

# THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 52 - Summer 2023



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

**GAZEBO CONCERTS**  
June 4 through August 27, 2023  
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

June 4 Renegade Ramblers featuring Doc Pappalardo	July 23 Sol Katana
June 11 Vinny Bianchi & La Cuchina	July 30 Len Mooney's Lunar Eclipse
June 18 Nancy & Spencer Reed	August 6 Gary Dillon
July 2 Lost Ramblers	August 13 Bill Stine & Friends
July 9 Michèle Bautier Duo	August 15 Skip Detrick & Friends
July 16 Erin McClelland Band	August 20 Tony Dellaria & Friends
	August 27 Marty Wilson & Friends

**6-7:30pm • Sunday Evenings**

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL SUMMER OF GREAT MUSIC

Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and will be required to operate in accordance with PA Department of Health and CDC guidelines. (In case of rain, the concerts will be moved indoors.) Refreshments available. Gazebo concerts are made possible by The Weightman Family, church members and by supporters like you. For information contact Jim Dellaria at (570) 350-3404 or Dellaria@gmail.com

Main Street • Delaware Water Gap

## 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 Hogle  
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

## **Council News!!!**

Summer is here!!! I hope everyone had a wonderful spring. We could probably use a little rain but otherwise the weather is great. Despite Route 611 being closed, our borough businesses are active and persevering. They value our community support so please help them out when you can by shopping locally. Music on the mountain is back!!! Founder's Day is around the corner. The borough streets are full of hikers, artists and friendly neighbors. Gap Life is good.

In terms of Council News, this past spring was busy. Council unanimously passed a motion pledging our support for the Liberty Trail. A letter was drafted by our Council Vice President Zack Booth and sent out. Thank you, Zack. The letter is currently being used by other organizations to bolster support for the trail. Thank you to Susan Cooper and the rest of the Borough Open Space & Trails Committee for all their work and dedication regarding this trail and all our borough open spaces. Ms. Cooper was also very involved as our Borough Liaison regarding the recent move to make the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area into a National Park. Based on her reporting and investigative work council passed a Resolution to oppose the redesignation. For more information on our position, please read the resolution or stop by the bakery and speak to Ms. Cooper.

Regarding public safety and traffic, council is continuing to explore options and creative solutions to deal with concerns regarding speeders in the borough and issues regarding parking on Mountain Road. We believe the upcoming installation of the traffic calming signs will help with speeders and are exploring hiring a parking enforcement agent to address parking issues. Furthermore, we are also still actively looking for new police officers and have continued our digital ads. If anyone in the borough is interested in becoming a police officer, or knows of someone who is interested, please speak to a borough official.

In terms of ordinances, council passed a motion establishing new park rules and application. If residents would like to utilize one of our parks, please see our Borough Manager for details and an application. Our police chief has informed us that our new borough police standard operating procedures are nearly complete and ready for council review. Chief Cecatto has been working diligently to update our operating procedures with our labor solicitor to make them relevant, comprehensive and a teaching tool for our new officers. Thank you, Chief. Our planning committee has nearly completed the update of our borough zoning ordinances. They will also be ready for review by the public and council shortly. Thank you to Councilmember Derek Anspach for all his efforts and work with the planning committee ensuring that our zoning ordinances are relevant, comprehensive, modern/up to date, and user friendly.

Lastly, council is working on paving projects across the borough, grant applications for public works projects, and working with our engineers to address infrastructure issues. Allisen Trotter, our amazing Borough Manager, is the glue that brings all these efforts and projects together. These projects would not be possible without her. We all know it isn't easy dealing with all the personalities on council, all the committee needs, the day-to-day operations of the borough, the borough finances and all the governmental red tape you deal with on a daily basis, but you somehow manage to make it all happen. Thank you, Allisen.

Have a great summer.

Jamie Levy, Borough Council President  
[j.levy@dwgpa.gov](mailto:j.levy@dwgpa.gov)

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

**Mayors Corner**  
**Summer 2023**

Welcome to Summer, fellow residents! Like all of you, my plans for the Summer involve some sort of travel, and visiting our neighboring river towns. Sadly, the 611 closure makes it challenging and even more difficult for visitors to get to our beautiful town. Unfortunately, as I write this, the movement to repair is going slow. My last communication with PennDot was that they have sent the National Park Service (NPS) their application for a permit for Phase 1 of the project. The application was to ensure that the repairs, when finished, are consistent with and do not interfere with the natural beauty of the park. I was told the application is in the NPS' hands and PennDot is awaiting their approval.

Friends of Delaware Water Gap has been working on Borough events for the year including our Yard Sale and Founders Day which were very successful. I'd like to thank our local businesses for an incredible Maker's Market earlier this Spring which brought a lot of foot traffic to our Borough and our businesses. We are working on many other events. The Delaware Water Gap Cemetery Assoc. will also try fundraising this year with things like a tricky tray, a zombie scavenger hunt and possibly an outdoor movie event around Halloween in the cemetery. Please stay tuned to Savvy Citizen for these events.

