



E-Pathways: Your direct source for information

Dear Residents,

At the May Borough Council Meeting, it was decided that Borough Hall would open up to regular, in person office hours beginning June 1st. **Borough meetings will resume in person at 300 Main Street beginning with the June 3rd Planning Commission Meeting and June 10th Borough Council Meeting.**

With all the zoom meetings and keeping up with all of the borough activity, we realized that many residents might not be up to speed on recent changes in Council membership and advisory board membership.

Borough Council

- **Darren W. Rash** - Council President, serves on the Planning Commission, the Borough Authority Board and Park and Recreation Board as well as the finance and administration committees.
- **Lee Ann Miller** - Council Vice President, serves on the Historic Committee and the revitalization task force.
- **Sarah Knickerbocker** - Council member, serves on the Park and Recreation Board as well as the property committee and finance committee.
- **Chris Melville** - Council member, serves as Fire Marshal, Emergency Management Coordinator and serves on the property committee and streets and lights committee.
- **Brett Forcine** - newly appointed Council member. Please read our introduction to Brett below.

Mayor Joseph Giunta - Serves as the Mayor of Schwenksville and as a member of the Borough Authority Board.

Planning Commission

- H. Gilbert "Gib" Williams - Chairman
- James "Jim" Caprio - Vice-Chairman
- Darren W. Rash - Secretary
- Gary Schneider, Member
- Brian Pippert, Member (newly appointed, also serves on Borough Authority)

Borough Authority Board

- John B. Markley - Chairman

- Tom Slater - Vice Chairman
- Brian Pippert - Treasurer
- Darren Rash - Secretary
- Joseph Giunta -Assistant Secretary

Welcome to the Borough Team Brett Forcine!

In January, Council Woman Maureen Harte resigned due to relocating outside of the Borough. When Brett Forcine heard there was a need and an opening on Borough Council he submitted his application immediately. He was appointed to Council in February to fill the vacancy and hopes to get elected to the position in November.



Brett grew up in Colledgeville and graduated from Perkiomen Valley in 1991 where he played sports every season from 8th grade to his senior year. He owned and operated a landscape company from 1994-2014 and is currently the Lead 3D Designer for a large Landscape Design & Build company. Brett and his wife Jennifer, a RN, just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary and have 3 fantastic children ages 15, 17 and almost 19. They moved to Schwenksville in 2006 and are proud to call it home. Volunteer work is nothing new to Brett, he has coached both rec & travel team sports and served as the Complex Supervisor and other organizational roles for over 10 years at Central Perkiomen Youth Association as well as volunteering for a bereavement camp for children 6 to 16 years old. In his spare time he enjoys being a member of Phoenix Lodge #75 and a member of a bocce team in the Skippack Bocce league.

Brett says "what I want for Schwenksville Borough is to make sure it is putting it's best foot forward and striving to always improve its appearance and its relationship to its residents and our surrounding neighbors. Continuing the revitalization of the town to gain new businesses, shops and visitors would be a goal of mine to work towards and make Schwenksville a place where others would want to visit and enjoy what we have to offer."

Music in the Meadow Summer Concert Series Returns!

Wednesday June 16: 6:30- 8:30 PM

"Blonde . . . James, Blonde" is a 6-piece, 4-part harmony ensemble with studios in Spring City and Blue Bell. BJB is a "must see and hear act" who are as FUN to WATCH perform as they are musically ROCKIN'!

Wednesday July 21: 6:30- 8:30 PM

"The Left Edge" is known for dynamic and entertaining covers of Classic Rock-N-Roll ranging from Doo-Wap to Ozzie Osborne. Classic rock the way you remember it! Be here for their High Energy Show!

Wednesday Aug 18: 6:00 PM -8:00PM

"Rhodes Less Traveled" is a band shaped by years of performance and forged with rich, eclectic flavors. They blend style, substance, and melody with dynamic three-part harmonies to be enjoyed by all ages.



All concerts are held at Meadow Park located behind 300 Main Street. Parking is

available in front, behind (trail side) and in the meadow near the boat ramp. The Boy Scouts will be selling refreshments but people are permitted to bring their own food and non-alcoholic beverages. Please no smoking on Borough property. Provide your own chairs and blankets for use in the meadow.

