

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 58 - Winter 2025



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Borough Council

Lisa Paulette, President
Charles Bickart, Vice President
Derek Anspach
William Buzzard
Ian Foster
Wayne MacWilliams
Jeff Plotnik
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
Steve Simister, Vice Chair
Marty Wilson, Secretary
Jeff Higbee
Jim Reynolds

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

Carol Penna, Chair
Nefertiti Campbell
Frank Davis

Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held as needed.

Zoning Officer Building Inspector/Code Enforcement

Michael Manter

Floodplain Administrator

Walter Conway

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

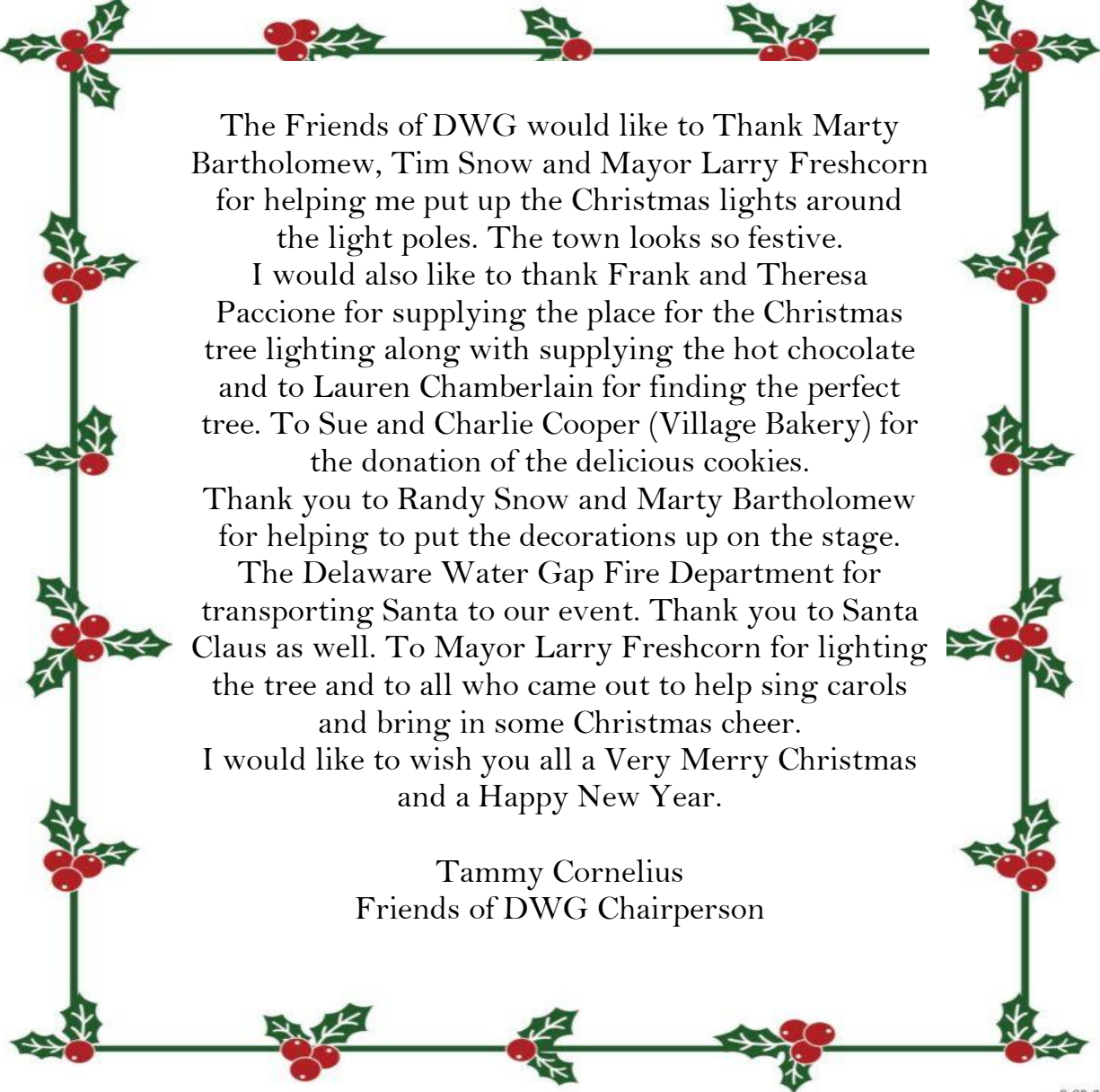
boro@dwgpa.gov
www.dwgpa.gov

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
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



The Friends of DWG would like to Thank Marty Bartholomew, Tim Snow and Mayor Larry Freshcorn for helping me put up the Christmas lights around the light poles. The town looks so festive.

I would also like to thank Frank and Theresa Paccione for supplying the place for the Christmas tree lighting along with supplying the hot chocolate and to Lauren Chamberlain for finding the perfect tree. To Sue and Charlie Cooper (Village Bakery) for the donation of the delicious cookies.

Thank you to Randy Snow and Marty Bartholomew for helping to put the decorations up on the stage.

The Delaware Water Gap Fire Department for transporting Santa to our event. Thank you to Santa Claus as well. To Mayor Larry Freshcorn for lighting the tree and to all who came out to help sing carols and bring in some Christmas cheer.

I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tammy Cornelius
Friends of DWG Chairperson

Ordinance No. 271

Prohibited Burning in the Borough

No dangerous materials, pollutants, garbage, materials prohibited by State law may be burned indoors or outdoors within the borough. Construction materials or debris of any type of trees, stumps, roots, bushes and shrubs may not be burned at any time within the Borough.