Summer in DWG also means that our Hiking Community is back! I'd like to remind our residents about the opportunity the Presbyterian Church of the Mountain creates by hosting a Hikers Dinner every Thursday at 6pm from June through August. Residents may bring a side dish or dessert to feed our hikers some of our local cuisine while fellowshiping with them and hearing about their adventures. Join the neighborhood at the Summer Concert Series every Sunday at 6pm from June through August at the church Gazebo. Please check the church's website for a schedule of performers.

Lastly, the Borough Police Dept. has been doing the best that they can keeping our community safe. We are still actively pursuing hiring another officer for our summer months. At a meeting with the dept., myself and the personnel committee it was decided to change the language in our want ad in the hopes of gaining more interest and we are hoping this works. I look forward to seeing you all around the Borough and our events!

Have a safe and exciting Summer!

Mayor Larry Freshcorn



Eighth Annual *Plein Air* Exhibit & Silent Auction  
Scenes of Delaware Water Gap & Surrounding Area by Local Artists

**Saturday, July 29, 2023**  
**1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

Reception & bidding begin at 1:00 p.m.  
Bidding closes at 4:00 p.m.

Antoine Dutot Museum & Gallery, 24 Main Street (Rt. 611), Delaware Water Gap  
[www.dutotmuseum.org](http://www.dutotmuseum.org)

**DUTOT GALLERY**

**JULY 7 – JULY 23**

**Teachers and Students: A Dialogue**

Work by Jim Gloria and his students:  
Christine Wilson and Jackie Campisi.

**AUGUST 4 – AUGUST 20**

**Works by Sharon Cosgrove and Jane Voorhees**

Oils by Sharon Cosgrove and pastels and mixed media by Jane Voorhees.

**AUGUST 25 – SEPTEMBER 10**

**Two Artists / Old Friends**

Mixed media pieces by Susan Bradford and Thomas Mann.

**SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 1**

**Abstract Impressions**

Photography with an emphasis on the abstract by Lois Silver and Jim Wyckoff.

Open Saturdays & Sundays, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

## Local History Spot

By Marty Wilson



Almost since the Dutot Museum opened its doors fifty-three years ago a military drum has been on display in the upstairs museum room. A card next to the drum informed visitors that the drum, donated by Joseph Hauser, had been used in the War of 1812 by a John McEwing. The drum was not in great shape. Both its heads were ripped, the snare had fallen off, and someone had installed common clothesline on it instead of the period-correct hemp rope. But the drum was nearly two-hundred years old, so a few imperfections seemed reasonable. That it had served in the War of 1812 enhanced its value to the museum.

A little over a year ago I mentioned to local musician Bob D'Aversa that the Dutot had a military drum in its collection from the War of 1812. Bob is a drummer and is knowledgeable about antique drums. When I showed him the drum he was impressed. He suggested that an important artifact like that should be authenticated and restored, so he steered me to the Cooperman Drum Company of Bellows Falls, Vermont, a company that specialized in old military drums. Those experts would be able to tell us more about the drum and, if it was authentic, would be able to restore it to its former glory.

Once the people at the Cooperman Company saw the drum they assured us of its authenticity. It was in surprisingly good shape for its age. They cleaned the drum, replaced its two heads, installed a new snare, replaced two leather “ears,” (used for tuning the drum), and installed forty-two feet of hemp rope. The Dutot is pleased to report that the drum has been restored and is back on display in the upstairs museum room.

In addition to restoring the drum, the Cooperman people gave us some information about it, and, in the process, debunked the claim that it had been used in the War of 1812. A label glued to the inside of the drum shell proved to be the key that enabled us to learn more about it. Drum makers of the period put an identifying label inside the drum. Since the label would not have been visible due to the drumheads covering both the top and bottom of the drum, a small hole was drilled in the side of the drum through which one could see the label glued to the opposite side of the drum. Our drum’s label is intact. It reads: Drums, Fifes, Regimental Colors, and Tambourines made and repaired by Thomas Bringhurst, Germantown, Philadelphia County, PA.” Unfortunately, there is no date printed on the label. However, we could learn more about Thomas Bringhurst, as he is listed in a database of people who sold and manufactured military goods. Thomas Bringhurst was born in 1775 and died in 1849. In addition to his musical instruments business, he inherited from his father a carriage-building business. He also made squares and saws. (It was common for a craftsman to have several irons in the fire.)

It appears that Bringhurst did not begin manufacturing drums until the 1820s or 30s. The people at Cooperman Drum suggest that our drum was probably manufactured around 1830. John Ewing, it turns out, was born in 1832, years after the war. He eventually married and raised a family. During the Civil War he served in the Union Army. He later worked as a gatekeeper for the railroad. His daughter, Elnora, married Millard Hauser in 1888. Joseph Hauser was their son and, hence, the grandson of John Ewing. For fifty-some years the Dutot has been presenting the drum as a relic from the War of 1812. It turns out that it probably wasn’t built until approximately fifteen years after the war ended. The man who was credited with using the drum in that war wasn’t born until 1832. Perhaps he used the drum in the Civil War? We don’t know, but it is possible.

At any rate, the drum is still an excellent, and rare, example of early American military drums. Stop by the museum to see this significant relic from America’s past. Thanks to Barbara Lantz for funding the drum’s restoration.

