Haven St., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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“Wreath and Swag Workshop” on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, held at the Friedensburg Fish and Game building, 169 Stone Mountain Rd, Pine Grove.

The Master Gardeners will provide education on the winter greens and the basic process as well as provide the greens, wire, ribbon and decorative material. The cost is \$35 for a wreath and \$25 for a swag. Register at CVENT, by phoning 1-877-435-0691, to register for workshop WSP-G-2337 or do so online at <https://extension.psu.edu> by typing in search, Wreath and Swag Workshop. Class size is limited to 25, so register ASAP; deadline is Nov 8. Bring your own gloves, wire cutters or pruners plus any personal decorations you wish to use.

How do holidays affect trash/recycling?

Anthracite Waste Services, LLC observes Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day as official holidays that might affect trash and recycling collection.

As usual, Thanksgiving falls on a Thursday. Recycling pick-up that week will be delayed one day to Friday, Nov. 29.

Both Christmas and New Years Day fall on a Wednesday this year. Residents living in the southwestern portion of town, your usual Tuesday refuse collection will not be affected. Those living in the

northeastern portion with a usual Wednesday collection day, collection will be delayed until Thursday. Recycling collection both Christmas and New Year weeks will be delayed to Friday pick-up.

Garden Club decorates for fall

Members of the South Schuylkill Garden Club



once again decorated the Reading, Blue Mountain & Northern train station on Main Street prior to Borough Day.

Shown, from left, Dana Glunz, Kim Morgan, Kathy Townley & Carol Haldeman, all of Pine Grove.

Borough holidays

The Schuylkill Haven Borough municipal office and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following holidays this fall and winter - Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29 (Thanksgiving); Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 (Christmas); and Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 (New Year's Day).

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Going outside and observing insects offers pre-school children more than just playtime. It provides a positive impact on their physical development, social skills, creativity, and learning.

Here are just a few skills preschool children learn ...

- **MATH SKILLS** used include learning to count and recognize sums of groups
- **SOCIAL SKILLS** used include learning about empathy, respect, and curiosity
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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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Schuylkill Haven Lions Club

In existence since 1935, the Schuylkill Haven Lions Club is one of the longest standing service clubs in the area. The addition of new members allows the Lions to continue community service projects that benefit the local community.



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

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month at the Friedensburg Restaurant from October to June. Summer meetings are held at Bubeck Park. All meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

The Lions Club helps support community projects through fundraising efforts, sponsoring the Pancake Breakfast on Memorial Day and a food stand during the Halloween Parade. Our annual Borough Day food stand and basket raffle at the M&T parking lot was a success despite the rainy weather.

The Lions will again participate in the Sch. Haven Christmas Stroll, providing gifts and Lions sunglasses for the children participating.

Used eyeglasses can be dropped off at the Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library, at Drs. George and Ann Marie Roberts' optometry office at 100 East Main St., and at Dr. Bernice Machamer's optometry

office at 31 Parkway. Last year our club collected more than 5,000 pairs of glasses to be repurposed for use in the eye care industry.

The Lions honored local Emergency Responders at a dinner on the Island. Fire, police and fire police, and EMS organizations received certificates of recognition and a donation from the Lions Charities.

Bubeck Park upgrades are underway through Eagle Scout (Boy Scout) and Gold Award (Girl Scout) projects - painting of the pavilions and the building of benches and a children's library. In addition, there will be new grills, an eyeglass dropbox, and new signage installed.

Interested in joining the club or finding out more info? Contact Jake Whetstone at 570-990-6821 or attend a meeting. Dinner is on the Lions Club! Check us out on the Schuylkill Haven Lions Facebook page.

Borough Tax Collector

Office hours for the remainder of the year are by appointment. Call 570-385-1313 and leave a message, or by calling 570-990-6821. I come into the office numerous times during the week for messages and mail. Or, you can also call Borough Hall - 570-385-2841 - and leave a message with the Borough Secretary.