Mayor's Corner

Winter 2025

Happy Holiday's fellow friends and neighbors! As you may have noticed 611 is now open! The new traffic lights seem to be working well and life in the Borough is getting back to normal. Just some quick info on the traffic lights, they have sensors in the roadway that can detect when a car is waiting at the intersection. It's important that you pull up to the white line if you're the first car at the light so that you trip the sensor and the light sequence will begin to change for you. Also, the lights have an 18 hour battery backup should the power get disrupted. They have a hook up for a generator as well. If you have or see any problems at the intersection, please let me know through the Borough office so that they can be addressed right away.

The Borough events went as well as can be expected this year. We had a Founders Day, parade of antique cars through 611, and a fall train from Steamtown. The Delaware Water Gap Cemetery Association held their 8th annual Wreaths Across America ceremony with guest speaker Lisa Kaye from Monroe County Veterans affairs, Congressman Matt Cartwright and Senator Rosemary Brown. We plan on more events next year especially now that 611 is open. We can always use help with these and if you would like to volunteer, please let me know through the Borough office.

As you may know by now, there was a fire at one of the local historic buildings in our Borough. The response from all the Departments in the area including DWG was incredible! As I was on the scene observing the chaos I noticed how well the Departments worked together to handle the situation. The first person on scene was the Chief or Shawnee quickly followed by DWG pumper truck. After that vehicles from all over the areas showed up to extinguish the fire and keep it from spreading. I just want to offer a big thank you to our DWG Fire Department and surrounding Departments for the volunteer work that they do to keep our communities safe!

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Be safe this winter and as always, if you need anything please feel free to reach out through our Borough office.

Mayor, Larry Freshcorn

Local History Spot

By Marty Wilson

During the 1993 bicentennial celebration of the founding of Delaware Water Gap, borough resident Bob Lehr wrote a poem to be placed in a time capsule buried at the Dutot Museum. Bob, a native of Delaware Water Gap, served his country as a US Marine, earned an M.A. in English, and taught at both the high school and college levels. He was best known as the owner of the Deer Head Inn, which he and his wife, Faye, ran from the early 1950s until Bob's untimely death in 1996 at the age of 71. The time capsule is slated to be opened in 2093. Since many of us won't be here then to read the poem, it appears in its entirety on the following page. Thanks to Christine Farber for reminding me of the poem.

Ode to Delaware Water Gap

by Bob Lehr

On a full, dazzling late spring day
 One sees, from Resort Point Overlook,
 The Chasm flooded with sheen on a
 Mantle of early golden green, and
 The River, the Delaware, is clen and dark
 And deep as it passes slowly and
 Silently through the gap, and the Mounts
 Minsi and Tamany rising far above.

A sauntering, wide band of concrete,
 And attendant traffic, winds alongside
 The River toward a bridge of steel and cement,
 And proves an intrusion on one's view of a wild hawk
 swooping low and looping round the bends
 Of the river, once viewed by creatures alone.

Where Resort Point stands today (1993)
 Once a prominent edifice, the Kittatinny Hotel,
 Rose four stories high, and a few hundred
 Yards above, the sprawling Water Gap House
 Stood watch over the valley from the Gap to Shawnee

But that was nearly a century ago when
 The Riverview, the Bridgeview, the Bellview and other
 Hotels opened their doors to tourists arriving
 Twice daily by trains at the new derelict depot.

We must suffer progress, so they say.
 The once grand hotels fell victim to natural and
 Human disasters: fire, depression, federal fiat and greed.
 The banks of the eternal river, lined with sycamore,
 Now sere to transport commuting workers and to
 Serve the global economy in one of our
 Factories; we make chemicals to dye fabrics
 Sewn together in other lands, and small parts for
 Large machines in far away, exotic places.

But certain continuities lie within both Nature and
 People; today's concept of reality is an
 Illusion tomorrow. History, fortunately, does not
 Elude us, and Delaware Water Gap's past,
 Its true soul, is permanently recorded in the grass and
 granite
 That covers, yet reflects the substance of the people
 At the memorial cemetery, a half mile north of the river.

Looking about from that peaceful place one senses
 Felicity; for the restfulness there, amongst the
 Verdant hills, is refreshing and comforting and
 sensual.
 No morose manifestations there, rather
 Revelations of a community of considerable pride:
 Pride in appearance, except for the vagaries of frost
 Sending a few headstones askew and pollution
 Erasing some remarks about the beloved,
 The site is pristine, cared for, combed and kept;
 Pride in country—the soft spring breezes
 Raise the scores of flags standing at veterans' places,
 Patriots of so many terrible wars over two centuries,
 One survived Bull Run, Chancellorsville, the
 Wilderness,
 Gettysburg, Antietam, only to succumb to
 Death at Chambers Station, aged nineteen;
 Pride in preponderance of a Hun heritage, the strong
 Names: Hauser and Hess, Shellenberger and
 Schoellenberger,
 Heller and Heitler, Kaiser and Kresge, Weiss and
 Wagner;
 No closed society, however, for there also lay there
 Flanagans, Allens, Smiths, Zuchis and Farbers;
 Pride in family with generations laid side by side,
 Head to foot, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, many
 Markers standing for those yet to expire, for those
 We knew were too poor to have their presence
 preserved,
 Most remember at Memorial Day with floral tributes.
 The family nexus has kept us an entity for
 Ten generations. Ah! A first rate place to live a life.