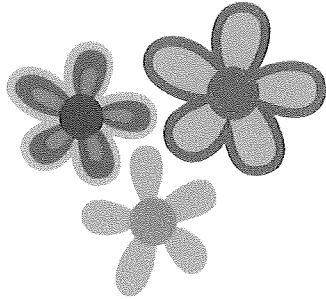


# THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 32 – Summer 2018



Thanks to DWG volunteers the Borough Hall and Veteran's Memorial are brightening the face of our borough. The window boxes, planted and cared for by Val Higbee certainly make our hall a more welcoming official building. The garden out front was planted with donations from our friends and neighbors and are filling in beautifully with flowers from Spring to Fall. Our Veteran's Memorial will be getting a major plant redo from Valerie Laico-Ganci and Tim Snow. Boxes on the bridge planted by Susan Cooper make a pleasing entrance to our town. If any residents have plants they would like to donate please let Ileana know and we will find a home for them.

## Borough Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
570-476-0331  
dwgboro@ptd.net

Borough Superintendent – Allen Blakeslee  
Office Secretary/Treasurer – Ileana Hernandez  
Municipal Authority Secretary – Lauren Hoglund

Delaware Water Gap Police Department  
570-476-4674  
police@dwgpa.gov  
Police Chief Jeffrey Williams  
Assistant Police Chief Santos Rolon, Jr.  
Officer Amanda Boyd  
State Police – 570-839-7701  
Emergencies Only 911

## ***Borough Council***

Larry Freshcorn, Mayor  
Wayne MacWilliams, President  
William Buzzard, Vice President  
Derek Anspach  
Elvi De Lotto  
Jack Shoemaker  
Tim Snow

Eileen Noelle White

*Council meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.*

## ***Municipal Authority***

Chair (Vacant)  
James Reynolds, Vice Chair  
Martin W. Wilson, Secretary  
Harry Darlington  
Steve Simister

*Municipal Authority meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.*

## ***Planning Commission***

Derek Anspach, Chair  
Ann Biffen  
Valerie Higbee  
Gary Schubert  
Randy Snow

*Planning Commission meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.*

## ***Zoning Hearing Board***

Frank Davis  
Carol Penna  
Dmitri Snytkine  
Avis Mosier, Alternate

*Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held as needed.*

## ***Building Code Board of Appeals***

Walter Conway  
James Holbrook  
Bob Mancuso

***Zoning Officer***  
Russell Piccotti

***Building Inspector***  
Mike Tripus

***Emergency Management Coordinator***  
Brad Miller

***Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator***  
(Vacant)

***Floodplain Administrator***  
Walter Conway

*The Borough of Delaware Water Gap*  
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

**Junior Borough Council** members are students that live in our community and are serving alongside Borough Council. They will be assisting the Emergency Management Committee on conducting a Windshield Observation Survey. They will be driving around the Borough and taking photographs of home groupings, the intersections of town, businesses and parks. This will be done from the INSIDE of their vehicle. The information is required to create a record of existing conditions should any disaster occur and the photos will be used for damage assessment and PEMA reporting that our infrastructure has sustained.

**Savvy Citizen App**

The Borough has been looking for a way to get emergency information to our residents quickly as well as calendar social events for our town. We will be utilizing the Savvy Citizen App to do this. This is a FREE app that is available for your Apple phone/device or Android phones. You can visit the Apple and Google Play store and download the free Savvy Citizen App. Once signed up, you will receive Borough alerts as a text message and/or email message. It is your choice how you would like to receive the information. When there is a Boil Water Advisory, you will receive that alert as a text or email and NO LONGER an automated voice call. If you do not have a smart phone and still require a phone call, we ask that you call Ileana at the Borough Office, 570-476-0331, and she will take your information and number down so you can be called for any water advisory. We will transition completely to the Savvy Citizen App by the last quarter of the year, so please be sure to sign yourself up!