Borough property taxes and per capita taxes are currently in the penalty stage and must be paid no later than December 31, 2024. Failure to do so will result in your account being turned over to outside collection procedures, resulting in additional fees and potential court action.

Please realize your tax is not paid until the check clears the bank. All checks must clear before the end of the year. Anyone paying a tax bill after December 14 should plan to pay by cash or money order.

As a convenience, the tax office, located in the Senior/Recreation Center building at 340 Haven Street, will be open on Dec. 27-30-31 from noon to 4 p.m. in order to receive cash or money order payments before the deadline.

When mailing your payments, be sure to include the remittance copy of your tax bill to avoid delays in processing. All tax payments must be postmarked by December 31. Payments postmarked after December 31 can't be accepted. This includes real estate and per capita.

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

If unable to get to the office, I can come to you. Just call 570-990-6821 to make arrangements.

Tax bills for 2025 will be mailed the end of February 2025. Office hours will be printed on the bills. The tax office can also be reached by email at taxcollector@schuylkillhaven.org.

Anyone wanting to see something specific in this article, please email or give a call and we will publish your request in the next issue.

- Jake Whetstone, Tax Collector

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FOREIGN & DOMESTIC REPAIRS

CREMATION GARDEN UNDER WAY!



Schuylkill Memorial Park has broken ground on our new "Garden of Eternity"

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Completion set for Fall of 2024

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Borough Administrator's "State of the Borough"

Getting the Lead Out - What Type of Water Line Feeds Your Property?

WeLink Broadband Offers High-Speed Internet Service

Have you received a letter from us asking about the pipe material of your property's water supply line? Here's the reason - the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is enforcing a federal requirement under the EPA's Lead and Copper Line Rule, that aims to identify lead contamination.



Jessica Seiders
Borough Admin.

The Borough has completed the initial step of this requirement by informing the DEP of known water service line materials for its customers. However, there are properties that the Borough lacks this information, necessitating the next step of notifying property owners with "unknown status."

The Borough has maintained water records for its customers since the establishment of its water system. While we regularly update our records, some property information remains unknown. Service lines (from the street to your water meter) with lead or galvanized piping need to be discovered. They may need to be replaced.

Letters have been sent to customers asking for their assistance to identify the material of their water service lines. A link for property owners to take a photo of their water line and share this information with the Borough is provided in the letter. Your assistance in surveying the homeowner's side is greatly appreciated. If you need help, don't hesitate to contact the Borough Office during normal business hours at 570-385-2841.

WeLink Broadband has arrived

We are thrilled to announce that fast broadband service is now available to residents of Schuylkill Haven! As the first municipality in Schuylkill County to offer this service, residents now have a new option for internet access.

WeLink is the broadband provider exclusively serving Schuylkill Haven, delivering reliable high-speed internet to support productivity, entertainment, education, work, and even smart appliances. With WeLink, you can expect consistently fast speeds, improved WiFi, transparent pricing, and excellent customer service. To find out more, visit www.welink.com.

Dry spell... Please conserve water!

Schuylkill Haven Borough is encouraging residents to voluntarily conserve water. Customers are asked to reduce their water usage by 10% to 15% - roughly 80 gallons per person per day.

It's easy when you think about it; here are some simple tips to reduce water usage:

- Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth; rinse with a glass of water.
- Use a sink filled with water for rinsing while shaving.
- Take shorter showers instead of baths.
- Pre-rinse dishes in a filled sink before loading them into the dishwasher.

You can also recycle water by placing a bucket in the shower to catch water while you adjust the temperature, using this to water plants. Other easily recyclable water sources include pet dishes, flower vases, leftover cooking or drinking water, and water from dehumidifiers.

Additionally, consider outdoor water conservation methods, such as...

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, steps, and sidewalks.
- Wash your car with water from a bucket.
- If using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Water your lawn or garden during the cooler parts of the day while avoiding windy conditions.
- Use soaker hoses and trickle irrigation systems to minimize water usage for irrigation.

By implementing these strategies, we can all help water conservation efforts in our community.

