

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 36 – Summer 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 for Meals on Wheels Pet Program during the months of **July** and **August**. 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.**



Monroe County Meals on Wheels began its Pet Program in 2009. At that time it was determined that some clients were sharing their meals with their pets and could use assistance with pet food. Through this program, we provide our clients with a two week supply of pet food. This is delivered to them on a monthly basis by our volunteers.

We currently provide cat and dog food to 42 clients with a total of 58 pets. Our Pet Food Program runs solely on donations and relies heavily on community support.

We are currently in need of the following items:

Dry cat food – (Friskies, 9-Lives, etc.)

Wet cat food – (Friskies, 9-Lives, etc.)

Wet dog food – (Alpo, Pedigree, etc.)

Wet & dry dog food for smaller dogs – Mighty Dog, Bella, Beneful Incredibites, etc.

Thank you for your support!

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 Santos Rolon, Jr.

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. (except when a holiday falls on that Monday, then meetings will be held the 2nd Monday of the month)

Municipal Authority

Chair (Vacant)

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

Avis Mosier, Alternate

Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held as needed.

Building Code Board of Appeals

Walter Conway

James Holbrook

Bob Mancuso

Building Inspector

Russell Piccotti

Emergency Management Coordinator

Brad Miller

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

(Vacant)

Floodplain Administrator

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

JUNIOR BOROUGH COUNCIL OPPORTUNITY for FALL 2019

The Junior Borough Council position provides the youth in the community with an opportunity to engage with local government and develop leadership skills. Our Borough Officials will mentor students who will be future leaders in their communities.

Please contact Councilwoman, Eileen Noelle to have an application sent to you: eileennoelle@gmail.com

Guidelines:

- Must be a Borough Resident of Delaware Water Gap
- Must be a high school (9-12) or College Student
- Each term is 1 year and coincides with the school year.
- Will attend monthly Council Meeting
- Will take an Oath Applications accepted until August 31, 2019.

Term will begin September or October 2019

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

2019 Exhibitions

Riv 16 – Romance of Water
Opening Reception - Friday, July 5 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
July 6 to July 21

Don Baylor
Friday, July 26 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
July 27 to August 11

Rita Baragona & St. Claire 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.

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 4th 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 & 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 7 – Erin McClelland Band

July 14 – Lost Ramblers

July 21 – SheilaMark Band

July 28 – Lisa Ellex & Terry Kleifelter

August 4 – Renegade Ramblers

August 11 – Michelle Bautier Duo

August 18 – Chris London Band

August 25 – Cary Dillon & Abigail Dillon

Bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Refreshments for sale, proceeds support the concert series.

Mayor's Corner

Happy Summer D.W.G.! I'll begin with an update on the roundabout. The project went a little past the mid May deadline because of the heavy rains and the changes needed to accommodate tractor trailers. There is not much left to do on the project and we will still be monitoring the truck issue through the circle until everyone is satisfied that the new changes alleviated the problem. Those changes include: As you exit off Route 80 East, the right-hand side approach to the circle and guard rails were pushed back 4 feet. Also the approach to the circle from River Rd. was widened by 1 foot. Hopefully this solves the problem. The Wolf Hollow Country Club's application for Watergap Wellness is still being discussed in Smithfield Township. Our Borough contends that this project does not comply with Smithfield's Zoning ordinance but only time, a lot of testimony and deliberation will tell. If the project can continue, it may be challenged, and an appeals process could be utilized.

Lastly, our new police vehicle has been ordered and is currently being built at the Ford plant. It is scheduled to arrive in September and the dealership can then begin adding all the police accessories. Completion and delivery should be in October or November. Thank you to all that helped support the police department throughout the grant process. It helps our Department serve you better. Our different committees could use your help to make our seasonal functions a success this year. If you're interested, please let us know. I hope to see you all at those functions. As always, if you need anything please reach out and Happy Summer!

Mayor, Larry Freshcorn

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY



The Beautification Committee plant sale was a fun day, thank you for donations and help during the sale.

