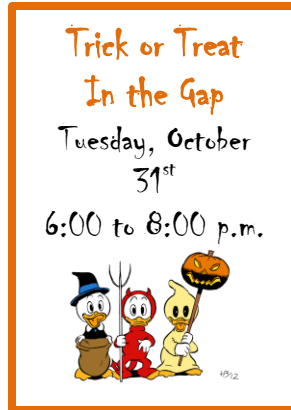


# THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 53 - Fall 2023



**Tuesday,**  
**November 7, 2023**  
Polls are open from  
**7:00AM to 8:00PM**

## FOR SALE at the borough office:

*Pohoqualin*, book by  
Francis R. Drake: \$15.00  
DWG Postcard: \$5.00  
DWG Magnet: \$2.00 DWG  
Sticker \$1.00

## 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, 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 APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

## Council News!!!

Autumn is upon us!!! I hope everyone had a joyful summer. As you already know, Route 611 is still closed. It doesn't appear to be opening back up anytime soon. Apparently, the holdup is related to work permits between Penn Dot and the Park Service. Our state and federal representatives are aware and working to try to expedite the roadway opening. Not to sound like a broken record but the road closure has hit our borough businesses the hardest, so please do whatever you can to support them. Most of the businesses have gift cards and they make wonderful birthday and holiday presents. Every few months I purchase borough business gift cards and send them out to the members of our Borough Birthday Club. They are very well received. I am happy to help support our local businesses while spreading birthday cheer in our beloved borough.

If you didn't already know, our Chief of Police, Michael Ceccato, has retired. Chief Ceccato was a great asset to our borough – the gold standard in policing. He worked hard to keep us safe, modernize our department and implement programs to afford our residents peace of mind. He was reasonable, intelligent and had a pragmatic approach to law enforcement. One of his first official acts as Chief was to issue a General Order (#22-001) to all his officers informing them that they were no longer allowed to “work from home” as they were previously allowed to by his predecessor and our Mayor. Chief Ceccato understood that using your tax dollars to pay police officers to “work from home” was not in the best interest of our borough. In his time with our department Chief Ceccato also modernized the department by increasing the use of computer systems and using social media as a means to keep our residents informed. He implemented programs like the vacation “house check”. He also worked diligently with our police attorney to update the department's standard operating procedures, making sure they were up to date, relevant and included the most recent legal state policing standards. Chief Ceccato will be sorely missed. We wish him and his family well and the best in all his future endeavors. To replace Chief Ceccato, council has voted unanimously to promote Officer James Fisher to Chief. Officer Fisher was a very effective police officer in our department and has over thirty years of law enforcement experience. He was highly recommended by Chief Ceccato. Council has the utmost faith and confidence in Chief Fisher. We know he will keep up the good work he did as an officer and will continue to work hard to keep us safe. God Speed Chief Fisher.

Regarding other Council News, your council is working hard as usual. We just passed a user-friendly, comprehensive new Zoning Ordinance. This updates our prior zoning ordinance, which was passed in 1988, approximately 35 years ago. A lot has changed in 35 years and those changes, and some anticipated changes, are reflected in the new ordinance. Councilman Derek Anspach along with the borough and county planning commissions diligently worked on the new ordinance to make sure it was fair, comprehensive, inclusive, and protected our borough and its residence. It was truly a labor of dedication and love for our borough and for that we are grateful. Thank you Councilman Anspach.

In other Council News, council has approved a major paving and road resealing project involving most of our borough roads. Please bear with us in the coming months as there may be temporary road closures and diversions while the paving and sealing crews work. Our goal is to provide our residents with the best roadways we can. This project will go a long way in helping us reach that goal. Thank you to our Borough Roads Committee - Councilman Zack Booth, Councilman Jack Shoemaker and our former Borough Superintendent Harry Darlington, for all your effort and work in maintaining our roads.

Lastly, regarding Council News, council has passed a resolution supporting the use of radar detection in municipalities to assist in the enforcement of speeding laws. Pennsylvania is the only state that currently does not allow its municipal officers to use radar as a tool to enforce speeding laws. I have spoken to both our State Senator Rosemary Brown, and our State Representative Tarah Probst, and they both support legislation that would give our municipal officers this enforcement tool. There is currently legislation pending in both houses regarding this issue. Hopefully our resolution in support is helpful in getting the legislation passed.

Have a great fall.

Jamie Levy, Borough Council President

[j.levy@dwgpa.gov](mailto:j.levy@dwgpa.gov)

Condolences to the family & friends of  
Carol Collins Matheson  
January 1, 1936 - September 5, 2023  
She will be greatly missed by all who  
knew & loved her.

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

**Mayors Corner**  
Fall 2023

Greetings neighbors and Happy Fall! I hope that everyone had a great summer and is enjoying getting to their 'back-to-school' routines.

Summer in the Borough was busy despite the closure of 611 thanks to our Friends of DWG committee. The town wide yard sale brought visitors to us and Founder's Day included a visitor train, outside vendors, a pancake breakfast and business activity for our local shops. We are trying hard to make DWG a destination even while dealing with the road closure.

There are a lot of great activities planned for the Fall starting with a 'Fall into the Gap' event hosted by our local businesses. The event will be held in Shull Park and extend over to the Castle Inn and include all of our businesses along with a lot of unique artisans. It's a great event for our town.