- Jessica Seiders, Borough Administrator

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Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library

Your Financial Help Is Needed; Act Today!

The Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library's 2024 Annual Fund Drive is currently underway. The Library needs financial support from our patrons, community groups, and local businesses to supplement the State Aid and local municipal monies we do receive. The combined funding is vital to maintain the present level of library services for our more than 8,600 community members.

Some of the many important services we provide include the following: access to computers, Audiobooks, copying, DVDs, ebooks and e-audiobooks (through the Boundless app), faxing, free WiFi, inter-library loans, magazines, newspapers, programs for children, teens, tweens, adults, and, of course, books for all ages and interests. Check out our Facebook page (Schuylkill Haven Public Library) for all our upcoming activities, announcements and new additions to our collection.

Last November, the Library welcomed the Schuylkill Haven Area Historical Society in, for the first time, to present interesting programs about our local history. These free programs occur approximately every three to four months downstairs in the Children's Library.

Contributions from our local community members and groups to our annual fund drive are vital. We would like to thank the following for their continued support during this time of financial insecurity: the Schuylkill Haven Area School District, Schuylkill Haven Borough, South Manheim Township, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Many of our patrons make a donation every year and we are grateful for their support.

The Library board of directors and the staff always strive to be good stewards of our funds and try to reduce costs whenever possible. It is vital that the



Library receives a strong response so that we can continue to offer free services to our community and not have to reduce our operating hours.

The Library is free to use, but not free to operate. The building itself is over 60 years old and needs regular maintenance and updating. This is one of the reasons why we reach out once a year, to our patrons and friends. Please consider helping your Library with a donation at this time.

Please fill out and clip this fund drive form, and mail your contribution to the Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library, 104 Saint John Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972, or drop it off in person. We have provided a self-addressed envelope for your donation. The Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit institution and all donations made to our fund drive may be tax deductible.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
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Do's, Don'ts & Tips for Maintaining Your Space

Fall spruce-ups; get ready for winter

Winter is just around the corner. Some of us have already had a glint of frost on our windshields. As always, we'll get a short window of opportunity of warmer weather allowing for one final last minute spruce up.

Here are a few chores that should be taken care of before old man winter applies his blanket of white:

- 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 and 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 is 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.

Residential homeowners, along with business owners and tenants, are reminded that snow and ice MAY NOT be shoveled onto any portion of roadway (including gutters) or anyone else's private or public property.

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



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Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

Parks and Recreation

The Recreation Department experienced an extremely successful 2024 Summer/Fall season with our pavilions packed with rentals. Reservations for 2025 can be made starting in January.

Bubeck Park continues to have a constant influx of guests, including residents and many non-residents. The park continues to be the choice place for hosting many different community events and fundraisers.

Island Park was equally chosen by many for athletic events and organizers of community and organizational fundraising. Spotts Field No. 1 has seen the addition of a new scoreboard, and we added a new pickleball court at our Saylor Street Playground. It's very satisfying to see our facilities used to the fullest and enjoyed by so many!

The Recreation Department is very appreciative of the donation of paint by the Schuylkill Haven Lions Club to keep our pavilions looking beautiful and welcoming! Local Girl Scouts provided much of the labor.

It's sad to say goodbye to the warm weather; but, happy to say, the Recreation Department doesn't go into hibernation. We simply head indoors for the winter! Our Biddy Basketball (youngsters in first thru sixth grade) and introductory basketball (kindergarten) programs will be starting soon. Residents and non-residents are able to apply.

Our annual 'Canes Cup, Kline's Hoopfest (girls



basketball) and our Cully Classic (boys basketball) tournaments are slated for February 2025. These tournaments bring in teams from around the county and surrounding areas, raising funds for our annual fireworks display in July.

Meanwhile, if you have questions about any recreation happenings, call us at 570-385-1313; email at havenrec@comcast.net; or follow us on Facebook at Schuylkill Haven Recreation Department.

Wishing all a very safe and happy holiday season. See you next time at the Rec!

