



E-Pathways: Your direct source for information

Dear Residents & Friends,

It has been six weeks since we declared an [Emergency](#) due to the Covid-19 Corona Virus Pandemic. The shutdown and stay-at home order is still in place for many businesses and we are still asking people to practice social distancing and respect individual face mask policies. Although the playground at Meadow Park is technically closed, no action has been taken to close Meadow Park. Please respect everyone's personal space.

Construction activities have resumed and therefore Building Code Enforcement, Inspections and Permit Review activities in the Borough are picking up as well. Borough staff stands ready to process your permits via email and reminds people that work without permits is subject to the doubling of permit fees.

We have made the decision to conduct the May monthly Borough Council Meeting via Zoom again due to the inability to practice social distancing in Borough Hall. Borough Hall remains closed to the public through the 15th, although we are making preparations to open up again with new procedures and policies to maintain a safe work environment for staff and Borough Council. Information on how to attend and participate in that meeting is listed below. The public is invited to join the meeting.

Below is a message from Tax Collector Tom Laconis regarding the Borough's [action](#) to extend the Face Period for the payment of taxes. This was accomplished by setting the penalty rate at 0% through July 31st. Tax Collection Office Hours for April and May have been canceled.

Also below is more updates and news from the Borough. On a sad note, the Borough lost a former resident, Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Emergency Management Coordinator and all around good citizen with the passing of Jim Keyser. Jim will be missed and our thoughts and prayers are for his family.

Stay safe. Help neighbors who need assistance and please contact us should you have questions or concerns. Our [Report a Concern](#) form can be completed

and submitted to us to communicate concerns, request services or to file a complaint.

Borough Council Meeting May 14, 2020

Borough Council will be hosting a Zoom Council Meeting

Thursday, May 14th at 7 PM Borough Council will be hosting its second Zoom Borough Council Meeting. The public is invited to join us. In addition the meeting will be recorded and the recording will be made public. Guests will be put into a virtual meeting room when first logging in to the meeting and will be required to register. Please be patient with the process as it is new for all of us.

Please visit www.schwenksville-pa.org for the Meeting Agenda which will be posted no later than Monday, May 11th. Emails to Aklepfer@schwenksville-pa received during the meeting will be addressed at the meeting if possible. Members of the Public who wish to make public comments are provided the opportunity during the Public Forum section of the Agenda. This is the only time Borough Council is required to take public comment for regular business. Any hearings that are conducted by Council will have a separate public comment period.

Topic: May Schwenksville Council Meeting
Time: May 14, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81096319434>

Meeting ID: 810 9631 9434
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,81096319434# US (Germantown)
+13126266799,,81096319434# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 810 9631 9434
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81096319434>

MONTCO STRONG PROGRAM

We are sharing information I received about the recently announced Montco Strong Small Business Grant Program. I know this information is circulating around, but I wanted to pass it along just in case you haven't seen it yet so you can share with your networks in Schwenksville.

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners announced the MontcoStrong Small Business Grant Program. Recognizing the need to provide support to strengthen our local businesses and communities, Montgomery County is providing \$1 million in economic development funds to provide grants to eligible small businesses through the MontcoStrong Small Business Grant Program. The purpose of the small business grants are to provide

businesses in Montgomery County with financial support as relief due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

This is a Montgomery County funded initiative created by the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and the Montgomery County Commerce Department in partnership with the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County. This initiative was developed in part as a result of data & information derived from the ongoing regional survey of business impacts related to COVID-19 and to provide further, targeted support to Montgomery County businesses to augment state and federal programs.

Eligible small businesses in Montgomery County can apply for up to \$25,000 to help with making rent or mortgage payments, meeting payroll expenses, and covering utility bills. The complete eligibility criteria, program information, program guidelines, program FAQ, and application instructions are all available at www.montcopa.org/MontcoStrongSBGP - links to this webpage can be found on our Commerce Department's homepage (www.montcopa.org/Commerce) as well as on the Montgomery County COVID-19 data hub (www.montcopa.org/COVID-19).

Applications will be accepted beginning at **11am on Wednesday, April 8th, 2020**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications will be accepted until all grant funds are awarded and/or the number of applications received significantly surpasses all available grant funds to be awarded in an application round. While we anticipate the number of applications received will quickly outpace the amount of funding available in the initial round, applications will be reviewed for thoroughness and determination of need based on program guidelines.

On-line sources of Information

Montgomery County has daily press briefings usually at 3 PM or 3:30 PM.

<https://www.montcopa.org/3468/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19>

<https://data-montcopa.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/covid-19>

Senator Robert Mensch also is providing his constituents updates and & Info and his website provides many links and helpful information.

<https://www.senatormensch.com/>

Pennsylvania State Representative Marcy Toepel's office is also providing much needed information and assistance.

<http://www.reptoepel.com/>

How to Reach us During the State of Emergency - STAY AT HOME ORDER

The Borough is asking that all communications be done through e-mail.

Borough Manager at aklepfer@schwenksville-pa.org
Staff at gail@schwenksville-pa.org

Borough Council President Darren Rash at DarrenR@schwenksville-pa.org

On most days, staff is available via telephone at 610-287-7442 during normal business hours. However, due to staff working from home on a limited basis, Borough Hall hours are subject to reduction and there may not be someone there to answer the phone.

