

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 59 - Spring 2025



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PICK UP THE POCONOS DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2025, 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

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



Primary Election Day
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Polls open at 7:00 a.m. & close at 8:00

Borough Office

49 Main Street
PO Box 218
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327
Phone: 570-476-0331 Fax: 570-476-0380
boro@dwgpa.gov
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 – Soloman McEaddy

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

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

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
Jeff Higbee, Vice Chair
Marty Wilson, Secretary
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

Mayor's Corner
Spring 2025

Happy Spring to my neighbors! A few of the warmer days that have sprinkled themselves in with the cool temps have been tempting me to get outside more. Along with your Spring and Summer plans, we have some of our yearly events coming up that we would love to have you join us for. April 27th is our Pick Up the Poconos event. Volunteers in our borough team up to help keep our town looking clean. We meet at the Borough Hall at 9:00 am to map out our route for road clean up and then end at 12:00 pm at the Village Farmer to enjoy some complimentary ice on me. We had a really fun group last year and would love to see you too!

Our annual Yard Sale will be back in May. Friends of DWG will be announcing the date soon. Friends of DWG is always welcoming new members to help plan events for our town. Please reach out to myself or Tammy Cornelius.

Founders Day is June 28th this year with great vendors, activities and Antique Car Show. The opening of Route 611 has increased traffic for our Borough and businesses. We have worked through some of the hiccups at the beginning of the opening including the sensitivity of the one lane light. There is an environmental impact study that is currently being done before the repair work can commence. I'm told that study could take up to a year; however, the good news is that we have passage through the park area. Our borough was recently awarded a multi modal grant for pedestrian safety. It will be used to fund a project on the corner of Mountain Road, Waring Drive and Route 611 to make it safer to cross at that corner.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me or our Borough Manager. Have a great season!

Mayor Freshcorn
L.freshcorn@dwgpa.gov

Shade Tree News
Spring 2025



Our first planting this year is planned for Mid-April. We will declare it to be Arbor Day in the Gap the day we plant the trees. That date is still unclear and depends on the weather and when the trees get dug out at the Nursery. We were able to get another Grant to plant 10 trees in the Borough. Please keep your eyes open for information about the planting as we will need volunteers to help accomplish the task.



The Borough of Delaware Water Gap Shade Tree Committee has been reformed. The members consist of Ian Foster-Chair and Sally Foster, Charlie Bickart, Tim Snow and Marty Bartholomew. It is our mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees within the guidelines of the Municipal Tree Ordinance.



The Committee is interested in helping Borough residents with any questions concerning their trees. We have developed a Tree Planting Request Form for those residents that would like to add a tree to their property within the Borough right of way. These forms are available at Borough Hall. Anybody interested in planting a tree in the right of way should contact the Shade Tree Committee.

The Committee is also working on developing a Commemorative Tree Program. More information will be made available as it develops.

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY



Delaware Water Gap Village (ca 1895-1900)
By Louis Michel Eilshemius (1864 – 1941)
Oil on Canvas, 18” X 35 1/8”
Metropolitan Museum of Art Collection

Delaware Water Gap was the subject of many paintings by landscape artists in the nineteenth century. Most paintings were of the Gap itself because of its scenic beauty. In the above painting the artist has chosen instead to paint the village itself with the Gap in the background. A woman can be seen walking on a path towards the village. On the road, today’s Broad Street, a man, a person on horseback, and a horse & buggy are moving toward the village. Off in the distance is the Glenwood, the Methodist & Presbyterian churches, and the Water Gap House. The artist is looking southward at the town.

**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, the 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

Please join us for:
Artist’s Reception for Jean Benfante
Friday, May 24th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Artist’s Reception for Sallie Bo Andrews
Friday, June 13th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

The Delaware Water Gap Municipal Authority is looking for a board member to fill a vacancy. The board meets at 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at borough hall. If interested, contact Lauren Hogland at the borough office.

Presbyterian Church of the Mountain

Free Gazebo Concerts

Sundays, 6:00 to 7:30 PM
June 1st to August 24th

Bring a lawn chair or blanket.
Hot dogs, baked goods & beverages will be for sale. Proceeds benefit the concert series.

Rain or shine
(Inside in the event of rain)

Local History Spot

By Marty Wilson

In the last edition of the Local History Spot we presented a poem that long-time Water Gap resident Bob Lehr wrote to celebrate the borough. In 1993 the poem was sealed in a time capsule at the Dutot and is slated to be opened in 2093. Bob and his wife, Faye, owned and operated the Deer Head Inn for many years. During their tenure the Deer Head became well known as a nightclub that featured jazz, a tradition that continues today. Bob died in 1996 at the age of 71. Ten years later, in 2006, I sat down with his widow, Faye Lehr, to ask her some questions about Bob and about the Deer Head. What follows is derived from that interview.

Bob and Faye met in Boston shortly after WW II when Bob was stationed there as a U.S. Marine. Faye wasn't favorably impressed with Bob when she first met him, but she eventually warmed up to him. They married and, after he was discharged, moved to Trenton, New Jersey, so Bob could study business at Rider College. While they were living in Trenton, in the early 1950s, Bob's father suggested that the young couple buy the Deer Head Inn. Bob had grown up in the Gap, living on Cherry Valley Road. He attended the Water Gap school. According to Faye, they bought the Deer Head from Norm Vaughn who somehow acquired the building from his mother-in-law who lived in New York City. The building was originally called the Central House, which was a good name for it in the nineteenth century because, at that point, it was centrally located in the village. But by the time the Lehrs bought it, its name had been changed to the Deer Head Inn.

In the early days of their ownership, Faye says, they got lucky. "Fred Waring opened the school across the street. And Shawnee Press opened over there. They were all musicians." And they all needed lunch. Supplementing the lunch trade were the workers who were building Rt. 80 and the toll bridge, many of whom stayed in the rooms upstairs.

When I asked her about how jazz started at the Deer Head Faye told me that Bob had always been a jazz fan. In fact, he played clarinet in the service but gave it up later. So when a local musician asked to play at the Deer Head one night, he agreed. John Dengler had been working on Friday nights at the Penn Stroud, a hotel in Stroudsburg. When his boss at the Penn Stroud said they were not going to have music on Good Friday to commemorate the holiday, Dengler asked Bob if he could play at the Deer Head. Bob agreed, thus beginning a long tradition of live music at the Deer Head.

Bob first hired Dixieland musicians but switched to jazz when it became more popular. Musicians who played with Fred Waring or at one of the Pocono resorts started playing the Deer Head. Many musicians would show up Saturdays at noon just to play for fun before going to their evening gig at Mount Airy Resort or elsewhere. Faye would feed them. As Faye put it, "May of them, good players, would come in and sit in. And they would go to their job at night and then return and sit in. That was how many moved to the area. John was the attraction. They all wanted to play with John."

Faye was referring to John Coates, a piano player and mainstay of the Deer Head music scene for years. John first played the Deer Head as a seventeen-year-old and was soon playing every Friday and Saturday night. Other musicians, many with national and international reputations, were drawn to the Deer Head. Faye mentioned Phil Woods, Urbie Green, Bob Dorough, and Keith Jarett. Fred Waring and his people would come over some nights to perform. According to Faye, "Those were wonderful nights."

Today the Deer Head continues to attract prominent musicians to its stage every weekend. According to its website, "It's the oldest continuously running jazz club in the country."