- Mykal and Darle with the Rec Department

Highway Department

The Highway Department will collect leaves every Friday during November. Only leaves and other yard waste will be collected at these times and must be bagged, or tied in bundles, and placed curbside for pick up. Do not pile leaves in the street; the street sweeper cannot pick up big piles. Loose yard waste will not be collected.

The Borough uses a call system to contact residents in the event of an emergency such as power outages, "water boil" advisories, snow removal, and so on. This is done with the phone number you have registered with the Borough Office. If you have not

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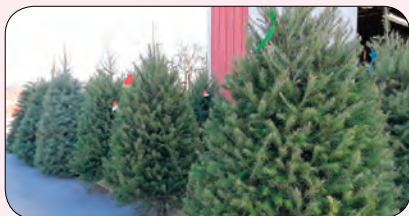
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Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

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registered or are unsure if you are, you can do so on the Borough website at schuylkillhaven.org or by calling the Borough Office at 570-385-2841. This is a great tool to reach you with vital information.

With snow falling soon, please help us by not depositing snow in the street or gutters and do not pile snow at intersections that could cause visibility problems for motorists. Do clear storm drains and fire hydrants near your property. This will reduce hazardous conditions when snow melts and refreezes, and will help firefighters access hydrants in case of an emergency. When driving, keep a safe distance when following any equipment plowing or removing snow. We sometimes lose traction, just as you do, during a storm, and may need to make quick maneuvers to gain control.



- Brian O. Murray, Foreman

Water Distribution / Wastewater Collection

One thing that is for sure, we are either smack in the middle of the winter season or it is just around the corner.

The upcoming winter season presents some interesting challenges for the Borough's Water Department - the dreaded water leaks in the middle of the night (usually during the coldest period of weather); the calls from frantic customers that their water pipes or water meters are frozen; they have no water or they have a leak from burst pipes requiring their water service to be shut off as soon as possible.

Please be patient. After normal work hours, it does take time for us to respond. We assemble a crew, dress appropriately for the weather conditions, respond from our home to the maintenance garage to pick up our vehicles, and respond to your address to assist you. This takes time.

As a property owner or occupant, take some time before winter weather arrives to assist us.

(1) Make sure your home has a street/unit address mounted on the front of your home or mailbox. Turn your porch light on after calling for assistance.

(2) Know ahead of time the approximate location of your water curb box which is over your water shut off valve. This is a small 4"-to-5" round metal lid marked WATER with a brass nut in it. If you do not know its location or you cannot find it, let us know and we can locate it for you. Perhaps during warmer weather?

(3) Check your home for drafts of cold air in the area of your water meter and where your water service line enters your home. Insulate or plug these drafts to prevent freeze-ups. A roll of insulation costs far less than damaged water meters or your pipes.

(4) Keep a path cleared of the snow or ice for our meter reader from your street or sidewalk to your electric meter and your outside water meter reading device. If we cannot read your meters, we must estimate your usage.

(5) If you live near a fire hydrant, please shovel the snow away and keep it clear for our fire department responders.

By assisting us in these small ways, we will all survive the winter blues and keep your utility services working. Stay warm, stay safe. Have a very happy and healthy New Year!

- Carter Hoffman, Foreman

Water Treatment Plant

Hello once again from the Tumbling Run Water Treatment Plant. The beautiful summer has ended and hunting season is upon us. In one of my previous articles, I made mention of the land owned by Schuylkill Haven Borough around the Water Treatment Plant and the Tumbling Run watershed. Although the area near the plant and the reservoirs are closed to hunting, the rest of the watershed is active with many types of wildlife and open for all types of hunting.

We only ask for one thing - if you bring it with you, please take it home. We want you to enjoy your time hunting in the watershed and walking the trail, but help us protect it by keeping litter to a minimum. Littering is problematic to the watershed. Enjoy yourself and be safe.

