

# THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 34 – Winter 2018

## **Delaware Water Gap Community Gives Back**

Delaware Water Gap would like your help in giving back to our community. The Borough and Municipal Authority Building will be accepting donations over the next few months for a number of charitable causes. Donations can be dropped off at the Borough Building located at 49 Main Street, Delaware Water Gap, PA during our normal business hours: Monday through Friday from 9-5 pm

### **January & February**

We will be gladly accepting donations of pet food and supplies for AWSOM (Animal Shelter Monroe County). Monroe County's first no-kill animal shelter. AWSOM provides shelter and medical care for companion animals where they are free from abuse, hunger, fear, and loneliness, until placing them in responsible forever homes.

### **March**

We will be accepting donations of cleaning supplies and personal care items for Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc. These donated items will be used in the shelter. Women's Resources mission is to provide a safe and caring environment that encourages healing and empowerment for anyone whose life has been impacted by domestic and sexual violence. They strive to engage the community through awareness, advocacy, and prevention.

### **April**

**It's baby season!** Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center provides humane, professional care for injured and orphaned native wildlife for the purpose of returning them to the wild when appropriate. The facility takes in more than 2,400 animals annually including fawns, owls, hawks, falcons, eagles, squirrels, rabbits, songbirds, foxes raccoons, and bears. During this time of year the need for **paper towels** and **large terry bath towels** increases. We will be accepting these items during the month of April.

**Our food drive was a big success. Thank you to all who participated. Don't forget to check out our leave an item, take an item Hiker's Box located in front of the Borough Building.**

Please keep a look out for flyers around our community for more information about specific items needed for each event and how you can help.

## **Borough Office Hours**

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
570-476-0331  
dwgboro@ptd.net

Borough Superintendent – Allen Blakeslee  
Office Secretary/Treasurer – Ileana Hernandez  
Municipal Authority Secretary – Lauren Hogle

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

Police Chief Jeffrey Williams  
Assistant Police Chief Santos Rolon, Jr.  
Officer Amanda Boyd  
State Police – 570-839-7701  
Emergencies Only 911

### ***Borough Council***

Larry Freshcorn, Mayor  
Wayne MacWilliams, President  
William Buzzard, Vice President  
Derek Anspach  
Elvi De Lotto  
Jack Shoemaker  
Tim Snow

Eileen Noelle White

*Council meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.*

### ***Municipal Authority***

James Reynolds, Chair  
Harry Darlington, Vice Chair  
Martin W. Wilson, Secretary  
Steve Simister, Treasurer  
James Holbrook, Vice Secretary/Treasurer

*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  
Randy Snow

*Planning Commission meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.*

### ***Zoning Hearing Board***

Frank Davis  
Carol Penna  
Dmitri Snytkine  
Avis Mosier, Alternate  
*Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held as needed.*

### ***Building Code Board of Appeals***

Walter Conway  
James Holbrook  
Bob Mancuso  
***Zoning Officer***  
Russell Piccotti

### ***Emergency Management Coordinator***

Brad Miller  
***Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator***  
(Vacant)

### ***Floodplain Administrator***

Walter Conway

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



**Chili & Trivia Night**

Thursday, January 24h  
6:00 PM

Dutot Museum & Gallery  
24 Main Street  
Delaware Water Gap

\$12.00 per person  
Salad, Chili, & Homemade Cornbread & Dessert  
Seating is limited  
**B.Y.O.B**

Reservations: smwilson@ptd.net or 570-807-1071  
by January 20th

The Mac & Cheese Dinner to raise  
money for Shull Park will be held in  
March.

Condolences to the Family and Friends of

Michael Tripus  
January 22, 1953 – November 27, 2018

Mike served as our  
Borough Building Inspector  
for the past few years.

**Mayors Corner**  
**December 2018**

Greetings Delaware Water Gap residents. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and I wish you a great New Year! For this quarter I want to recap 2018 and let you know some of the items that are planned for 2019. Last January a new administration was sworn in with the addition of two new Councilmen and Mayor. We immediately went to work updating and repairing our equipment. We purchased a much-needed new Borough truck with plow, repaired our dump truck and installed a new plow on it, as well as repaired our backhoe. Councilman Derick Anspach took point on these projects and did a great job making sure they got done. Councilman Tim snow did a great job renewing our sanitation agreement with Waste Management as well as helping to complete projects around our Borough. Councilwoman Elvi DeLotto was able to secure a six-figure grant for improvements to our water system and Councilman Jack Shoemaker is working on securing a grant for paving Cherry Valley Rd. Councilwoman Eileen White has been working with our businesses in town through our EDC, oversaw the first year of the Junior Borough Council Program, and assisted in forming our new Emergency Management Committee. Our Finance Committee, under the guidance of Councilman Bill Buzzard completed the 2019 budget and did so without having to raise taxes. Council President Wayne MacWilliams helped to direct all these projects and continues to represent the Borough at the Council of Government meetings. These are just a small example of the many positive things that took place this year. Moving into the new year, there a few important items to tackle. Cherry Valley road needs milling and repaving. Councilman Shoemaker and I will be working with Senator Scavello to try to secure a Multi-modal grant for those repairs. I will be looking at different grant options to possibly have the Borough building remodeled and updated so it can be used as a shelter in the event we suffer more storms like we did in the beginning of 2018.

**Roundabout update:** The roundabout is opened but not yet complete. The hope is that it will be finished by January, but weather has been a major factor. The construction firm has been working around the clock and I'm told the entire project should be complete in the spring of 2019. Aside from the roundabout, the bulk of the finish work is the demolition of the old bridges and landscaping.

