

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 41 – Fall 2020

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap is now accepting an additional form of payment. We will be accepting credit card payments via our online website www.dwgpa.gov, in person and over the phone for any and all payments pertaining to DWG general permit payments, DWG water payments and DWG sanitation payments. All payments for each entity must still be made separately. However, you will be able to pay all water accounts together or all sanitation accounts together incurring only one transaction fee for each transaction at 2.9%. Feel free to contact our Secretary/Treasurer, Shaina Serrano with any questions or concerns at the Borough Office 570.476.0331 or via email s.serrano@dwgpa.gov.



Voting Day

Tuesday November 3, 2020

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

The Municipal Authority will be continuing to make improvements on our mapping systems. GIS personnel from RCAP Solutions will be visiting the borough in the near future to take pictures of residences for mapping purposes.

Borough Office

49 Main Street
PO Box 218
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327
Phone: 570-476-0331
Fax: 570-476-0380
s.serrano@dwgpa.gov
www.dwgpa.gov

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Office Secretary/Treasurer – Shaina Serrano
Municipal Authority Secretary – Lauren Hogle
Borough Superintendent - Harry Kent Darlington

Delaware Water Gap Police Department

570-476-4674
police@dwgpa.gov
Police Chief Andrew Yakubik
Michael J. Ceccato, Police Officer
Aspen Gaita, Police Officer
Louis Chirico, Police Officer

State Police – 570-839-7701
Emergencies Only - 911

Borough Council

Jack Shoemaker, President
William Buzzard, Vice President
Derek Anspach
Zack Booth
Lisa Paulette
Tim Snow

Eileen Noelle-White
Larry Freshcorn, Mayor
Council meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Municipal Authority

James Reynolds, Chair
Harry Darlington, Vice Chair
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
Harry Kent Darlington, Alternate
Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held as needed.

Building Code Board of Appeals

Walter Conway
James Holbrook
Bob Mancuso

Zoning Officer

Mark M. Kirk, SFM Consulting, LLC

Building Inspector

Jeffrey Snyder

Emergency Management Coordinator

Darin Schaedel

Floodplain Administrator

Walter Conway

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

Information on Fall leaf pick up will be posted at
borough hall and the post office when it becomes available.



Mayor's Corner

Greetings Fellow Residents.

I hope you all had a great summer even with the challenges that we've all been given. Covid 19 has really negatively impacted Pennsylvania. The restrictions placed on our Commonwealth have devastated area businesses, cancelled events and closed historic sites. Our businesses were hit hard by the pandemic and the lifting of restrictions can't come soon enough. As for our Borough office, we have opened back up with limited hours but we still encourage using the drop box, and calling the office or using email to limit contact. Our staff does an incredible job keeping the Hall clean and sanitized and keeping exposure to a minimum helps with the process. All of the Borough projects, including the repaving of Cherry Valley Road, have been put on hold because of Covid. We are staying hopeful that the project will begin to move forward in the spring of 2021.

General Election Day will be Tuesday, November 3rd. Our polls will be open and we will follow the same guidelines we created for the Primary Election. Please wear a mask and if you don't have one, we will provide one for you. We will also have hand sanitizer available throughout the building and you will be given a pen for your ballot that you may keep. Trick or Treating for the kids is just around the corner! The Borough will hold the annual outing on October 31st from 6pm-8pm. Please adhere to the safe social distancing guidelines.

The Wellness Center has had some recent development. Smithfield Township's Supervisors voted to allow for a curative amendment which put the project one step ahead to open. This means that their Board of Supervisors agreed to allow an addiction rehabilitation center within their R-1 Residential zone. According to Smithfield's zoning, they already have a zone that would legally accommodate this type of business. That would be B-1 or B-2. The owners of the Wellness Center had petitioned for a curative amendment from the Supervisors after the County Judge denied the use and Smithfield's Planning Commission recommended to their Supervisors to not allow the business within the incorrect zoning area. The Supervisors decided against the advice and against the Judge's order and approved the request.

The Delaware Water Gap Cemetery will be having its Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony on December 19th at noon. The Cemetery Committee could really use your help purchasing wreaths for our Veterans. We have 140 Veterans buried in our cemetery and a wreath is provided for each of them. The price is \$15. The Committee would like to invite everyone to come out on 12/19 and help place wreaths on the gravesites of those who have served our country. It is a wonderful experience for your children to participate. I would love to see you there.

I'd like to close with this, please take the time to visit our Borough businesses and restaurants as much as you can. During these unprecedented times, the local businesses could use our support and patronage. We are very fortunate to have such incredible restaurants and shops within walking distance of our homes. Please stay safe and as always if you need anything please let myself or Borough Council know. We are here for you.

Sincerely,
Larry Freshcorn Mayor, D.W.G., PA.



**Homeowners are responsible for the sidewalks
in front of their property.**

**Please maintain them by keeping them in good repair, free
of weeds & trash, and cleared of snow and ice in the winter
months.**

Dutot Museum & Gallery's 5th Annual *En Plein Air* Auction

Thirty-six artists from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York are participating in this year's event. Artists are submitting works completed in 2020 painted within certain geographical boundaries. This year those boundaries enclose the Water Gap National Recreational Area, Milford, Shawnee, and the borough of Delaware Water Gap. This annual event is the Dutot Museum & Gallery's largest fundraiser.

