

# THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 35 – Spring 2019

## 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

### April

**It's baby season!** Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center provides humane, professional care for injured and orphaned native wildlife for the purpose of returning them to the wild when appropriate. The facility takes in more than 2,400 animals annually including fawns, owls, hawks, falcons, eagles, squirrels, rabbits, songbirds, foxes raccoons, and bears. During this time of year the need for **paper towels** and **large terry bath towels** increases. We will be accepting these items during the month of April.

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.

## Delaware Water Gap Celebration of the Arts

### CAMP JAZZ

June 24-30, 2019

Founded by Phil Woods & Rick Chamberlain  
For All Instrumental & Vocals Learners Ages 12+  
[www.campjazz.org](http://www.campjazz.org)



## Borough Office Hours

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

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

*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

**Emergency Management Coordinator**  
Brad Miller

**Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator**  
(Vacant)

**Floodplain Administrator**  
Walter Conway

### Mayor's Corner

Happy Spring D.W.G.! Thankfully we made it through another winter unscathed. I'll begin with an update on the roundabout. Things have progressed well, and the project is on schedule to finish in mid-May. As you've probably seen the street lights have been installed which makes it much easier and safer to navigate at night. I'm told paving will begin as soon as the asphalt plants reopen for the season. You've probably seen on the news that there are issues with trucks trying to make it through the roundabout. We've received numerous complaints from trucking firms and local businesses about damage done to the trucks as they struggle to navigate through the circle. I decided something had to be done, so with help from our Senator and State Representative a meeting was scheduled between D.W.G., Smithfield, PennDOT, Senator Scavello, Rep. Brown and the effected businesses to try to resolve the issue. The meeting is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> and all updates will be passed on through the Borough Office and our Council meetings.

Secondly, there has been a proposal to turn the Wolf Hollow lodge and Golf Course, at the end of Mountain Rd., into a Wellness or Addiction Center. Please understand that Wolf Hollow is not in our Borough which means they do not fall under the jurisdiction of D.W.G. But, given the close relationship between Smithfield and our Borough, Smithfield has promised to update us and allow us to attend and speak on the record regarding anything linked to the project. Our Council along with concerned residents from both towns attended a meeting, hosted by Smithfield as an informational session, to allow the owners to talk about the proposal and answer questions from the audience. It was a standing room only meeting and D.W.G. was strongly represented and the owners as well as Smithfield clearly understood our position. There is a hearing being held by Smithfield to determine the proposed use and how the project may proceed on March 20<sup>th</sup> and Smithfield has promised to let us attend and speak on the record. So, by the time you read this we should know the outcome of that hearing. This is just one of many hurdles the owners face in order to proceed with the project.

Lastly, by the time you get this newsletter we should know whether we were selected to receive the LSA grant to purchase a new police vehicle. I'm told our chances are good, so our fingers are crossed! Also our different committees could use your help to make our seasonal functions a success this year. If you're interested, please let us know. As always, if you need anything please reach out and Happy Spring!

Mayor, Larry Freshcorn



### **2019 Church of the Mountain Gazebo Concerts**

Concerts are free and held every Sunday  
from 6:00 to 7:30 PM  
June through August

Concerts will be held indoors in  
inclement weather. Bring a blanket or  
chair. Refreshments are available for  
sale.

## Remember to recycle!



It is mandatory in the borough.

