

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 55 - Spring 2024



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



PICK UP THE POCONOS DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

The sign-up sheet for Pick-up the Poconos is at the Borough Hall or email or call Allisen to sign up
boro@dwgpa.gov

After the cleanup, you're invited to the Village Farmer for ice cream!

(See the Mayor's Corner on page 2 for further details.)



Primary Election Day
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Polls open at 7:00 a.m. & close at 8:00 p.m.

Borough Office

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

boro@dwgpa.gov
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 - Callum Whiffen
Delaware Water Gap Police Department
570-476-4674
police@dwgpa.gov

Chief of Police, Jim Fisher
State Police – 570-619-6800

Dial 911 for emergencies only

Borough Council

Lisa Paulette, President
Charles Bickart, Vice President
Derek Anspach
William Buzzard
Ian Foster
Howard Ike
Wayne MacWilliams
Larry Freshcorn, Mayor

*Council meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Council work sessions are held on 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.*

Municipal Authority

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

Municipal Authority meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

Derek Anspach, Chair
Ann Biffen
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.

Zoning Officer Building Inspector/Code Enforcement

Michael Manter

Emergency Management Coordinator
Howard Ike

Floodplain Administrator
Walter Conway

Mayor's Corner
Spring 2024

Happy Spring fellow residents! It's wonderful to see the birds returning and the spring bulbs coming up as summer is coming soon! I'll start with our 611 saga. Since January, Congressman Cartwright has organized monthly meetings to keep PennDot and the National Park Service focused on fixing the reopening of 611. The meeting group is small and includes Senators and State Representatives within the district, Park Service, PennDot, Mayor Fisher from Portland and myself. Most of the meeting is about the progress on what is needed to obtain the permits to begin the work and each of us have time to ask questions. So far the meetings have been constructive and we have seen forward momentum. Since the closure, over a year ago, I've have been trying to get PennDot to open a single lane until the remediation is complete but they keep telling me that no one will certify the road safe for passage until the problem is fixed. They have now softened their stance on that and have said they are committed to a single lane opening as soon as possible. My personal opinion is we may see that single lane opening early this summer but nothing is confirmed as of yet. Fingers crossed....

There are many events planned for our Borough this year by our Friends of DWG committee and our Economic Development Committee. Dates will soon be posted for our annual yard sale, Founders Day and more so please check our social media pages, Borough website and Savvy Citizen for dates and times. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these committees then we could sure use your help. You can contact myself or Tammy Cornelius through the Borough office or my email L.freshcorn@dwgpa.gov and we certainly appreciate your volunteering spirit!

The Delaware Water Gap Cemetery Assoc. will be hosting a tricky tray on Founders Day as we try to raise funds for tree removal along the property lines of the cemetery and the apartment complex. These trees are old and dying and pose a significant threat to both properties. We could really use some help in the form of donations for the tricky trays or whatever you would like to give. So far we have some really great items from within and outside our Borough along with monetary donations and we sincerely thank everyone for their support. If you are interested in helping please contact me at the above email address or through the Borough office.

Our Borough received an ARLE grant from PennDot and we will soon be installing digital speed limit signs in town. They will be installed at the three entrances to the Borough as you come into town. One on Broad St., Main St. across from the Apartment Complex, and Main St. /611 as you come into town by the Deer Head Inn. I'd like to thank Council President Lisa Paulette and Mellisa Hutchison, our Borough Engineer, for their hard work on obtaining the grant!

We are hiring! The Borough Police Dept. is hiring part time officers to help keep our Borough safe. Please pass the word and if you are interested or you know of any qualified candidates please stop in to the Borough office for an application. We would love to meet you!

Lastly, on Saturday April 20th 9:30 to 1:30 I will be hosting the annual Pick Up the Poconos event in the Borough. This event runs all over the County where volunteers canvas their areas removing trash and making a better cleaner Poconos. We have participated in this event for quite a few years now and last year we had a great group of residents that came out and helped clean up our town. Please consider volunteering a couple hours out of your day to help with this event. There is a sign-up sheet at the Borough office and on the day of the event you will receive a vest, glove, bags and t shirt to help with the clean-up. We will assemble at the Borough Hall at 9:30 and split up to canvas the town. Afterwards we will reassemble at the Village Farmer for ice cream on me. I hope to see you there!

Enjoy your spring and be safe! I hope to see you around the town.

Mayor, Larry Freshcorn

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

Dear DWG Neighbors,

As the new Co-Executive Directors of the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center (PWREC), we appreciate this opportunity to introduce ourselves to the residents of DWG and provide an update about the Center. As you may know, we care for all species of wild animals. Injured, orphaned or sick, they come to us by the thousands each year as they have for over forty years.

Perhaps you've visited the Center during one of our Open Houses or attended one of our educational programs. If so, you've seen some of the Ambassador animals that live permanently at the Center. While they cannot be "wild" animals any longer, they help us teach about the needs of their species in the wild and how people can help. If you follow us on Facebook or Instagram, you've noticed that the animals come to us from at least nine counties.

Since moving to Monroe County in 2022, we've become very familiar with the wildlife abundant in our area. WhiteTailed Deer, Red Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Groundhog, Bald Eagle, many Hawks and Owls and hundreds of perching birds, Opossum. Snakes, Turtles and, of course, Black Bear.

