

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 43 – Spring 2021



Stay connected with community happenings by following us on Facebook at Delaware Water Gap Borough.

The Borough is no longer accepting credit card payments for quarterly water, sanitation or sewer bills by phone or in person. **All credit card payments must be made online.**



Voting Day

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

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

Borough Office

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

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
After 1:00 p.m. by appointment.

Office Secretary/Treasurer – Allisen Trotter
Municipal Authority Secretary – Lauren Hoglund
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

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 Schaefer

Floodplain Administrator

Walter Conway

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

Mayors Corner
March 2021

Anniversaries are usually a time everyone comes together for a celebration, but as we pass the one year mark of the date the first Pennsylvania COVID case was reported last March, we still find ourselves in a world that hasn't fully bounced back yet from this pandemic. The good news is that companies have worked hard to create a vaccine for the public and we have seen some easing of restrictions by our Governor. Everyone is anxious to get back to a life they knew before the pandemic and people have started planning trips and activities again. Hopefully our Borough Council meetings will return to in-person meetings soon as other municipalities have begun to plan towards that as well. The Friends of Delaware Water Committee will soon be sitting down to discuss the possibility of moving forward with Founders Day in June as well as Dog Days in the Park, and the Town Wide Yard Sale. Your Borough Hall and Police Department now have an AED machine available for potential emergencies. We are looking at some dates this year to hold a CPR/AED class for our residents who would like to be Certified. I will update everyone once we have everything planned. Until the CDC and the Governor have lifted all of the restrictions, everything that would be planned within our Borough will, of course, be COVID compliant. Last year, the influx of visitors we had in our town put us on the map of places to hike, bike and paddle. We anticipate that we will have just as much traffic and visitation this Spring, Summer and Fall and our Police Department is already trying to modify their hours to help with the parking issues that our residents may see on Mountain Road. If you are a resident on Mountain Road, we can provide more of the 'NO PARKING' paper signs for your property. Please contact me or Chief Yakubik and we will be glad to get some to you. I hope everyone has a great spring and I hope to see you out this summer.

Larry Freshcorn

Spring is here!

The melting snow has uncovered litter throughout the town. Take a look around your property and at the sidewalk & street in front of your house. Pick up any litter you find. In past years the bridge commission has swept the borough streets to clear the gravel left after the winter. That will not happen this year. Please consider sweeping the street in front of your property.

Let's all work together to make our town an attractive place to live.



The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

A Message from the Municipal Authority

Did you know that 50 percent of the so-called non-dispersible material in wastewater is paper towels from restrooms, followed by 25 percent of baby wipes, and then a mixture of condoms, cosmetic wipes, tampon applicators, and other items?

These items cause blockages which result in expensive service interruptions to both customers and the Municipal Authority
Please think twice before flushing the toilet.

The following items should never enter the sewage system.

- Paper Towels & Rags
- Various “flushable” Wipes
- Dryer sheets & Lint
- Condoms
- Tampons and Pads
- Dental Floss
- Contact Lenses
- Cotton Swabs
- Diapers
- Tissues
- Medication
- Cigarette Butts
- Hair
- Cooking Grease and Oil
- Bleach
- Band-Aids
- Paint
- Cat Litter
- Cotton Balls
- Underwear



Ordinance 267 states that garbage cannot be placed out before 5:00 p.m. the day **prior** to pick up and cans must be removed before 9:00 p.m. the **day of pick up.**

Thank you for adhering to our ordinance.

Let's work together in making sure the borough looks its best!

Borough Committee Meetings

Water

2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Economic Development (EDC)

2nd Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Liberty-Delaware Water Gap Trail

3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Friends of DWG

4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

New members welcome!

Beautification

1st 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



Dear Resident:

This month you will notice an increase in your sanitation bill. The sanitation bill increased from \$ 90 to \$ 105 per quarter. This equates to a \$ 5 per month increase. This is the first time there was an increase in billing for 5 years.

This increase is primarily due to an identical % increase from our Waste Management service provider. Our goal is to be revenue neutral while still maintaining the same quality of service.

Thank you,

Borough Delaware Water Gap Sanitation Committee

Local History Spot

By Marty Wilson

Vehicles in the Gap Before the Automobile

In last quarter's newsletter we read part of a transcription of an interview conducted in 1991 with Casey Drake, Fred Shoemaker, and Bob Kaiser, three long-time residents of Delaware Water Gap. The three men had lots of stories to tell of growing up in the Gap. Casey was born in 1909, Fred in 1912, and Bob in 1919, so the events they talked about took place roughly between 1911 and the early 1930s, the last decades of Water Gap's heyday as a resort destination.

Their lives were shaped by the presence in the borough of the hotels and the summer guests from New York City and Philadelphia who patronized them. As we read last time, Casey's dad drove a bread wagon that sold bread to the hotels. Casey's mother did laundry for hotel guests. In the summer Casey and his family moved into a tent in the back yard so they could rent their house to New Yorkers. Fred's father drove a stage coach for the Kittatinny, picking up guests at the train station and dropping them at the hotel. Fred's mother took in overflow guests from hotels in town. At one point the orchestra for the Water Gap House lived in Fred's house.

Listening to their stories one is reminded that Water Gap was a very different place then. Of course, there were the hotels. Nothing in Water Gap today compares to the great hotels of those years. Another difference was the relative isolation of the borough. Those were the first decades of the mass popularity of the automobile—the invention that transformed American life and more tightly knit the lives of borough residents with those of the people who lived north of Fox Town Hill. As the automobile became more prevalent in American life, it slowly replaced earlier forms of transportation. Casey, Fred, and Bob talked about some of those earlier means of transportation.

There was, for example, the horse-drawn bread wagon that Casey's father used to deliver bread to the hotels and to private homes. As mentioned above Fred's father drove a stage coach for the Kittatinny House. Fred says that the Kittatinny stored two or three of those "regular old stage coaches" in a barn near the Water Gap House site. They were drawn by horses harnessed three-abreast. Fred's father also drove the water wagon. As a boy, Fred and his friends loved to ride on top of the wagon as his father sprinkled water on the dirt streets to keep the dust down on hot summer days.

The most important vehicle for the development of the borough was the train (which was discussed in earlier columns). Most of the hotels closed on Labor Day. Fred and Casey remembered that on the last day of the summer season the trains back to the city were packed with guests, many of whom had stayed the entire season. The last train back to the city that day was the 5:15. All the men would throw their straw hats away as they boarded the train. And then the town fell silent, bereft of its summer guests.

Casey remembers the train station as a bustling and exciting place. His mother took him there to see the large engines of which Casey, as a little boy, was deathly afraid. At the peak of train traffic there were six trains from Hoboken and five from Philadelphia each day in addition to coal and freight trains. "You couldn't be down by the railway station for ten minutes without some train going by. It was an exciting place. People would be down there saying good bye to their loved ones and crying. Or welcoming people and having a wonderful greeting." He could see people in the dining cars receiving their meals from waiters dressed in smart, white jackets. It was a vision of elegance for the young boy.

(To be continued.)