

# THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 50 - Winter 2023



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

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.***



Main Street & Shepard Avenue are **SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES** and are marked accordingly. All vehicles **MUST** be removed from these streets 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.

## Borough Office

49 Main Street  
PO Box 218  
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327  
Phone: 570-476-0331 Fax: 570-476-0380

[boro@dwgpa.gov](mailto:boro@dwgpa.gov)  
[www.dwgpa.gov](http://www.dwgpa.gov)

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

Borough Secretary/Treasurer – Allisen Trotter  
Municipal Authority Secretary – Lauren Hoglund  
Borough Superintendent - Chris Chmielnicki  
Delaware Water Gap Police Department  
570-476-4674

[police@dwgpa.gov](mailto:police@dwgpa.gov)

Chief of Police, Michael J. Ceccato  
Officer Jim Fisher  
State Police – 570-619-6800

***Dial 911 for emergencies only***

## ***Borough Council***

Jamie Levy, President  
Zack Booth, Vice President  
Derek Anspach  
William Buzzard  
Terry Fagan  
Lisa Paulette  
Jack Shoemaker

Larry Freshcorn, Mayor

*Council meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.*

*Council work sessions are held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.*

## ***Municipal Authority***

James Reynolds, Chair  
Harry Darlington, Vice Chair  
Martin W. Wilson, Secretary  
Jeff Higbee  
Steve Simister

*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

*Planning Commission meetings are held as needed.*

## ***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***

James Holbrook  
Bob Mancuso

## ***Zoning Officer***

Michael Manter

## ***Building Inspector***

Dave Manter

## ***Emergency Management Coordinator***

Howard Ike

## ***Floodplain Administrator***

Walter Conway

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

**Council News!!!**

Dear Borough Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a Fantastic Fall, and a Very Joyous Holiday Season. The borough is now in full winter preparation mode. Our vehicles have been decked out with plows and loaded with salt. So as the song goes, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

As far as borough news, I am sad to report that after many years of diligent service as our Borough Superintendent Harry Darlington has retired, effective December 9, 2022. Essentially, everything that goes into the maintenance, beautification, safety and day to day functioning of our borough is credited to the hard work and dedication Harry brought to work every day. Working behind the scenes isn't always the best way to get recognized for your efforts but on behalf of all of the residents that were able to get to work after a snow storm because you were on the job, day and night, clearing the roads – we thank you. Your daily efforts, working with our contractors, engineers and water operators has been a great benefit to our borough and for that you will be sorely missed. Best wishes, enjoy your retirement – you earned it.

So there will be no lapse in services, council undertook the task of hiring a new superintendent. After reviewing nearly two dozen applications and holding over a dozen interviews council is pleased to have hired our next Borough Superintendent. Please join me in welcoming Superintendent Chris Chmielnicki to our Borough Family. Chris, has experience in Mechanical Engineering, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical Work, Heavy Equipment Operations, and Automotive Mechanics. He is a Carnegie Hero Award recipient for acts of heroism, and a member of the National Honor Society. He is retired from the Navy, where he took part in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Welcome aboard Chris.

Also under the heading of new additions, I am very happy to announce that council has unanimously voted to appoint Terry Fagan as a borough council member. Terry is a great addition to council. He is a long standing member of the borough and a strong borough volunteer. Terry, thank you for agreeing to serve and best wishes for a long prosperous tenure on council. In other council news, we were able to pass our 2023 Borough Budget without raising taxes. This is no small feat considering rising costs and inflation considerations. Big thank you to Budget Committee Chair Lisa Paulette and all the members of the committee.

Regarding borough events, we had an amazing turnout and after party for the dedication of the William Buzzard Celebration Park. Our State Representative and Senator were present and gave commendations to Councilmember Bill Buzzard for his career and dedication to service on council. Thank you to Councilmember Lisa Paulette for putting it all together, it was a wonderful event.

In terms of borough news, we have instituted our borough medical QRS (Quick Response Service) which will be dispatched along with an ambulance for all emergency medical calls. Since our area is so underserved with emergency response services and at times, ambulance services could be as much as twenty minutes away, our hope is that the Borough based QRS, and EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) can bridge the gap and provide life stabilizing and saving services while we wait for the ambulance. As we all know, during medical emergencies every second counts, providing fast life sustaining medical services could be a difference maker. Also, please be informed that we have completed the purchase of a new backhoe, which has been put in service. This backhoe replaces the borough's previous backhoe which aged out and was inoperable. The borough backhoe is integral in many maintenance related activities the borough engages in. Most pressing, for the upcoming season, is the use of the bucket to load salt into our plows. Lastly, we came to terms with Smithfield Township on the Borough Leaf Removal Service this last quarter. Smithfield Township, in an act of good will, has generously collected our leaves FREE OF CHARGE. This saved our borough \$3,500.00 - the amount we have paid on a yearly basis to Middle Smithfield Township to do the work. Thank you Smithfield Township Supervisors Lovenheim and Pride, we look forward to building on this and forming a bigger mutually beneficial, cost effective relationship.

Cheers!!!

Jamie B. Levy, Borough Council President

Local History Spot  
By Marty Wilson

Evidence of the Past

The rich history of Delaware Water Gap's heyday as a resort mecca is well known by most Watergapians, and is preserved and commemorated in the Antoine Dutot School and Museum. That history is also preserved by the many structures that survive the resort era. The Deer Head Inn (the former Central House), the Castle Inn, and the Glenwood Hotel still stand today in testimony to a time when urban vacationers flocked to the Gap for their summer holidays. Some of today's private residences housed out-of-town visitors years ago. The train station beneath the Rt. 80 bridge and the former Castle Inn garage on Main St. offer testament to the importance of transportation to the village's hotels.



Most of the hotels are long gone, but in many places throughout the Gap one can find physical reminders of what used to be. If one knows where to look, one can find remains of the Kittatinny House, the Water Gap House, and other grand old structures. The driveway that circled the Water Gap House, though overgrown, can still be discerned. A walk around it reveals the remnants of a greenhouse, an icehouse, and pillars that used to support the grand verandas. There are also many lesser structures that remind us of the past like water pipes buried in the woods between Lake Lenape and the site of the Kittatinny.

In a sense, the physical remains of the past represent the pieces in a large jigsaw puzzle. As we learn more about what those pieces are, as we assemble the puzzle, we get a better understanding of Water Gap's past. One example is a concrete staircase that stands on the right as one goes up Mountain Road just past Minsi Road. Today the staircase has no use as it terminates at a retaining wall. But the photograph above shows the staircase in use just after World War I. Behind the staircase is a cottage that was built by Mary and Will McCarthy and their cousin Robert Foley (who can be seen in the photo along with family friend Will Tope). They named the cottage the "Reenleigh" after Reen, the town of their ancestors in Ireland. The cottage was built just after the First World War when Water Gap was set to resume its status as a resort mecca. From the cottage the McCarthys and Mr. Foley oversaw the construction of a new inn, the Reenleigh Hotel, at the top of Dogwood Drive (see photo).



Building a new hotel was an indication of the optimism that the resort industry would continue in the Gap. The Reenleigh Hotel opened in 1922. It boasted twenty rooms and a roof-top bar from which guests had a commanding view of the surrounding countryside.

When it opened, the Reenleigh Hotel advertised its fireproof construction. Nevertheless, both the hotel and the cottage eventually succumbed to fire. Two pillars that held up the porch of the hotel stand today in silent testimony of its existence. The cottage was replaced by the attractive home that sits on the site today, the concrete steps leading to nowhere still silently reminding us of what Water Gap used to be.