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

**Antoine Dutot Museum & Gallery**

2019 Exhibitions

Renee Emanuel & Bill Teitworth

Opening Reception - Friday, May 24 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
May 25 to June 9

*En Plein Air* Fine Art Show & Silent Auction

Saturday, June 15 - 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Unsold artwork will remain on display June 16 - June 30

Riv16 - A Big Picture

Opening Reception - Friday, July 5 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
July 6 to July 21

Don Baylor

Opening Reception - Friday, July 26 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
July 27 to August 11

Rita Baragona & St. Clair Sullivan

Opening Reception - Friday, August 16 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
August 17 to September 1

James Gloria

Opening Reception - Friday, September 6 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
September 7 to September 22

John Kierstan

Opening Reception - Friday, September 27 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
September 28 to October 13

The Museum & Gallery are open Saturdays & Sundays,  
1:00 to 5:00 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

**The Antoine Dutot Museum and Gallery**

24 Main Street (Route 611)

PO Box 484

Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327

[www.dutotmuseum.com](http://www.dutotmuseum.com)

Facebook: Antoine Dutot Museum and Gallery

Do you like Delaware Water Gap? Do you like history? Do you like art? If you said "yes" to any of these questions, then we would love to have you as a member of the Antoine Dutot Museum and Gallery!

Here's how to join (memberships run April 1 to March 31):

**WORKING MEMBER:** Working members pay no dues, but are required to work two 4-hour shifts per year hosting visitors at the museum (Saturday or Sunday, May through October, 1 to 5 PM).

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBER:** Contributing Members are not required to work at the museum. There are a number of contributing membership levels to choose from.

For further information about becoming a member visit [www.duutotmuseum.com](http://www.duutotmuseum.com)

## Casey Drake

By Martin W. Wilson

In 1992 I sat down with Casey Drake (after whom our municipal building is named) to talk about his childhood growing up in Delaware Water Gap. Many people in Water Gap still remember Casey. He was an institution in this town. Over the course of his life he occupied just about every public service office there is in the borough: mayor, councilman, president and curator of the Dutot Museum, member of the fire department, Clerk of Session at the Presbyterian Church. He wrote two books on the history of the town. If you don't have them, stop by the Dutot and pick up copies. He made his money as a banker; he was also an artist. And, of course, he was a master story teller. Those of us who knew him loved to hear him tell stories of the old days in the town when the big hotels were still in operation.

Casey was born in 1909 in New York City. His father was a native of Water Gap but he had moved to the city in search of opportunity. There he met and married the woman who would be Casey's mother and Casey was born. A few years later, when Casey was still an infant, Casey's father moved back to the Gap with his new family. He got a job at the bakery in town which was on the corner of Cherry Valley Road and Main St. After living for a short time in the house behind the Presbyterian Church (long gone now and replaced with Fellowship House) the family moved into a house on Delaware Street. For Casey, that house was "the most interesting place you'd ever want to live 'cause there was an awful lot of traffic going back and forth to the railroad station. All the hotels and boarding houses had rigs and carriages and small surreys that they would go down to the railroad station and see if they had any passengers to take to their place. . . . I used to spend a lot of time in the front yard just watching those rigs going up and down. Then my mother would take me down to the railroad station at four o'clock to see the four o'clock trains come in filled with people." There were a lot of trains, "about seven from New York and about five from Philadelphia every day." Those were just the passenger trains; in addition a number of coal trains went through town every day.

In 1915 Casey and his family bought a house on Oak Street. To help pay for it his mother began to do laundry for city people visiting the hotels. They also rented their house for the entire summer to a family from New York. As Casey tells the story of where they lived while another family occupied their house, "The first year we bought a tent and put it up down below [their house] on the right side down the hill. And we thought that would be adequate. And it was, but it rained all summer. I can still see my mother, how frustrated she was doing washing [for the hotel guests]. And the sun didn't shine very much. She had clothes lines hung up under the tent. It had no fly over it and after so much rain the tent began to leak. There was no floor and the water would run across the floor [laughs] inside the tent. Oh, it was terrible [laughs]. . . . I think we got the first year \$200 for three months, which was big in those days. . . . For a refrigerator we dug a hole in the ground and put in a wooden box and lined it with newspapers and burlap. . . . We had little, triangular signs we'd put up on the tree by the street to designate how many pound of ice [to deliver], like ten or twenty or fifty. . . . We had milk delivery every day and we'd put bottles up there, too, against the tree, and have money in the bottles [to pay for the milk]. . . . I think it was 12 cents a quart. That went on for several years and it worked out pretty well." After a couple of summers living in the tent Casey's dad built a little shack for the family to occupy while that New York family lived in their house. Things were rough, but perhaps not so terrible as a sister joined the family when Casey was ten.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MAYOR

It is with great excitement that I can now announce to our DWG residents that our Borough has won the LSA Grant (local share authority gaming tax) to cover the full cost of our new police vehicle!