Friends will be selling hot dogs and hamburgers at Founders Day on Saturday, June 29th. Come out and support the efforts of Friends of DWG in their community functions.

Shull Park will host their 3rd annual Dog Days in the Park on Sat. July 20th at 10:00 AM. Lisa from Sit, Stay and Play will be here to help with basic obedience and give a taste of fun things to do with your K9 buddy. All DWG dogs are welcome, must be on a leash. We will have a picnic afterward. Any funds from donations will go towards SARP K9s.

October will bring our Community Picnic, the date will be announced later. This is our 2nd potluck event at the park. DWG residents are welcome to spend time together at our borough park which has been rehabbed through volunteer efforts.

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 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Borough Committee Meetings

Water

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

Economic Development (EDC)

Monday December 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Liberty-Delaware Water Gap Trail

Workshops on the 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

Thursday, September 4th 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

The Antoine Dutot School and Museum is currently housed in the building that, for well over a hundred years, served as the town's public school. Dutot, the town's founder, had a direct link to the school. In 1818 the land the building sits on was deeded to him and dedicated as a future school site. Twenty years later, Dutot deeded the land to the Directors of the Common Schools of the Township of Lower Smithfield. Shortly thereafter, around 1840, the present building was constructed and called the Laurel Hill Academy.

The school educated the children of the borough and surrounding areas. In 1956, as part of the public school consolidations taking place in Pennsylvania, the school joined the Stroudsburg School District. By then it was called the Delaware Water Gap Elementary School. The children of the borough walked to school or were driven by their parents. At noon they went home for lunch and then returned to finish the school day. In the 1960s, the Stroudsburg Area School District tried to shut down the school deeming it economically unfeasible to maintain. The people of the borough, led by the Water Gap PTA, forced the board to back down.

In 1969, however, the Stroudsburg School Board once again claimed that keeping the small school open made little economic sense. There were twenty-six students in four grades at the school taught by two teachers. The school would close and Water Gap students would be bussed to Stroudsburg. This time, in spite of a concerted effort by the local PTA to keep the school open led by its president Joan Powlus, the board would not relent.

Townsfolk wondered what would happen to the historic structure. Would it be torn down or fall into disrepair and become an eyesore? In early September, 1969, Francis "Casey" Drake pitched to Borough Council the idea of turning the building into a museum commemorating Water Gap history. The borough, he and others hoped, could take over the building and, among other things, restore one of the rooms, "as it used to be in the past." Council liked the idea. They appointed "Mr. and Mrs. Powlus, Wm. Snow, Francis Drake, Mr. Croasdale, & John Wilson to act as a committee for the disposition of the school house." The "Save Our School" committee, expanded to include Barbara Drake and Robert Kaiser, made plans to turn the building into a museum of local history and a library. There was talk of holding art classes and exhibiting the work of local artists.

Meanwhile, Water Gap Council sought to get the ownership of the building returned to the borough. On January 26, 1970, the Stroudsburg School Board transferred the building to Delaware Water Gap for the princely sum of \$1.00. Local residents under the guidance of the Save Our School Committee scoured their attics and out buildings for memorabilia from the borough's history to be included in the new museum.

On September 26, 1970, the "Anthony Dutot School, Museum, and Library" officially opened. While its name has been changed over the decades since then, its mission remains constant: "to preserve and present the history of Delaware Water Gap and to promote and encourage the arts." Next year the museum will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. It has remained true to its mission. The art gallery downstairs has become a premier exhibition space for local artists. During the summer season the gallery hosts revolving art shows featuring a new artist every three weeks. Upstairs, one room is set up as an early school room. The other room displays memorabilia from the borough's impressive history. More memorabilia is displayed in the annex behind the museum.

The vision of the Save Our School Committee saved what might have been just another abandoned building and turned it into an important community asset. If you have not visited the museum, stop by and learn about the history of the community and meet your neighbors.