Did you know that the Center is the only Pennsylvania rehabilitation facility licensed to care for Black Bear cubs? Each year, four to six cubs enjoy our hospitality and medical attention until they are old enough to be released. Needless to say, they eat like bears! The menu varies, but fresh fruit, eggs, yogurt, veggies and carnivore food are served in abundance as the cubs quadruple their weight during the time they spend with us.

We'd also like you to know how we've modernized the Center over the past 18 months. We've added an X-ray machine for immediate diagnosis of broken bones and other internal injuries. We've upgraded the enclosures for almost all our Ambassador animals and added generators to ensure that everyone is safe and comfortable whether it's 90 degrees or 30 degrees outside. In a few weeks, our most intense time of year will begin. We call it, Baby Season, but it might well be called, Baby Avalanche! From March – September thousands of newborn and young animals come to us for care – each with their own needs for food and medical care. It puts a tremendous strain on our small staff, volunteers, and budget.

As a non-profit charity, we count on donations from the public. Food, medicine, medical supplies, bedding and even utilities represent most of our non-labor costs. If you can help us help the wild animals, please visit the Donate section of our website, poconowildlife.com. Donations of supplies are also a big help and you'll find our WISH LIST under the Donate link. Please let us know if you have any questions. You can reach us by phone at 570-402-0223 or email at poconowild@gmail.com

Thank you,

Susan Downing, Co-Executive Director
Janine Tancredi, Co-Executive Director



**Friends of DWG & the Economic
Development Committee**

Dates will soon be posted for our **annual yard sale, Founders Day and more**, so please check our social media pages, Borough website and Savvy Citizen for dates and times.

The Dutot Museum & Fine Art Gallery
Open Saturdays & Sundays, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

May 24th through October 13th

Artist's Reception for William Christine

Friday, May 24th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Artist's Reception for Lynn Rideout & Lizzy Tilley

Friday, June 13th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Presbyterian Church of the Mountain
Free Gazebo Concerts

Sundays, 6:00 to 7:30 PM
June 2nd to August 25th

Bring a lawn chair or blanket.
Hot dogs, baked goods & beverages sold to
benefit the concert series.

Rain or shine
(Inside in the event of rain)

Local History Spot

By Marty Wilson

Casey Drake, a deceased borough resident about whom I've written before in this space, contributed much to the preservation of the history of Delaware Water Gap. He published two books on the Gap and he was one of the founding members of the Antoine Dutot School and Museum. In addition, he was a gifted artist. The Gap and its environs served as the subject matter of many of his paintings (the Dutot has a couple on display). I was recently rifling through the filing cabinet at the museum when I came across a hand-written document entitled "Delaware Water Gap and Vicinity Historic Sites and Structures" written by Francis (Casey) Drake. On seven yellow, legal-sized pages Casey lists, street by street, the houses, businesses, hotels, and other structures that existed, or still exist, in the borough. This, of course, was a daunting task for a number of reasons. First of all, Casey was born in 1903, so he couldn't have had first-hand knowledge of the borough throughout all of its history. In addition, over time buildings cease to exist, they change owners, and they change functions. Nevertheless, some surprises pop out as one reads through the list.

He begins at the point of the Gap where "Ma" Williams had a hotel. Also at the point of the Gap was Art Bartron's stand and service station. Hard to imagine a gas station in that picturesque spot. Just past the point of the Gap coming toward the borough was a stone crusher on the side of the mountain. Its remains, in the form of huge slabs of concrete standing upright, are still easily visible. Moving on, at Child's Arbor (where the water comes cascading down the mountain over large rocks) was another stand owned by Art Bartron. There are still the remains of the main structure at the site. These last two sites are nearly impossible to see as one sits in a car going 45 miles an hour. However, since the closing of Rt. 611 it is easy for strollers to visit these sites.

At the southeast corner of Rt. 611 and Mountain Rd. (which Casey refers to as High Street) stood Bark's Souvenir Store. Some remains can be seen from the street in the winter when the vegetation is gone. To the right of the Deer Head Inn stood the Central House Annex with its stores and a Western Union Office. The back wall of that structure looms over the Deer Head parking lot. Casey mentions many of the hotels that stood in the borough. One, the Delaware House near the train station, contained a bowling alley.

On Mountain Rd., above the Mountain House (which burned down in the 1980s) there was a brick yard. There was a photo shop at Lake Lenape. There were stables in town to care for the horses that were ubiquitous in the nineteenth century, one near the Water Gap House (near Lake Lenape), two on Main St., and still another on Broad St. Barns were also common, including one Casey lists as "Butcher's Barn, former Boro jail." Who knew Water Gap had, or even needed, a jail? There were several barns—most are now gone and the purpose for which they were built cease to exist in today's society. One still stands on Cherry Valley Rd.

On Main St. Casey lists the garage for the Castle Inn which also formerly held the borough's post office. That building now houses Santa Mama's Coffee and the Mystical Mug Coffee Shop. Also on Main St. was Peggy's Restaurant, a doctor's office (later a photo shop), D. Shannon & Sons Grocery Store, a shoe shop, and a barber shop.

On Oak St. was the Brodhead Saw Mill, the Wehawkan [*sic.*] Dairy, a carpenter shop, and another shoe store. A blacksmith's shop stood near the present traffic light. Just outside of the borough's limits a limestone quarry operated at Croasdale Farm.

In addition to these structures and the many hotels, Casey lists each house and names the family who lived there. A printed copy of the document will be available at the Dutot Museum beginning this summer.

Thank you, Casey, for providing this document which adds to our knowledge of our village. It reminds us people and businesses that existed in the borough in days past.