

# THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 39 – Spring 2020

Borough Council and I wanted to reach out to inform you about what we know and where we stand concerning the Corona Virus. As I write this there are currently 16 cases of the virus within the state with 173 tested so far. The 16 cases are presumed positive with 2 in Monroe County and 1 in Northampton County. These figures are likely to go up with the virus taking up to 14 days before symptoms appear. The state and county have kept us informed as to where they are at in handling the virus and the CDC has kept me updated should any statewide emergency arise. Currently there is just a general concern within the state, and they are monitoring the situation. They have done a good job informing municipalities as needed and we will pass any information or required actions as soon as we get them.

So, what can we do to help with the situation? Right now the advice is to wash your hands regularly and if possible, avoid large concentrations of people in a close or tight area. The Borough asks that if you're not feeling well, please refrain from visiting the office or attending meetings. As always if you need anything it's better to call if you are not well. Also if you are not feeling well and need to drop of any correspondence such as a bill payment, please use the Borough's mailbox slot outside the Borough building. These are just some simple precautions that can be followed not only for this virus but any other sickness anyone is experiencing, and it limits any exposure to our employees.

In closing we would just like say just be conscious of your surroundings, wash your hands regularly, and cough or sneeze into your elbow and not in your hands. Borough Council and I will inform you of any new information as we get it. Please stay safe and healthy.

Mayor Larry Freshcom

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Phone: 570-476-0331  
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s.serrano@dwgpa.gov  
www.dwgpa.gov

**Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Office Secretary/Treasurer – Shaina Serrano  
Municipal Authority Secretary – Lauren Hoglelund  
Borough Superintendent - Harry Kent Darlington

**Delaware Water Gap Police Department**  
570-476-4674

police@dwgpa.gov  
Acting Police Chief Andrew Yakubik  
Amadnda Boyd, Police Officer  
Michael J. Ceccato, Police Officer  
Vincent Mezick, Police Officer  
Rolon Santos, Jr., Police Officer

State Police – 570-839-7701  
Emergencies Only - 911

## **Borough Council**

Larry Freshcom, Mayor  
Jack Shoemaker, President  
William Buzzard, Vice President  
Derek Anspach  
Zack Booth  
Lisa Paulette  
Tim Snow

Eileen Noelle-White  
*Council meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.*

## **Municipal Authority**

James Reynolds, Chair  
Harry Darlington, Vice Chair  
Martin W. Wilson, Secretary  
James Holbrook  
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  
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**

Mark M. Kirk, SFM Consulting, LLC

## **Building Inspector**

Jeffrey Snyder

## **Emergency Management Coordinator**

Brad Miller

## **Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator**

(Vacant)

## **Floodplain Administrator**

Walter Conway

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

### Mayors Corner

Welcome to Spring DWG! Looks like we made it through another winter and it seemed to be a mild one. Just a few things to update you on for our upcoming year so let me start with the Corona Virus. As may know by now, Borough Council and I have closed our office until further notice. This precaution was taken to protect our employees who deal with the public every day. The office is open during regular business hours by email, phone and the mail slot on the side of the building. Also, on Friday March 20th at noon and with support of our Borough Council, I declared a State of Emergency for our Borough. This again was just another precaution and it helps open up the Borough to disaster relief funding if and when it's made available. The governor has closed what he calls Non Life Sustaining businesses in an effort to curb the spread of the virus. We know that our businesses and residents have been affected by this decision and because of that we will update our website with resources and help made available because of the crisis. People can apply for unemployment compensation without the waiting week, low interest small business loans are now available along with so many other things to help us get through this. Our website is <https://dwgpa.gov> so please look for updates and resources posted soon. Right now the best advice is to cough into your elbow, wash your hands often, do not touch your face and avoid large concentrations of people. We are hoping this blows over soon and our Borough events are not effected. We will certainly keep you updated on any new developments. The last couple of items I'll be mentioning will depend on how long the crisis lasts so next is Cherry Valley Rd. repair. Road Committee will begin talking with contractors and taking bids to repair and re-pave Cherry Valley Rd. as soon as possible. The Borough was awarded a grant for \$215,000 dollars to repair and re-pave as well as address storm water runoff the end of last year. You should see those repairs begin sometime this summer. A big thank you to Council President Jack Shoemaker and others for working hard to make the grant a reality. Borough events are now being discussed by their respective committees and they could use your help. One event of special note is Founders Day this year. The Founders Day Committee is working with the Dutot Museum this year as the Museum celebrates its 50th anniversary. We hope to celebrate that anniversary the same day as Founders Day. We need your help and ideas to make this Founders Day a year to remember. If you have the time to volunteer or have any ideas on how to make this a great day please get in touch with me or Tammy Snow. Lastly I'd like to welcome our new Council members Zack Booth and Lisa Paulette. We are all looking forward in working with them moving forward. There are so many others things happening that I just can't get it all on the newsletter so I'll. Please stay safe and have a great summer!