If you are not a hunter, fall is here and winter is not too far off! You can still take advantage of this area. Enjoy the walking trail located along the north-bound side of Rt. 61. This is on the old railroad bed from Seven Stars Road to the entrance to the Water Treatment Plant on Tumbling Run Road. This is the northern portion of the Bartram Trail of the Schuylkill River Trail System.

This trail has been improved with fencing where it gets close to the highway or along the steep banks. Some areas have even been graded with crushed stone to make it easier to navigate on foot or bicycle.

So, if you have the time and enjoy a nice walk, check it out. I don't think you will be disappointed.

The Tumbling Run Water Treatment Plant crew wishes all a safe winter and enjoyable holiday season.

- Kevin Butz, Chief Operator

Electric Department

With the winter months just around the corner, Schuylkill Haven Borough utility customers are asked, when shoveling snow, to please clear a path to the electric meter and your water touch pad. This will allow our meter reading to stay on time and also keep our employees safe.

Many of our customers are switching their homes and apartments to all electric heat. If you have changed your heating source to total electric, please tell the Code Enforcement Office or the Borough Office. Our system is built and working on the electric loads we currently have. When customers switch to electric heat it puts added amps to our transformers and secondary wires and could cause problems. So, if you do switch just let us know about it and we can make adjustments in the field to keep your power on.

When you see a street light out or blinking on and off, you can call the Borough Office to report the

Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

problem. If you could, please get a pole number and the closest address to the location. A call back number would also help if we need more information to locate the problem. This information will help us find the light and make repairs to keep everything working properly.

- *Jim Haeseler, Foreman*

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Now that the cold temperatures are knocking at our door, we tend to change the way we live our lives. For instance, children may start to play inside more than outside; adults may stop going out in the evenings as much as they did during the summer; and plants and animals start to go dormant. Life simply just slows down.

Our treatment process here at the plant is the same way. During the summer when temperatures are warmer, our biological life that eats the waste coming in is in its glory with excellent, ideal conditions. Once the temperature drops, that same biological life likes to slow down and not work as hard as it did. We must account for this and make changes to the treatment process accordingly.

Another thing that may hinder the treatment process during the colder months is when unwanted waste enters our influent stream. One large issue is home heating fuel. Every year we seem to get some that comes into our plant.

Some things you can do as a home owner to avoid fuel oil entering the collection system are:

1. Routinely inspect the exterior of an above ground tank and all fittings.
2. Install spill and overflow protection devices.
3. Ensure the tank address is clearly visible and the fill line is clearly marked.
4. Consider a secondary containment structure.

These suggestions and more are provided by DEP and can be found at www.dep.pa.gov. Search for "Tips for Residential Heating Oil Tank Owners."

The last item that I would like to point to that hinders sewage treatment is - Fats, Oils, and Grease - or FOG, as we refer to it. During the winter months we have a lot of big meal holidays.

Not all food waste can go down a garbage disposal. Not only is this bad for our treatment facility, but it can be very bad for your home's plumbing! Fats, oils and grease are items that should NOT go down a drain. It can lump together and cause some big blockages in your home. Here at our facility we can see "fatbergs" larger than basketballs.

I don't know about you but I am most definitely looking forward to my holiday meals. I can't wait to spend time with family, share some laughs and hopefully not strain my back shoveling snow. Make sure you take care of your home during the winter months and it will be sure to take care of you.

- *Zach Faust, Foreman*



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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

Fall is in the air and the views around us change. What a colorful imagination God has, placing us in this beautiful environment. The northeast is absolutely beautiful as fall colors blast us with God's creative splendor. The footballs are flying, folks are chasing deer around, and homes are decorated for Halloween. This is Schuylkill County and I love it. Hi, I'm Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell of Faith Church, located along Rt. 61 near Geisinger St. Luke's Hospital.



I am so proud of the people at Faith Church, as they have stepped up once again to support local efforts to assist North Carolinians offering food, supplies and manpower.

