

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 33 – Fall 2018



REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Election Day
Tuesday, November 6th

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. & close at 8:00 p.m.

Delaware Water Gap will have two days of leaf collecting. Leaves will be collected throughout the entire borough each day. Dates will be posted at the post office and borough hall. **Leaves should be placed on the street no earlier than the weekend just prior to the scheduled pick up day.**

Bad weather or mechanical problems can delay the pickup, but the collection will be made as soon as the leaf truck is available.

All leaves should be placed curbside along the streets of the borough in piles not to exceed four feet high and four feet wide. Piles should be made in front of your property not on the opposite side of the street. The collection truck will only collect on borough streets and not on private property.

Only leaves will be collected. Any pile containing foreign objects such as tree branches, shrubs or hedge clippings will not be picked up. These items clog and damage the vacuum. Please do not park on the leaves that are to be vacuumed. **If piles contain any foreign objects and cannot be vacuumed up it will be the responsibility of the property owner to remove the piles from the street.**

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 1st Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Municipal Authority

James Reynolds, Vice Chair
Harry Darlington, Treasurer
Martin W. Wilson, Secretary
James Holbrook
Steve Simister

Municipal Authority meetings are held the 3rd 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 2nd 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



Fire Prevention Day at ESHS South
279 North Courtland Street

Saturday, October 13th
11:00 to 3:00

Sponsored by the Delaware Water Gap, East Stroudsburg, Stroud Township & Stroudsburg Fire Departments

Watch for the official flyer at the Post Office

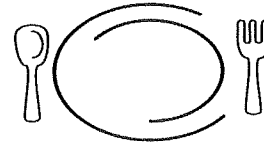
Help Support the Delaware Water Gap Fire Department and Breast Cancer Research by purchasing a T-shirt.

Blue DWG Fire Department Support Shirts are \$15.00.
Money goes to the department.

Pink Breast Cancer Awareness shirts are \$20.00
10% of the proceeds will go to Cancer Research

Please stop by the fire house any Monday at 7:00 pm
during drill.

Also, watch for T-shirt sales at the Post Office



4th Annual
Dutot Museum Autumn Harvest

Fundraising Dinner
Thursday, October 25th
6:00 p.m.

Dutot Museum & Gallery
24 Main Street
Delaware Water Gap

\$40.00 per person
Seating is limited

B.Y.O.B

Reservations: smwilson@ptd.net or 570-807-1071 by
October 21st
501C3 receipts available upon request

Mayor's Corner

Dear fellow Residents,

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to more favorable temperatures as we move into the Fall season. Many things have taken place during the past quarter and I believe it was a great summer for our town. All our events were very successful from Founders Day, to Dog Days in the Park, COTA and many more including our first annual Folk Festival. My many thanks to our residents who came out to volunteer and keep these events alive and well. As we move toward winter we still have a few more events planned, and we are always looking for volunteers to help. If you are interested, please contact the Borough Office and thank you in advance. October 13th, we have a Fall Foliage train excursion from Steam Town stopping at our Borough Station and October 14th is a Friends of D.W.G Fundraiser and we will have more info on that coming soon so please save the date!. October 31 is Trick or Treat in the Gap from 6pm to 8pm. The Cemetery Lantern Walk is on November 3rd. and the Wreaths Across America will be held on December 15th at 11:30 in the D.W.G Cemetery for our Veterans. We also have the tree lighting ceremony and the date for that will be announced soon. The Fire Dept. will be having a Santa Breakfast on December 8th, from 9-12 and on December 17th they will have Santa on the Fire Truck delivering gifts throughout the Borough. Flyers will be distributed with more details for those events.