### *Hello. Delaware Water Gap!*

*Spring is upon our doorsteps and the Delaware Water Gap Beautification Committee is in need of new members and volunteers.*

*There are Canna Bulbs waiting to be planted at the park, window boxes in need of assistance.*

*Please contact Elvi DeLotto or other committee members. Drop a note to the Borough Hall and let us know if you are available!*

### Open Space Committee News

The Liberty Water Gap Trail has moved forward. We have not only become an alliance committee between three municipalities, Delaware Water Gap, Portland, Upper Mt Bethel, we have gotten an inner municipal agreement between Monroe and Northampton County. This means that we can move ahead with a study that will be funded by the National Park and matching fund by the counties. This study will be a comprehensive study on the corridor.

The September 11 Trail is part of our plan. The Liberty Water Gap Trail will be part of this very important National Trail. Signs will go up this year using the bike route along Cherry Valley Road.

This is a long term plan that will take a lot of people working together to get the trail done. We are committed to making this happen.

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

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap is pleased to announce that we will soon be accepting credit card payments via our online website [www.dwgpa.gov](http://www.dwgpa.gov), in person or over the phone for any and all payments pertaining to DWG. General permit payments, DWG water payments and DWG sanitation payments. All payments for each entity must still be made separately. However, you will be able to pay all water accounts together or all sanitation accounts together incurring only one transaction fee for each transaction at 2.9%. Updates will be provided via the website and Savvy Citizen. Feel free to contact our Secretary/Treasurer, Shaina Serrano with any questions or concerns at the Borough office 570.476.0331 or via email [s.serrano@dwgpa.gov](mailto:s.serrano@dwgpa.gov).

**Borough Committee Meetings**

**Water**

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

**Economic Development (EDC)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 9:00 a.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

**Dutot Museum to Celebrate Fifty Years!**

In 1969 the Stroudsburg School Board announced that they were closing Delaware Water Gap's only school. Local residents, in the spirit that defines this community, organized the "Save Our School" Committee to make sure the nineteenth-century building didn't fall into disrepair. The School Board sold the building to the borough and the borough then rented the building to the committee. From those beginnings the Dutot School and Museum was born. This year, 2020, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Dutot Museum. Look for future notices of celebratory events marking this milestone. And, if you are not already involved with the museum, make this the year that you get involved.

Visit [www.dutotmuseum.com](http://www.dutotmuseum.com)

## Local History

By Marty Wilson

This column appears during a world-wide crisis that will be discussed and studied for generations to come. Covid 19 has reached into every corner of the world and has turned the lives of the earth's inhabitants upside down. As the days of self-quarantining and social-distancing grind on we wonder what life will be like after it passes. Will there be significant changes to our society "on the other side" or will things return to what they were before? There is no way to know at this point. But we know that things are always changing, and often in ways that we could never imagine.

"Change over time" is what historians study. I recently stumbled across an example of change in an unexpected place. Someone left some copies of *Homefront* at the post office in town and I couldn't resist taking a look at them. *Homefront* was published in Bangor during the last global crisis, World War II. The magazine was an extended newsletter of sorts that detailed the comings and goings of the sons and daughters of the "Blue Valley" as they deployed to all four corners of the world in the war effort. The pages of *Homefront* are filled with stories and photographs of soldiers and sailors and where they were serving. There are family photos that always included parents and a young man or woman in uniform. Under the heading "For These We Fight" appear photos, page after page of them, of infants and wives. Marriages and engagements are announced. Photos of the home town are included. In short, it was a reminder of home that was distributed to the area's service men and women around the world. (Delaware Water Gap had its own, similar publication called *The Homefront*.)

Also featured in *Homefront* each month were full-page photos of attractive young women under the heading "Fairest of the Fair." For a lonely and homesick young man overseas it must have been the most interesting feature in the publication. What caught my eye was not the photographs themselves--they are head shots of smiling, wholesome, hometown girls with not a whiff of sexuality displayed--but the captions that introduced the young woman in the photos. Here's one: "Gladys: Friendly Gladys Blake, better known to her friends as 'Blakey,' is very fond of all out-door sports, and especially likes hunting and fishing. She is five feet three inches tall, has black hair, brown eyes and weighs 110 pounds. A graduate of Pen Argyl High School, class of '40, Gladys is now employed at the Crown Plant of the Sterling Glove Company. She is a member of Delabole Union Sunday School and is secretary of the school. She is the twenty-two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Blake and her address is: R.D. 1, Pen Argyl, Penna."

Here's another: "Joan: Tall attractive Joan Beeten is just sweet sixteen and is a Junior at Bangor High School. She is a member of the Tri-Hi-Y, the German Club, Microscope Club and is on the Beehive Council. Joan is five feet six inches tall, has brown hair, grey eyes and tips the scales at 112 pounds. She likes swimming, dancing, riding, and all sports. Joan is a member of the Bangor Lutheran Church where she sings in the choir. She is the daughter of Mrs. Clark Morey and resides at: 619 Market Street, Bangor, Penna."

For a lonely soldier far from home the captions cover all the relevant information. The girl's religion, education, interests, age, and family are all included. The address is included in case the young man wanted to write. And so is the girl's height and weight! Things have changed! What young woman today would want her weight published for the world to see?

Many of us seem to have more time on our hands these days since we find ourselves staying home as part of the community's health initiative. One thing we might do during that time is to imagine what changes we can expect to see after this crisis passes.