

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 42 – Winter 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, Allisen Trotter with any questions or concerns at the Borough Office 570.476.0331 or via email a.trotter@dwgpa.gov.



Thanks to all of the citizens of Delaware Water Gap who voted in the November election either in person or by mail. The borough had a record turnout of voters!

Borough Office

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

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

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
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 Schaefer

Floodplain Administrator

Walter Conway

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

*Condolences to the family & friends of
The Reverend Karen E. Nickels
September 18, 1944 - December 8, 2020*

*Karen served as Pastor of the Delaware Water Gap
Presbyterian Church of the Mountain for 23 years,
retiring in 2011.*

*She served on the C.O.T.A. board and was a volunteer member
of the Dutot Museum & Gallery.*

*Her death is a great loss to our community and she will be
greatly missed by all who knew her.*

Mayor's Corner

First Quarter 2021

Greetings fellow residents! I hope you're keeping warm and safe this winter. The winter months usually have our active residents outside and enjoying the snow with friends, but this year we still find ourselves in uneasy times. As I write this note to all of you, our Borough has reported only 13 COVID cases since April. In comparison to the size of our Borough population, this number is low, but we should continue to be safe and practice social distancing as we work our way through the pandemic.

The Borough office hours have changed again as the cases in the county rose. At the time of this writing, the Borough office hours are Monday thru Friday 9am to 1pm. Any changes to the hours will be reported by Savvy Citizen as well as posted on the Borough's website and FB page. Our Borough is also still under a state of emergency until we feel the virus is under control. Sadly, many of our annual events were affected this year. The Wreaths Across America and the Community Tree lighting were able to go on with the help of all of our great volunteers. The General Election brought out almost 300 residents to vote. The ladies that work the election for us, handled everything with great efficiency and kept the residents' safety a priority. Thank you to our Election Volunteers!

Many of you have already noticed a familiar face in the Borough Office. I would like to formally welcome fellow resident, Allisen Trotter, to our office. Allisen has taken a part time administration role and has been a tremendous help to our residents!

We also have an increased police presence in the Borough and also hired a new officer to join the team. Please welcome Aspen Gaita to the Borough. She is a wonderful asset to the Department. Our Police Chief, Andy, would like to remind the residents that if you have police issues, please call their cell phone at 570-994-2445 and they will get back to you promptly. However, if it's an emergency or life threatening then please call 911. Our offices will be dispatched if they are on duty.

Larry Freshcorn

*Condolences to the family &
friends of*

Jim Pallitto

Who passed away on December 17, 2020

Borough Committee Meetings

Water

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

Economic Development (EDC)

2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.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 via Zoom
Borough Hall
49 Main Street
Delaware Water Gap

Remember to recycle!

It is mandatory in the borough.



**When the snow begins to fall
please remember that
Ordinance 173 states
all sidewalks must be cleared
within 24 hours of a snowfall.**

***This is the responsibility of the
property owner.***

**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.**

Friendly Reminders

**Main St. & Shepard Ave. are SNOW
EMERGENCY ROUTES and marked
accordingly. All vehicles MUST be removed
immediately during inclement weather or they
will be towed at the owner's expense.
If you are parked on a street that is not an
emergency route we asked that, if at all
possible, you move your vehicle from the
roadway so that our snow removal can be
completed more efficiently.**

Local History Spot
By Marty Wilson

Stories From the Past

Back in 1991, I sat down with three long-time residents of Delaware Water Gap to ask them what life was like in the borough when they were young. Fortunately for all of us, Rick Chamberlain, who had a video company called "Eleventh Hour Productions," agreed to videotape the session. The oldest of the three, at 82, was Francis R. "Casey" Drake. Fred S. Shoemaker, Sr. was 79, and Robert Kaiser was 72. The interview lasted about an hour. During that time the three men talked about what they experienced growing up in the Gap. They didn't need much prodding, as they seemed to be enjoying themselves talking about their youth. Casey did most of the talking, as he was wont to do. Casey had been born in New York City in 1909, but his parents moved back to the Gap while he was still an infant. I've quoted a few of their words below so that the reader can get a sense of the immediacy of their memories. Casey begins the story when he was still quite young, in the early 19-teens:

Casey Drake (CD): I remember how things were here early in my life. . . . One of the most important, exciting, things was we had lights all over this busy comer down here at the Castle Inn. And it was so lit up that it seemed like, well, people called it the "Great White Way." People would walk up the streets and sometimes the streets were so crowded you couldn't get through. The light, electricity, was manufactured by Dimmick Drake who had a plant in back of the Castle Inn [*the building still stands*]. And he produced electricity. The plant produced enough electricity to give light to the Deer Head Inn, which was the Central House then, and Lamb's souvenir store. . . . And all of the Castle Inn buildings. . . the Castle Inn Music Hall--it was all lit up. It was beautiful, all this light. I remember [*before electricity was produced*] we used to have. . . maybe nothing but a street light, a lamp. Light was produced by kerosene.

CD: When I got a little older [my dad] took me around in his bread wagon. He worked for Rapp's Bakery [*located across the street from today's Sycamore*] and he drove a team of two horses pulling his bread wagon. It had a big chest of drawers inside where he had all the cookies and donuts and things like that.

Fred Shoemaker (FS): I remember that. They used to come up to the house every day. Howard Drake.

CD: Everybody got their bread that way. That's how I got to know about the hotels because I used to go into the kitchens with him and talk with the chefs. I got to know all of them. And that was so interesting to me because being so small and going out probably for the first time in my young life into this big metropolis with all the lights lit (laughs).

But then later on I think the town got busier as we got into the '20s. And the hotels thrived and were in competition with each other. The hotels had to make some money at the end of the season so they could make improvements to keep up with the next guy.

FS: That's right. That's why the golf links were built. About '21 or '22. [*Fred is talking about a nine-hole course that later became the back nine at the country club.*]

CD: You mention the golf links. That was built for Brodhead who ran the Kittatinny by C. C. Worthington of Shawnee.

I will share more of their conversation in future columns.