We were contacted through our Women At Faith to help with bottled water. Faith donated 164 cases of bottled water and our WAF group prepared travel gift packets for all who were traveling on the buses. I know it's only a drop in the bucket when the need is so great during this major crisis, but every little bit of help adds up.

Faith Church once again has entered its Fall

Campaign. This year we are doing "40 Days of Community." This is when our entire church family focuses on the same topic both in private study and small group studies during the week. The body then comes together on Sunday for a focused message on Community. At Faith we are not a "Hotel for the Saints, we are a "Hospital for the Hurting." We want to reach into the community and serve. Right now at Faith, we have over 40 active ministries to serve our people and our community. We have a group serving most every need that a person or family may face.

I'm excited at the newest ministry creation headed by Deb Karpovich called "Love Your Neighbor" that focuses on those who may have lost something through a fire or some other tragedy. We love people and just plain want to help. Most times our community wishes to help, they just need someone to organize the help and watch the donations come in... not only financially, Faith just recently helped some fire victims from Tower City refurbish their home.

God teaches us to care for and love one another. That's why we post out in front of our church... Loving God, Loving People and Serving the Community. We would love for you to stop by on a Sunday morning and join us for our 10 a.m. Celebration Service. I promise you, we will make you feel right at home.

- Pastor Doug Cresswell

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
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Publication dates for the next 3 issues are February 13, May 8, and August 14, 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.

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www.atfaithchurch.com

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church has a long and valued history in Schuylkill Haven. Our parish was established in 1847 as a mission of St. Patrick Church, Pottsville. Mass was celebrated in the home of Patrick White who lived in the Irish Flats section of Schuylkill Haven (today the site of Island Park). In 1863, the parish bought an established church building on Dock Street adjacent to the Fritz Reed Avenue entrance to the "Island."

By 1971, the parish had outgrown the older church building. Our present 14-acre location at 201 Randel Street was purchased from a parishioner. The parish family generously donated to the building of the present-day church. The magnificent six large stained-glass windows, originally executed by Adolph Meier Studio in Munich, Germany in the 19th century, were taken from the old church and installed in the new - connecting past, present, and future. The new church ground-breaking was held on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, 1976. The church was opened for the first Sunday Masses on March 4 and 5, 1978.

When approaching our church, you are greeted by four flags and the bell from the "old" St. Ambrose Church. Our central theological idea around which our church is built is "Christ Has Died, Christ Has Risen, Christ Will Come Again."

The dominant feature of the spacious Sanctuary is the Reredos, the three-dimensional ceramic mural of "The Christ of the Parousia" behind the altar, which completes the theological theme, Christ Will Come Again.

At St. Ambrose, our faith community remembers those who went before and prepared the way. We are committed to future generations who follow us in the footsteps of Jesus, our Savior.

As pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, Father Thomas and I invite you to upcoming services and events highlighted below:

- Veterans' Day Mass - honoring all veterans, on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 5 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Mass - Wed., Nov. 27 at 7 p.m.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - every Tuesday at 8 a.m., the first Friday at noon, and the first Saturday at 3:30 p.m.
- For our 2024 Advent and Christmas schedule, please see our website: www.stambrosehaven.com or scan the QR Code in our ad.

• Wreaths Across America will be celebrated on Thursday, Dec. 12 at noon. The Mission of Wreaths Across America is to Remember the Fallen, to Honor Those Who Serve, and to Teach the Next Generation the value of freedom.



Please join us and pick up a "St. Ambrose Welcomes You" bag after any weekend Mass. Learn about St. Ambrose and the legend of the honeybee in the next issue of *Haven Highlights*.

- Rev. Msgr. Edward Zemanik



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

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**2024 Remaining
Holiday Schedule**
*Schuylkill Haven Borough Offices will be closed
the following days*

Thursday - November 28th
 Friday - November 29th | Thanksgiving
 Tuesday - December 24th
 Wednesday - December 25th | Christmas
 Wednesday - January 1st, 2025 | New Year's Day

*We wish you and your families a very safe and
happy holiday season and look forward to a
great new year of serving you.*