Sponsors: DJM Design CAD & Coordination Services, The Schwenksville Tax Collector Thomas Laconis, Wawa, Landis Supermarket, XL Home Improvements, The Goddard School and Spring Mountain Adventures.

Barry Isett & Associates Appointed as Third Party Building Inspection Company

At their May meeting, Borough Council acted to appoint Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. as the Borough's Third Party Building Inspection, Code Enforcement and Zoning Review service provider with a thirty day transition period.

The move was made in an effort improve the service provided to the Borough and to residents and business owners seeking to make improvements to their properties, start new businesses or sell their properties. Barry Isett & Associates is much larger service provider that has over twenty Master Code Officials on staff and provides full service Building Code Administration, Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Services, Zoning Administration and Resale, Rental and Change in Commercial Tenant Inspection Services.

Castle Valley Consultants Inc. will work to close out open permits over the next thirty to sixty days and new applications will be directed to Barry Isett & Associates.

The Borough's applications for building permits, zoning permits, pool permits, stormwater permits, highway occupancy permits, etc., were converted to On-line Submittable forms available from www.schwenksville-pa.org at the beginning of the Pandemic. This submission process will continue, although adjustments may be made to the administrative forms and paperwork. The Borough's Fee Schedule will also need to be adjusted to ensure the application fees cover the full cost of services. **All applications must be submitted to the Borough and payments received, before being processed by Barry Isett & Associates.**

Electronic Sign Is Re-activated

The electronic sign at 300 Main Street is operational again! After being shut down for more than a year due to construction and necessary updates, the much used and appreciated public communication tool is up and running again. To advertise on the sign please consult the Borough Website for the [application](#) and [fee schedule](#). Please check the sign for public information and important community messages.



Economic Development Updates

Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County is partnering with Schwenksville Borough to obtain proposals for a new business to purchase

and open at the former Uninvest Bank building at 415 Main Street. A part of this process is certifying the property as blighted and adopting a redevelopment plan for it. This process was completed by the Schwenksville Planning Commission at their May Meeting.



Local property owners who are interested in redeveloping their property for commercial use can contact the RDA at 610-275-5300 to inquire if their property is eligible for services and assistance they provide.

What the RDA Can Do - Financing Powers:

The Redevelopment Authority assembles and administers below market-rate financing packages to make redevelopment and reuse projects economically viable. The Authority:

1. Identifies and applies for federal, state and county loan and grant funds applicable to the redevelopment project;
2. Provides grants and low interest loans for environmental assessments and remediation using its Brownfields Program;
3. Issues tax-exempt bonds for capital projects of non-profit organizations and for lower-income housing developments;
4. Issues and administers Tax Increment Financing whereby some or all of the new tax revenues created by the redevelopment project are designated to repay the tax increment loan used to finance a portion of the project.

A Business Overlay Zoning Amendment The Planning Commission and Borough Council have been working on a Business Zoning Overlay Amendment. In its development stages it was designed to provide parking calculation incentives to promote specified commercial uses in the Village Commercial and Commercial Zoning Main Street business districts and add additional commercial use categories as permitted.

After considering public comments, suggestions from Council members and input from staff, the Amendment being reviewed by Planning Commission is now a proposed Amendment to the base zoning and a proposed map change. Properties near or at the intersection of Centennial Street and Main Street on the west side of Main Street are being considered for a zoning change from Village Commercial 1 to Village Commercial 2. The primary difference is that the VC-2 District has more by-right uses permitted and fewer uses allowed by Conditional Use which require a hearing. Properties that are subject of the proposed zoning change will be sent notifications inviting them to provide public comments to the Planning Commission before they make a recommendation to Borough Council. The Ordinance is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed next at the June 3, Planning Commission Meeting.

LERTA Ordinance authorized. Borough Council voted to authorize the Solicitor to prepare a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) Ordinance and to work with the County and School District to develop a LERTA program. A LERTA Ordinance will allow properties in a LERTA district to be improved and have the resulting tax increase paid incrementally to participating jurisdictions. The draft ordinance is currently being drafted.