The Borough Cemetery will be holding its first fundraiser with Movies in the Cemetery each Saturday night in October beginning on 10/13 (Weather permitting). There will be a variety of movies playing; some for kids and some that are more scary and geared towards adults. The movies are free, however the Cemetery Committee will gratefully accept any donations. Light refreshments will be sold as well. There are several trees that need to be removed to keep the cemetery safe and your donations will be helpful. Please watch the Borough FB Page for the schedule.

Trick or Treating will be held on October 31st from 6pm-8pm

The cemetery will also be holding their annual Wreaths Across America event on Saturday, December 16th promptly at noon. Opportunities to purchase a wreath for a Veteran are available in the Borough Hall and with the Cemetery Committee. Please join us on December 16th to lay a wreath on the graves who served our country.

Another important event happening are the repairs to our Post Office. Originally, we were informed by our Postmaster that the post office would be closed beginning September 24. Those plans have now been postponed until further notice. Please stay tuned to our Borough social media, physical postings, and Borough website for any new info or closure dates. If you have any questions please see our Postmaster.

This month we said goodbye to Police Chief Ceccato as he retired from the DWG Police Dept. Chief Ceccato served our residents with professionalism and respect and will be missed as continues his service and promotion to Captain at his other employment. Officer Jim Fisher has been promoted to Police Chief and we are very proud of the work he does for our Borough. Thank you Chief Fisher for your service to our residents. Along with Council, we are actively working to hire more officers for our department.

Larry Freshcorn



Dutot Museum & Gallery  
6th Annual  
Autumn Harvest  
Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.

\$45.00 per person  
(seating is limited)  
Dutot Museum & Gallery  
24 Main Street  
Delaware Water Gap

B. Y. O. B.

For reservations email [smwilson@ptd.net](mailto:smwilson@ptd.net)  
or phone 570.807.1071 by October 20th



**Wreaths Across America**

Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> at Noon

Forms are available at  
the borough office if you  
would like to purchase a wreath.

**Holiday Gift Drive**  
November 16 - December 8

Please help Monroe County Meals on Wheels provide gifts to our homebound clients this holiday season.  
**NOVEMBER 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 8TH**  
We are accepting donations of new, unwrapped items!

Items can be dropped off at the township building or at our office,  
901 Polk Valley Road, Stroudsburg, M-F 8am-3:30pm

**Items such as:**

Lotion/Bodywash	Cups w/lids	Adult Coloring Books
Flashlights/Nightlights	Magnifiers	Hats/Gloves/Scarves for Men
Slipper Socks w/grippers	Electric Toothbrushes	Puzzles - Large Size Pieces

3.

Please drop off donations at the borough office  
from October 1st through December 8th

**Local History Spot**  
By Marty Wilson

**A Former Resident Reminisces**

From time-to-time former residents of Delaware Water Gap return to explore their old stomping grounds. Recently Mr. Jim Howard was in town, stopping for a short visit on his way from Florida to Massachusetts. I had the opportunity to talk to him about life in the borough when he was a child. Mr. Howard was born in 1937 and lived in the Gap until just before his junior year of high school, when his family moved to Dreher Avenue in Stroudsburg.

One of the things we talked about was Jim's time as a student at the Water Gap School (today's Dutot Museum);

We kids were responsible for putting the flag up and down every day and we also were the crossing patrol. We'd stand down there on 611 and let the kids cross the street that needed to come across the street to go to school. And we little kids were the patrol. Every once in a while, Fred Decker, who was the chief of police at the time, would come by and talk to us and say hello. We had white chest bands with badges on them (laughs). No flags. Of course, traffic wasn't heavy at the time (laughs).

There were eight grades in the school when Mr. Howard attended it:

The upper, larger room facing away from the street [Dutot's museum room] was Miss Barber's room. She had three grades [first, second, and third]. And the other, smaller room was my mother's, Florence Koehler Howard's. And she had two grades, fourth and fifth. And downstairs, halfway down was a water fountain on the landing. And the lower room [first floor] was one room. It may have had two doors because I'm thinking the restrooms were down there too, the boys' and girls' were separated across the hall. And it was one room. Classes were held in the front of the room on benches. And the blackboard and the maps were up there in the front. And while classes were being held for one grade, the other two grades were sitting at their desks in the rear. That's the way it worked. We also had summer Bible School in that school. Some ladies would come in for a week and we'd have Bible School. Vacation Bible School, that's what it was called.

Mr. Howard told me that his family lived on Rt. 611. The family's old wooden house no longer stands, but it was across the road from the stop sign on 611 going toward Stroudsburg (across from the storage facility that sits in front of the cemetery). The house was later occupied by the Gallagher family. When Mr. Howard's family left Water Gap, they sold the land to the Standard Oil Company which built an ESSO gasoline station on the site. That, too, is long gone.

As we compared notes on living in the Gap I mentioned to Mr. Howard that as a fourteen-year-old I had worked on the garbage truck in town. He told me that he remembered the man who collected the borough's garbage when he was a kid. He was a black man.

The only black family that I knew was Beverly Robinson, his wife, and two kids. He had two horses and he would plow your garden for you. And he also collected the garbage and he provided vegetables to some people. He was well-known in town. He was up on 611 before you go up Fox Town Hill. He had a little farm on the left. We kids, if he was out plowing the garden, we would go out there and hang out with him. Beverly liked the kids. He had two horses, Charlie and Joe, and you could hear him outside [imitating Mr. Robinson's voice] "Hey Joe, hey Joe, get up in there." [laughs] He was a friend.

Our thanks go out to Mr. Howard for providing some insights into what life was like in the Gap eighty years ago.