Because of the pandemic, the **5th Annual En Plein Air** has been moved to an online auction site.

Please visit the auction website to see the amazing work of these talented artists and register as a bidder by using the link below.

www.auctria.com/auction/delawarewatergap2020enpleinair

Check out the sponsor page and support these businesses that have been so supportive of this annual event!

Condolences to the family & friends of
 M. Paul Beaty, Jr.
 December 27, 1938 - September 15, 2020

Trick or Treat
 In the Gap
 Saturday, October 31st
 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Wreaths Across America Sponsorship

Wreaths for Delaware Water Gap Cemetery

The Delaware Water Gap Cemetery Association will be sponsoring Wreaths Across America on Saturday, December 19th. This is a national event which recognizes fallen veterans by placing a wreath at their grave site within cemeteries. There are approximately 140 veterans buried in the DWG cemetery. Please consider sponsoring a wreath or wreaths which will be laid during the Wreaths Across America ceremony. We have agreement with WAA that if we receive more wreath orders than what we need, the additional wreaths will go to Arlington National Cemetery. Each wreath is \$15.00. For questions, contact Roxanne Kaiser-Antonowich at 570 -476- 8084. We are still looking for borough veterans to participate during the ceremony.

Please complete the order form below by November 6, 2020 and send with check payable to Delaware Water Gap Cemetery Association to PO Box 36, Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327.

 Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

(A receipt for tax purposes will be sent to you)

Number of wreaths _____ x \$15.00 per wreath = \$_____ enclosed.

Local History Spot
By Marty Wilson

Croasdale Manor

The next time you drive on to Rt. 80 West via the on ramp just after the new traffic circle take note of the stately stone house off to your left. Croasdale Manor once stood at the center of a 192-acre estate that, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, operated as a summer resort called "The River Farm." The manor itself dates to the early eighteenth century. Members of the Croasdale family owned it from 1856 until the death of Harold Croasdale in 1978. During Harold's ownership, events over which he had little control transformed the property. But if it hadn't been for Harold's tenacious defense of the manor, it would currently be buried under Rt. 80.

When Harold and his wife, Anna May Books Croasdale, inherited the property in the early twentieth century, they enlarged the capacity of the resort and built a large swimming pool for summer guests, borrowing heavily in order to make the improvements. Then, in 1939, lightning struck the building setting it on fire. Only parts of the original stone walls dating back to the early eighteenth century survived. Harold vowed to rebuild, but he didn't have the money. He took a job as a chemist in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and began to repay his creditors. Harold never wavered in his determination to rebuild the manor.

Then disaster of an entirely different nature struck Harold's plans. In 1952 Harold still owned 161 acres that spread out from the manor house south to the borough's boundary near the borough's two gas stations, east to the Brodhead Creek near the current ball fields, north to the big left-hand bend in Rt. 80, and west to the housing development on Walnut Lane/Parkway Drive. That year construction began on the four-lane bridge that would eventually carry Rt. 80 across the Delaware River. The bridge pointed like an arrow straight at the middle of Croasdale's property, thus initiating a years-long conflict between Harold and the Pennsylvania Department of Highways (PDH). Between construction of the bridge in 1952-53, and then the construction of the four-lane highway in 1958-59 (eventually named Rt. 80), the PDH took 55 acres of Croasdale land. But that's not the whole of it. According to letters Harold wrote to the PDH, the remaining 106 acres was cut up into isolated pieces ranging from one to seventeen acres. Croasdale only had access to 43 acres of his land. He also saw his water source, a well that consistently provided unlimited supplies of pure water, buried under Rt. 80. And, of course, instead of a magnificent view of the Delaware Water Gap, Croasdale's property now looked out over concrete ramps, bridges, dirt embankments, and drainage ditches.

In the late 1950s, when Harold first saw the plans for the proposed highway that was to bisect his property, he noticed that the east-bound exit ramp was plotted to run right through the ruins of the manor and the swimming pool. Harold could not let his dream of rebuilding the manor be destroyed by the PDH. For years fought the destruction of the manor's ruins. He hired and fired lawyers, he quit his job in Perth Amboy and opened a chemical laboratory in his house so he could devote all of his time to the struggle, he wrote letters to anyone who would listen, including Governor John Fine of Pennsylvania. He claimed the path of the highway would desecrate the graves of his ancestors (although he didn't seem to have any proof of the existence of those graves). He then hired an engineer who designed an alternative route for the off ramp. After a heroic struggle he got the PDH to move the ramp just enough to the east to avoid the destruction of the stone remains.

Another struggle ensued as Croasdale had to fight to get paid for the land the state took from him. With the money he received he rebuilt the manor and dedicated it as a community center. Upon Harold's death ownership of the building passed to Harold's alma mater, Lafayette College in Easton. Lafayette eventually sold it to the famous trombone player Urbie Green. The Green family recently sold the manor, along with less than 2 of the original 196 acres to a private family.