Borough Receives Proposal to Examine the Water & Sewer Management & Service Delivery

Borough Council was presented with a proposal from an Independent Third Party Consultant, Public Financial Management Inc., to study water and sewer

service delivery and management. Phase 1 of the study is a broad analysis to consider various options. Factors examined include the age of systems and infrastructure, cost to Authority to maintain and make repairs, impact of regulatory mandates and the impact on rates if the authority did that work as well as other options that could include regionalization or sale.

While Borough Council received the proposal and publicly acknowledged receiving it, no action was taken to approve the proposal and there was no deliberation. PFM Inc. made a presentation to Borough Council at their May 13, 2021 Meeting.

2021 at a Glance

Although the Borough has been forced to defer some construction projects, others are still on schedule for completion in 2021.



- **Clearfield Avenue.** Clearfield Avenue will be milled down and repaved. A contract has been awarded to Couzin's Paving of North Wales, PA. - This work will be completed the first week in June. Residents will receive a door knocker asking them to remove their vehicles from the street.
- **Main Street Sidewalk Replacement.** The next phase of Main Street sidewalk replacement will occur in 2021. Sidewalk between Maple Street and Walnut Street on the west side of Main Street will be replaced. This phase is being implemented by PennDot instead of the Borough. PennDot will be advertising and letting the contract for this work following design approval and permitting completed by the Borough.
- **Summit Avenue repair work.** Repair work to portions of Summit Avenue between Mine Hill Road and Highland Avenue was carried over from 2020 and will be completed when weather permits. This is not the major road reconstruction project planned for Summit Avenue between Highland Avenue and the Lower Frederick Township line. **Unfortunately, the grant application for the reconstruction work was not selected for funding and the Borough continues to evaluate other funding options.**

The Borough will continue to perform routine inspections of its roadways. The Borough contracts with the Borough Authority for routine maintenance and there is a standing work order to repair potholes reported or observed. Please use the Borough's [Reporting a Concern Form](#) to request a road inspection or repair for a specific street.

Your Local Government Locations

Schwenksville Borough Operations recently moved to 300 Main Street. Public entry is currently limited due to COVID-19 safety measures. However, staff is working at the new Schwenksville Borough Hall and Community Center and can be reached via intercom at the Main Entrance in the front of the building or by phone or email . **Please note that the Schwenksville Borough Authority Water and Sewer Office has not moved or merged with Borough Hall and is still located at the Markley Building, 298 Main Street. Please do not drop off your water and sewer payments at Borough Hall.**



- **Schwenksville Borough Hall & Community Center** : Located at 300 Main Street, Schwenksville, PA 19473. Tel. 610-287-7442 Fax. 610-287-8098 email: info@schwenksville-pa.org. [Website www.schwenksville-pa.org](http://www.schwenksville-pa.org).
- **Schwenksville Borough Authority - Water & Sewer Business** : Located at 298 Main Street in the Markley Building. All bill payments and inquiries regarding Water & Sewer Service, Repairs or Projects should be directed to the Authority. Tel. 610-287-7772. Email: schwenksvillebaws@gmail.com. Website: [Water - Schwenksville Borough Authority \(sbawspa.org\)](http://Water-SchwenksvilleBoroughAuthority.org)
- **Schwenksville Tax Collector**: In-person Collection dates will be on your Tax Bill. Please visit Tax Collector Tom Laconis's [Website](#) for more information. All in person collection is at 300 Main Street.
- **Voting**: Voting has been relocated to the Schwenksville Elementary School located at 55 Second Street for in person voting on election day. Montgomery County Voter Services should be contacted for alternative voting procedures.

Swimming Pools Should not be drained into the Street



[Schwenksville Borough, PA \(schwenksville-pa.org\)](http://schwenksville-pa.org) Storm drains carry stormwater directly to the Perkiomen Creek without treatment. Chemically treated water from swimming pools, greywater and soapy water from car washes are not to be drained to a street where it can enter the storm drain and flow to the creek. This is a leading cause of non-point pollution to our waterways. [DEP Swimming Pool Information](#)

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 welcome 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. Beginning in June meetings will be held in person at Borough Hall, 300 Main Street.

Hours of Operation

M- Thursday 9 AM - 5PM
 [closed 12PM to 1PM]
 Friday 9AM - 2PM
 300 Main Street



Schwenksville, PA 19473
Phone (610) 287-7442
Fax (610)287-8098

**This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer**

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