Antoine Dutot Museum & Gallery  
24 Main Street, Delaware Water Gap, Pa.  
570-476-4240  
www.dutotmuseum.com

2018 Exhibitions

Will Daskal  
Opening Reception - Friday, July 6 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
July 7 to July 22

*En Plein Air* Fine Art Show & Silent Auction  
Saturday, July 28 - 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
July 28 to August 5

Eleanor Shelton & James Gloria  
Opening Reception - Friday, August 10 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
August 11 to August 26

Will Rothfuss  
Opening Reception - Friday, August 31 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
September 1 to September 16

Lauryn de Leeuw, Rena Hottfinger & Lisa Sakoutis  
Opening Reception - Friday, September 21 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
September 22 to October 7

The museum & gallery are open Saturdays & Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Dutot Museum is looking for new members. Members volunteer to work two shifts per season (1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday, May through October). This is a great way to get to know your neighbors as well as learn more about the history of our borough and enjoy the work of local artists. Monthly meetings are held at the museum on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (March through October) at 7:30 p.m. Please consider joining to help keep this organization alive and well! To find out more about the museum and gallery please visit our website at [www.dutotmuseum.com](http://www.dutotmuseum.com) & like us on Facebook.



*Free Summer Concerts at the Church  
of the Mountain Gazebo*

*Every Sunday  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
Rain or Shine*

- July 1 - Bill Stine & Friends*
- July 8 - Nancy & Spencer Reed*
- July 15 - Lost Ramblers*
- July 22 - SheilaMark Band*
- July 29 - Matt Abell Trio*
- August 5 - Junior's Wailing*
- August 12 - Renegade Ramblers*
- August 19 - Marty Wilson & Friends*
- August 26 - Erin McClelland Band*

*Bring a blanket or lawn chair.*



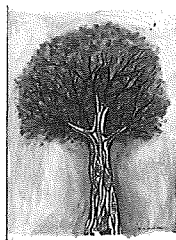
*Dog Days in the Park*

*Saturday, July 21  
10:00 a.m.  
Shull Park*

\$10.00 Suggested donation will go towards the Stroudsburg Area Police K-9 Unit.

Come out and meet your neighbors and their four-legged friends. Lisa from Sit, Stay and Play will teach you the basics on how to handle your dog and answer your questions.

*The Borough of Delaware Water Gap*  
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY



The fishing clinic held on Saturday, June 9th was a great catch for all. Under the guidance of our expert fishing coaches; Don Matheson, Peter Biffen, Ian Foster, Bill Brinker and Pete Zielinski, all of our fishing apprentices reeled in at least one fish with a "monster" bass measuring 12"! All participating children also went home with a new fishing pole donated by Pete Zielinski. The returning fishermen and fiserwomen were treated to a barbecue at Shull Park to which the community was invited. The grill for the hot dogs was purchased with the funds raised at the Mac & Cheese Dinner held at the Deer Head Inn this Spring. Michael and Elvi De Lotto, members of DWG Friends who organized the event, thank all who participated. Please stop by Shull Park, located on Oak St., to see the progress that has been made by volunteers and donations through fundraisers such as our Holiday Truffle Sale and Mac & Cheese dinners. There is a new sign installed out front to show you the way!

**Please consider joining the Delaware Water Gap Volunteer Fire Department or Auxiliary.**

*Join these dedicated men and women who help to make our town a safer place.*

Meetings are held at the Fire House on Main Street on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Borough Committee Meetings**

**Water**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

**Economic Development (EDC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

**Liberty-Delaware Water Gap Trail**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

**Friends of DWG**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

***New members welcome!***

**Beautification**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

***New members welcome!***

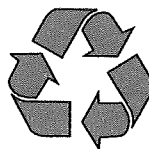
All committee meetings are held at  
Borough Hall  
49 Main Street  
Delaware Water Gap

**Ordinance 184**

Please keep the community beautiful by sweeping and cleaning debris off of the sidewalk. Also maintain your yard by keeping it mowed & trimmed around the lampposts. Trim back trees and shrubs from the sidewalk and Borough right-of-way.

**Ordinance 270**

All dogs must be leashed! Dogs are not permitted to roam freely along the streets of the Borough.



If you do not have a yellow recycling container or are in need of a replacement, contact the borough office.

## Local History Spot

By Martin W. Wilson

Delaware Water Gap has long attracted musical luminaries. Phil Woods, Bob Dorough, and Urbie Green are three of the most recent world-renown musicians with strong connections to the Gap. In earlier days John Phillip Souza, Jenny Lind, and opera singer Caruso performed in the Gap. Fred Astaire summered in the Gap with his sister Adele when he was a young man. Fred Waring ran his musical empire from the Castle Inn.