Infrastructure update: I'm sure you're all aware of the road projects going on around us and there are a couple of updates. As you know by now the Cherry Valley Bridge project is complete and it looks great! Councilmen Jack Shoemaker and Tim Snow are working on trying to get Cherry Valley Rd. repaved. It's an expensive project and they are doing their best to get it done for our Borough. On September 17th the roundabout portion of the River Rd. project was set to begin. By now we are dealing with detours and hopefully the project will finish soon. I'm grateful that the contractors listened to Councilwomen Eileen Noelle, Elvi Delotto and myself and held off that portion of the project until our busy summer months were over so that the impact to our Broad St. businesses were minimal. The entire project is set to be completed by late November.

I would like to send a special Thank You to Lisa Paulette who resigned as our Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough. Lisa's work and knowledge were a definite asset to our Town. Also, please welcome Lauren Hoglund as our new Municipal Authority Secretary. Lauren is very civic minded and a great addition to our Borough. Welcome Lauren!

Lastly, we are forming a committee for emergency management in our Borough and I could use your help. If you would like to join, please let me or Ileana know. Thank you and I look forward to seeing everyone around town this Fall.

Mayor Larry Freshcorn

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY



**11th Annual DWG Cemetery
Association Lantern Walk**

What was it like in Delaware Water Gap 100 years ago? Join us for a walk in the Delaware Water Gap Cemetery, where your hosts will take you on a 1-hour walking tour among the tombstones, providing the history of Delaware Water Gap through the stories of the farmers, soldiers, hotel builders, shopkeepers, bankers, laborers, mothers, fathers, and other townspeople buried there who helped to make Delaware Water Gap what it is today.

Complimentary hot cider and donuts courtesy of the Village Farmer will be provided after the walk.

AFTERNOON & EVENING WALKS
Saturday, November 3rd at 2 PM & 6 PM
(Rain date Sunday, November 4th.)

WHERE: Delaware Water Gap Cemetery on Main Street. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear and bring flashlights to help you walk among the tombstones.

COST: The event and refreshments are FREE, but donations for cemetery upkeep are gratefully accepted.

Delaware Water Gap Community Gives Back

Delaware Water Gap would like your help in giving back to our community. The Borough and Municipal Authority Building will be accepting donations over the next few months for a number of charitable causes. Donations can be dropped off at the Borough Building located at 49 Main Street Delaware Water Gap, PA, during our normal business hours Monday through Friday from 9-5 pm

October and November

We will be accepting non-perishable and canned food items which will be donated to a local emergency food pantry servicing our communities' citizens in need.

December

Toy Drive - Delaware Water Gap will be working with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department collecting new unwrapped toys benefiting Monroe County's Youth during this holiday season.

January and February

We will be gladly accepting donations of pet food and supplies for AWSOM (Animal Shelter Monroe County), Monroe County's first no-kill animal shelter. AWSOM provides shelter and medical care for companion animals where they are free from abuse, hunger, fear and loneliness, until placing them in responsible forever homes.

Please keep a look out for flyers around our community for more information about specific items needed for each event and how you can help.

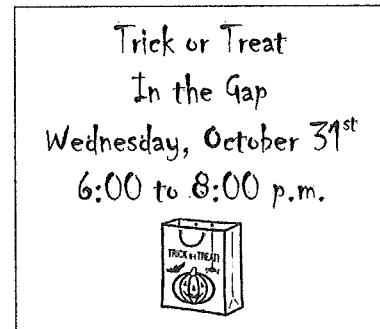
The Beautification Committee will be getting our gardens ready for winter and planting close to 900 spring bulbs if you would like to help out please let Elvi 570-424-2413 or Ileana in the office know.

Friends of Delaware Water Gap held their first Picnic at Shull Park. The park has undergone much needed renovation over the last 3 years. Jean Wilson, now of Florida, made a donation to purchase five picnic tables for the park, which is greatly appreciated.

October brings Delaware Water Gap's second annual Oktoberfest. Lindsey and Dave of the Sycamore Grill will be hosting this on Sunday October 14th from 4 – 8 pm. More information will be posted on the Post Office door as we get closer to the date.