**Borough events:** Our Borough events last year were a success because of the hard work of the Friends of D.W.G. Committee and our volunteers. We hope to bring back the Folk Festival in 2019 and there will be improvements to Founders Day as well. We would like to include art and music again and we need volunteers to help make that happen. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, please let us know.

Thank you all for a great 2018 and I look forward to some great things for Delaware Water Gap in 2019. I hope to see you around the neighborhood and I hope you have a prosperous New Year!

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

**Savvy Citizen App**

The Borough has been looking for a way to get emergency information to our residents quickly as well as calendar social events for our town. We will be utilizing the Savvy Citizen App to do this. This is a FREE app that is available for your Apple phone/device or Android phones. You can visit the Apple and Google Play store and download the free Savvy Citizen App. Once signed up, you will receive Borough alerts as a text message and/or email message. It is your choice how you would like to receive the information.

When there is a Boil Water Advisory, you will receive that alert as a text or email and NO LONGER an automated voice call. If you do not have a smart phone and still require a phone call, we ask that you call Ileana at the Borough Office, 570-476-0331, and she will take your information and number down so you can be called for any water advisory. We will transition completely to the Savvy Citizen App by the last quarter of the year, so please be sure to sign yourself up!

**Borough Committee Meetings**

**Water**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

**Economic Development (EDC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

**Liberty-Delaware Water Gap Trail**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

**Friends of DWG**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

*New members welcome!*

**Beautification**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

*New members welcome!*

All committee meetings are held at  
Borough Hall  
49 Main Street  
Delaware Water Gap

**Remember to recycle!**

It is mandatory in the borough.



**Friendly Reminders**



**When the snow begins to fall please remember that Ordinance 173 states all sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours of a snowfall.**

**Ordinance 267 states that garbage cannot be placed out before 5:00 p.m. the day prior to pick up and cans must be removed before 9:00 p.m. the day of pick up. Thank you.**

**Main St. & Shepard Ave. are SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES and marked accordingly. All vehicles MUST be removed 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.**

**Local History Spot**

**By Marty Wilson**

Life in the Borough Before Cars

In the last newsletter this column focused on the 1894 diphtheria outbreak in the borough that claimed the lives of seven members of one family on Cherry Valley Road. The column pointed out that Water Gap had its own doctor and even a Board of Health in 1894. It might seem odd that the tiny borough had its own Board of Health until we remember that life in the borough before the automobile transformed American society, a transformation that was felt profoundly in small towns like the Gap, was very different than it is today. Before the car shrank time and space and commandeered the area's roads, Delaware Water Gap was a real town with most of the services and conveniences its larger neighbors to the north, Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg, had.

Today a drive to the Stroudsburgs takes less than ten minutes. In the decades before the automobile came into its own, getting to Stroudsburg or to East Stroudsburg was not as easy. There was a dirt road that went over Fox Town Hill, but few people owned a carriage or even a horse. From 1907 to 1928 a trolley line connected the town to Stroudsburg. Trolley cars arrived at the Castle Inn from Portland and then continued over Godfrey's Ridge and along today's Seventh Street to Main Street in Stroudsburg. The DL&W Railroad connected Water Gap to a station in East Stroudsburg. A trip to town on any one of those three routes took much longer than a similar trip today. Not only did it take longer, but a trip had to be scheduled according to trolley or train timetables. In addition, each journey started and ended with a walk. Someone living on Cherry Valley Road, for example, had to walk to the trolley stop at the Castle Inn or to the train station, ride to the trolley stop or train station in the Stroudsburgs, and then walk to their final destination. A trip to town a hundred years ago was a minor expedition. Imagine having to go to Stroudsburg for groceries in 1918.

The relative difficulty of travel between the Stroudsburgs and Water Gap, then, meant that many of the services provided today in the larger population centers had to be present in Water Gap. Besides a doctor and Board of Health, the town had two grocery stores, a bakery, a post office, three churches (Presbyterian, Methodist, and Catholic), a school, a donkey shed with around twenty donkeys, a fire house, three barber shops, a drug store, a blacksmith's shop, a carriage repair shop, and four souvenir stands. In addition, Water Gap's many hotels provided dining and other services. The Castle Inn, for example, housed a novelty store, a bowling alley, and a place where movies were shown to "city people" (as the locals called the tourists) and locals alike. Several of the hotels provided dances for their guests that locals could attend. One popular activity was walking to the train station to see people from New York City or Philadelphia disembark from the trains as they began their vacations.

Today Water Gap is a different place than it was a hundred years ago. Most residents earn their livings in other locations and the economies of scale, combined with automobile travel, resulted in the development of fewer, but larger, grocery stores conveniently located throughout Monroe County—all, of course, easily accessible by car. While Water Gap's grocery stores are gone, there are two convenience stores at two gas stations in the borough—another change wrought by the automobile. The buildings that held the grocery stores still exist across Main Street from the Sycamore Grille. The Presbyterian Church of the Mountain, remains, but the former Methodist church on Main Street has been closed for years and the former Catholic church on Mountain Road now houses condominiums. The post office and the fire house have moved into new buildings. The souvenir and donkey stands are long gone as are most of the hotels that made their existence possible. The school building now houses the Dutot Museum and Gallery where local history is commemorated and local artists display their work. The train station, once the main portal to the outside world and crucial to the economic health of the town, covers abandoned under the Rt. 80 bridge—a fitting symbol of what the automobile has done to rail service in the United States and a reminder of how things used to be in Delaware Water Gap.