This story is about another musician, Les Paul, who lived locally for a time in the 1950s. Les Paul was an extraordinary guitar player who had his own television show and who, with his wife Mary Ford, had more than three dozen hit records. Perhaps his best-known recording was "How High the Moon." He was a virtuoso of the highest caliber. Check out any video of him on YouTube.

But his claim to fame does not rest solely with his instrumental virtuosity. He was an inventor and a visionary. At the age of ten he invented a harmonica holder that let him play the guitar and harmonica at the same time (Bob Dylan used one). Later he developed multi-track recording, overdubs, and reverb. Perhaps his most impressive legacy is his contribution to the creation of the solid body electric guitar, the instrument that changed popular music in the 1950s and 60s. His name appears on the headstock of what is arguably the best-known electric guitar in the world, the Gibson Les Paul. Delaware Water Gap played a role in how that came to be.

Lester William Posifuss was born in 1915 in a small city west of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was a prodigy on the guitar; as a teenager was performing around the Midwest as "Rhubarb Red." At one of his steady gigs a fan told him that he could hear his voice and harmonica, but not his guitar. So Les took the tone arm off of his father's phonograph, jammed the needle into the bridge of his guitar, and played through a radio. It worked, but it produced unwanted sounds. He then experimented with a two-foot piece of rail from a railroad. A microphone from his mother's telephone acted as a pickup. His mother said it was a lousy idea as he could not play a rail at a gig (wise mother).

In the 1930s Les moved to Chicago and was playing country gigs in the day time and jazz gigs at night. By the 1940s he was living in New York and playing with musical greats like Nat King Cole, Bing Crosby, Rudy Vallee, Fred Waring, and Kate Smith. In New York he befriended the guitar makers at the Epiphone Guitar Company who gave him access to the guitar making equipment in the factory on Sundays.

In 1936 Gibson introduced an electrified hollow-body guitar. Hollow body guitars, however, emit a howling feedback at elevated sound levels. Convinced that a solid body would eliminate feedback problems, Les took a 4x4 piece of pine, added pickups, a bridge, and an Epiphone guitar neck, and took it to his nightclub gig. The "Log," as he called it, was loud and clear, but the audience was lukewarm to the invention. The next day he cut an Epiphone guitar in half and added "wings" to the "Log" to make it look like a conventional guitar. That night the audience loved the new sound. Les later quipped "people hear with their eyes."

Les approached the Epiphone Guitar Company with the idea of developing his "Log" into a solid body guitar. Company executives laughed at him. He then approached Gibson executives and they mocked him, calling the "Log" a "broomstick with pickups." Les wasn't discouraged. He continued trying to sell his idea of a solid body guitar while maintaining his career as a performer.

Meanwhile Fender began selling a solid body guitar in 1950. It was an immediate hit causing Gibson president Ted McCarty to reconsidered the solid body guitar. In 1951 he had a prototype of a carved-top, solid-body guitar and he wanted Les Paul's opinion of it.

At the time, Les Paul was living in a small house near Tott's Gap Road just outside of Delaware Water Gap. Ted McCarty flew to New York City and then drove to Delaware Water Gap to show Les the guitar and to get his feedback. Les had told McCarty on the phone that he'd never find his house, so they agreed to meet at the small diner in Water Gap (the former Heitler's Diner—now the Apple Pie Café). McCarty followed Paul to his home and showed him the guitar. At that meeting it was decided that Les's name would go on the headstock. They also decided the top of the guitar would be painted gold (giving it the nickname "Gold Top") to suggest it was the gold standard of guitars.

As odd as it may seem, the legendary Gibson Les Paul guitar received its name here in Delaware Water Gap in 1951. The guitar was released in 1952 and has been used by a host of legendary guitar players including Jimmy Page, Jeff Beck, and Eric Clapton.

Les Paul remained an influence on popular music until his death in 2009 at the age of 94. He continued to tinker with new inventions and he continued to perform. He had a steady Monday night gig at the Iridium in New York that he was still playing at the age of 93.

Coda: A year or two before Les Paul's death Cherry Valley resident Ralph Harrison was at home with his wife Fran one night when he heard someone knocking on his door. When he opened the door, Ralph, a life-long musician, immediately recognized his visitor as the famous Les Paul. Paul and his entourage had driven up from the city to look for the house he used to live in. He stopped at Ralph's house by chance to see if Ralph might know where it was. Ralph didn't know, but it was a thrill for him to meet Les Paul.