The Water Committee is very pleased to announce the purchase and installation of a new generator for Well #4. Barring a meeting of multiple natural disasters, residents of our borough will have water, the toilets will flush and showers can be taken even if the water is cold.

Elvi DeLotto



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!

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

Local History Spot

By Martin W. Wilson

Diphtheria in Delaware Water Gap

At the end of the nineteenth century, Delaware Water Gap was well known among New Yorkers and Philadelphians as a resort mecca. In 1894, the borough became known for something else when on January 21 of that year *The New York Times* printed this headline: "Seven Deaths in One Family from Diphtheria at Delaware Water Gap."

Before a vaccine was developed for diphtheria it killed about half of the people unlucky enough to catch it. The disease attacks the mucus membranes in a person's respiratory system causing headache, sore throat, fever, and swollen glands. As cases advance the skin can turn bluish, the throat swells to more than twice its normal size, and breathing can become difficult as dead cells begin to block the airways.

When the disease broke out in Andrew and Emma Albert's home on Cherry Valley Road at the beginning of January 1894 the borough's Board of Health (yes, Water Gap had a board of health then—and a doctor's office) met to deal with the crisis. They quarantined the Alberts' house and sent for a nurse to help the Albert family with patient care.

On Saturday, January 6, Nurse Anna Eberwein arrived from Memorial Hospital in Orange, New Jersey, to take charge of the patients. By then two people had already died, 6-year-old Ralph, and 25-year-old Lizzie, a newlywed. In the four tiny bedrooms upstairs 19-year-old Luther, 14-year-old Mabel, and 11-year-old Addie, were suffering from the disease. Emma and 18-year-old George were also sick. Andrew and 26-year-old Edward had been caring for the patients but they were both exhausted by the time the visiting nurse arrived.

Miss Eberwein says that when she first met the patients that Saturday, they were sitting on their beds, "all dressed with shoes and stockings on. . . . Their faces were purple, their mouth wide open, necks swollen to twice their normal size. . . ." Addie died at 6:00 a.m. the next morning, Sunday. Knowing she was about to die she asked to be buried in her new Christmas dress with her doll in her arms. Edward, who had been helping care for the patients, developed symptoms on Monday. On Tuesday, Water Gap doctor, J. B. Shaw, told Miss Eberwein that he would no longer come to the house for fear of getting sick. With little sleep and constant work, the visiting nurse was nearing the end of her rope. She informed Dr. Shaw that she would have to leave. The Board of Health gathered across the street (they would come no nearer the house than that) and shouted encouragements to her. A doctor from Portland was to arrive that evening to help, they said.

When the new doctor arrived he took one look at the patients and fled. Before catching the train back to Portland he stopped by a local hotel for dinner. As he entered, all the people in the building left for fear of getting the disease from him. At 8:30 that night Luther died. His body turned black almost immediately and the fumes from his body, Miss Eberwein wrote, "were stifling." At 3:30 on Wednesday afternoon, Edward died. Mabel died at midnight. George died two days later.

During the ordeal, Water Gap residents feared the disease would spread. No one would enter the "pest house." The undertaker dropped off coffins and the dead were put into them before they were dragged outside. Food and other necessities were dropped off on the porch. The clothing of the deceased were either burned or buried. Miss Eberwein had to endure two fumigations before the Board of Health would let her leave the house to return home. The clothing she had worn while she was in the house was burned. As she walked to the train station people she met on the street "flew in every direction" as she passed them. On the train the conductor refused to take her ticket from her hand. She had to put it on a nearby seat.

Miss Eberwein survived the ordeal. The people of Water Gap later expressed their appreciation for her heroism in a letter the Secretary of the Board of Health, John J. Burd, wrote saying she held a "tender place . . . in the hearts of the people."

In the end, seven of the Alberts' nine children succumbed to the disease in 1894. Emma died later that year, never recovering from the loss of her children. Andrew remarried, outlived his other two children, and died in 1916. The Alberts are buried in the Water Gap Cemetery. All of their names appear on one head stone.