The LSA Grant is a highly competitive grant but with the help of our State Senator Mario Scavello, State Representative Rosemary Brown, our engineering firm Boucher & James, and our local businesses and residents who provided letters of support, we were selected to be a recipient. Thank you to our local business, Alek Trucking, for donating the fee to help us submit the application.

The new police vehicle will be a 2019 Ford Expedition and have four wheel drive to get up our hilly snow covered roads. It will have the latest electronic equipment that will allow our Officers to do easier background checks, a faster ticketing process, and an instant link to Harrisburg which will make it easier for them to do their job.

Thank you for all of the community support. We have very highly trained Officers that are proud to serve our community and they are very appreciative for the upgraded vehicle and equipment.

## **This spring and early summer there are many community activities in Delaware Water Gap.**

Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 11 AM OUR Fire Department will have an Easter Bunny Breakfast at the Delaware Water Gap Fire House – 241 Main Street. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and children 2 and under free. There will be pancakes, bacon, sausage, and eggs. The Easter Bunny will be attending so there will be photo opportunities and crafts as well!

Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM our Beautification committee will be hosting a spring seedling and garden sale in the borough hall parking lot. If you have any perennials you are splitting, gardening books, magazines, pots or tools that are looking for a new home please call Elvi De Lotto 570-424-2413.

Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 we will have our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fishing clinic at Shull Park for any child from DWG who is 5 - 12 years old. Rods and bait will be supplied. Then we will head out to a great fishing lake. Afterward our new fishermen come back to the park. The community is invited down to the park for a picnic around 1:00. Please contact Elvi De Lotto at 570-424-2413 for information and an application.

Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> is the boroughs Founder's Day. Our Classic Car Club will be in front of the Castle Inn in all their glory. Friends will be selling the world's best hot dogs and hamburgers, and much more. Keep your eyes peeled for flyers at the Post Office with more fun for the day.

Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> Water Gap goes to the dogs! Starting at 10:00 our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Dog Days in the Park will be held at Shull Park. Lisa from Sit, Stay and Play will be giving a demonstration on basic obedience and fun things to enjoy with your hairy buddy. Bring your four legged pal, on a leash of course, and plan to have some fun. The rest of the two legged residents of the gap are invited to a picnic around noon with human food off the grill!

### **Delaware Water Gap Community Gives Back**

#### **May and June**

During the months of May and June we will be collecting donations for **The Valor Clinic Foundation**. Valor Clinic is a grassroots nonprofit organization focused on veteran's quality of life and health care. They provide assistance accessing benefits and shelter. We will be collecting chapstick, wipes, bug repellent and sunscreen.

We are looking for nonprofit organizations located in Monroe County to collect donations for. So far we have collected food for our local food pantry, toys for youth and products for our local animal shelter. If you have one in mind please email your suggestions and ideas to [dwgma@ptd.net](mailto:dwgma@ptd.net)

#### **Hiker's Box**

The hikers will be coming soon. Don't forget to check out our Hiker's Box located in front of the Borough Building. The hiker's box is a great way to interact with the hikers. The goal of the box is to have a place where hikers can take an item they may need and leave one which would be helpful to others on their journey. If you have anything that you would like to contribute stop by and pop it in the box (no food please). We also have an inspirational note section in the box so if you need a little pick me up or feel like leaving one for someone else please feel free to do so.

**PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER:** Clean up after your pets. Pets must always be on a leash and walked by someone that has full control of them. Remember this is for your pet's safety and the safety of our community. Thank you.