If it's a true emergency please call 911.

Thank you for serving your community

Borough Council would like to take this opportunity to applaud and recognize the community service being rendered by [DJM, Design CAD & Coordination Services located at 395 Main Street](#). DJM is not new to the Community and their owners are long time residents. They have certainly been busy giving back to the Community during this challenging time. DJM has been supporting local healthcare providers by manufacturing protective gear. Read all about it in the [Schwenksville Post](#).

Thank you DJM for setting the standard for community involvement.

Want to get involved? Want make a difference in your community?

The Borough is looking to add new members to the Revitalization Task Force, the Park and Recreation Board and the Activities Committee. If you would like to get involved please submit a [Volunteer Application](#), to Info@schwenksville-pa.org.

Revitalization Task Force -- A committee not limited to residents that includes business owners and residents of surrounding municipalities and is tasked with updating the Revitalization Plan, helping to implement the Main Street Plan and Design Guidelines, and making recommendations for economic and community development planning and other initiatives.

Park & Recreation Board - A Board assembled to assist Borough Council with maintaining Meadow Park and other natural and recreation areas in the Borough. The Board also acts as an advisory board to recommend improvements for the Borough's Facilities . It involves physical labor and active volunteerism.

Activities Committee - A committee assembled to plan community events and activities. Currently, the primary events are Community Day, and the Summer Concert Series. However, the Borough is interested in planning and scheduling new events and activities to benefit the community and welcomes fresh ideas and volunteers willing to see their idea through from concept to implementation.

Message from your Tax Collector

During the Pandemic State of Emergency

All April Tax Collection sitting hours cancelled in accordance with the Emergency Declaration issued 3/12/2020 and via [Resolution April 9th](#)

As of 4/9/2020, Schwenksville Borough Council [voted](#) to extend the Face Value County/Borough Tax Due Date to July 31, 2020 (from June 30) to account for current pandemic personal hardships. Due to Borough Hall currently being closed to Walk-Ins, there will be no sitting hours to pay in person during

May, 2020. Payments can either be dropped off at 140 Main St. Borough Hall in the front door mail slot or taken to the counter at the Schwenksville Post Office free of charge located on Centennial St. Payments dropped in any other mail receptacle must have postage.

Free drop off at the Post Office only applies to Counter Services during normal business hours. If you require a "Paid" Receipt, please include a SASE with your payment and the complete tax bill. No July office hours have been set. They will be made public once Borough Hall opens to the public and normal business operations are allowed to continue.

New Borough Website Scheduled to Launch by the end of May

The Borough hired ReviZe, Inc., a website consultant specializing in government websites, to provide a new design and updated website for the Borough. The new website will be mobile friendly, be easier to navigate, keep updated, easier for residents to sign up for Alerts and Newsletters, Pay for Permits, Registrations and Applications on-line and find information or documents they are looking for.

The project was delayed due to the Pandemic but is anticipated to be completed by the end of the month. We are looking forward to using the new website as a tool for increased transparency and communication with residents and people doing business in the Borough.

Remembering Jim Keyser



As reported in the [Schwenksville Post](#) [Valley-Limerick Post] by Joe Zlomek, former Fire Chief Jim Keyser passed away April 9th. Jim was a true "giver" always lending his talents, his advice, his knowledge, his mediator skills or his man power to help a neighbor, a victim, or his community. When I first met Jim, I called him Mr. Schwenksville and I wondered how this community functioned without him. He was the Fire Chief, the Fire Marshal and the Emergency Management Coordinator. He was the liaison between Council and the Fire Company and when we needed help getting something done, or if there was a communication problem, it was always Jim we turned to for assistance. Jim always made things better. Although Jim had moved out of Schwenksville and we did indeed learn how to function without his daily presence, he was always a resource and never stopped caring about Schwenksville. We will miss him tremendously. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones as they grieve his loss.

Learn More About Storm Water Management

Storm water Management is the responsibility of everyone. The Borough is responsible to manage its Municipal Storm System - by cleaning out the storm water pipes, repairing them when they fail and inspecting them in accordance with the MS4 permit. The Borough is also responsible for public outreach and education. Attached is a document that helps explain Storm water Management and why it's important. Please help us keep our water clean and safe by preventing contamination from entering the storm system, by keeping storm drains free of obstructions and by reporting concerns.

If interested you could also attend a [PennState Extension Webinar](#) "The Extension at Home: Homeowner's Guide to Storm water live webinar" which will discuss why storm water runoff is a problem, and will show proven practices you can use on your property to minimize it!

Please note, the webinar is May 20 and registration is required by May 19th.

When
Wed., May 20, 2020
(12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET)

Learn More
[Visit the Event Website for More Details](#)

Should you have questions or concerns about information contained in this e-newsletter; about projects being undertaken by Schwenksville Borough or about Borough operations please contact us at info@schwenksville-pa.org or call 610-287-7442. Residents are also welcomed to attend a Council Meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each Month at 7 PM --except for January of even years when the Borough conducts a reorganization meeting the first Monday or day after a Monday holiday in January.

Hours of Operation

M- Thursday 9 AM - 5PM
[closed 12PM to 1PM]
Friday 9AM - 2PM
140 Main Street
Schwenksville, PA 19473
Phone (610) 287-7442
Fax (610)287-8098



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