



E-Pathways: Your direct source for information

Dear Residents,

We know it has been a while since our last e-news; a lot has happened since the last one. Schwenksville Borough sustained extensive damage from the remnants of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Ida passing by. We sincerely hope that everyone is recovering from the storm, and that everyone is OK. Our hearts go out to those who have been impacted! The damage sustained includes severe damage to the new Borough Hall and Community Center which has caused a disruption in communication and business operations. We apologize. We are doing the best we can to resume operations and services. To do this, we have been and will continue to rely on the assistance of good citizens to help us overcome the challenges the storm damage has created. Please read through this e-news to see if there is a way that you can assist your community and help us through this difficult and challenging time. We've also included information and links for residents and business owners who are also feeling the stress of recovery.



Best Way to reach us

Borough Hall sustained approximately 24" of water damage throughout the building. The first step towards restoration was hiring Eastern Diversified Services to remove the flooded materials, sanitize and dry the building. This work was completed very quickly, but it will not be possible for us to return to work until the restoration work is completed.



All permit applications can be submitted electronically from submittable forms available at www.schwenksville-pa.org. Additional information, attachments or PDF applications should be emailed to info@schwenksville-pa.org. Barry Isett and Associates is assisting us with monitoring the electronic submission of all applications. Please note that it is very important that you get all of the required permits and inspections when completing projects resulting from natural disasters. Insurance companies may ask for

that information for claims or future claims.

The best way to contact Borough staff for assistance or to report damage to public infrastructure is via email:

Borough Secretary - Gail Phillips: gail@schwenksville-pa.org
Borough Manager - Anne W. Klepfer: aklepfer@schwenksville-pa.org
General Mail & Permits: info@schwenksville-pa.org
Fire Marshal - Chris Melville - firemarshal@schwenksville-pa.org.

When calling us at Borough Hall, 610-287-7442, it is helpful if you choose our extensions to leave messages. These messages are then forwarded to us via email. Messages in the general mail box will be retrieved but it takes longer.

Borough Secretary - Gail Phillips: phone extension x102
Borough Manager - Anne W. Klepfer: phone extension x100
General Mail Box: phone extension: x300
Fire Marshal - Chris Melville: phone extension x101
Mayor Joe: phone extension x301

We check our mail daily: 300 Main Street, Schwenksville, PA 19473 and we will receive residents there by appointment and outdoors only.

Borough Council Meetings will be at the library located at 290 Second street, lower level, on the second Thursday of October, November and December beginning at 7PM. Planning Commission dates, time and location to be announced.

Help your Borough ! Consider Volunteering!



Fire Wood Available. See information below.

Many residents have reached out to offer help with clean-up activities, and we're very grateful for those who stepped in on short notice to assist. The Borough **is** in need of volunteers to help with both clean-up from the flood and fall maintenance activities around Borough Hall and in Meadow Park. Several work parties are planned, and there are also opportunities for individuals or small groups to take on particular tasks on your own time schedule. Those interested in assisting are asked to e-mail Parks Chairperson Sarah Knickerbocker at sknickerbocker@schwenksville-pa.org to get on our mailing list for work parties. Please also let us know if you are able to assist with any of the specific items below. You can also fill out a [Volunteer information form](#) from our website for all advisory boards, committees and general volunteering.



--The first Work Session will take place this **Saturday, September 18** from 9am to approximately 11:30. The focus of this session will be on cleaning up the playground and other equipment so they are safe for re-use, and picking up debris. Please let us know if you are coming, so we can plan the extent of the activities and let you know what tools might be helpful to bring if you have them.

--Looking for free firewood? There are 3-4 large logs from the removal of a standing dead ash tree. A chain saw will be needed and trailer or truck to

transport. If interested, please contact the Borough at info@schwenksville-pa.org. A [waiver of liability form](#) is needed. The person who submits the signed waiver first and can remove it fairly quickly will get our approval.

--Do you have a chainsaw, gas power pruner, bush hog attachment or pressure washer? Individuals with these items who wouldn't mind devoting a few hours would be greatly appreciated.

--Have a truck you wouldn't mind loading with logs and brush and taking to the recycling center or otherwise disposing of? Can be timed with a work session so volunteers will do the loading.

--Like to weed and garden? Love to prune? We are looking for individuals to help maintain various garden areas on a seasonal or regular basis.

--Only interested in helping with cleaning? [Let us know](#). Any and all donations of time is appreciated.



The onslaught of water from Second Street and Above is too great for the existing stormwater infrastructure in Centennial Street. The Borough is looking into a Flood Mitigation Project that would try to mitigate this problem.



Borough Hall, located at 300 Main Street was surrounded by floodwater from the Perkiomen Creek. Approximately 24" of water was inside the building. To our knowledge, this is the first time this land has flooded since perhaps Hurricane Agnes in 1972.



In addition to Borough Hall, the Borough sustained flood damage to critical infrastructure such as roadways, traffic signal control Box and damage to Meadow Park. We estimate the Perkiomen crested at between 22' and 23', approximately 4' higher than the last record.

From the Office of Congresswoman Madeleine Dean

On September 10, 2021, President Biden approved Major Disaster Declarations (MDD) for portions of Pennsylvania, **including Schwenksville Borough****. The incident period for both declarations is from August 31 – September 5, 2021, and authorizes FEMA to provide federal disaster assistance to impacted areas. Visit FEMA's official Pennsylvania's Hurricane Ida Disaster Page here: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4618>

**Source: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations>

About Disaster Assistance

Federal disaster assistance from FEMA may be available for certain expenses which are not covered by insurance policies (Homeowner, Renter, Flood, etc.) or from active Voluntary Agencies/Mass Care (emergency food, shelter, clothing, medical, etc.). For counties with major disaster declarations, this can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the impact of Hurricane Ida. Please view the below fact sheets for information on the different types of assistance:

- [Individual Assistance Fact Sheet](#)
- [Disaster Assistance Sequence of Delivery Fact Sheet](#)
- [Public Assistance Fact Sheet \(for units of government\)](#)

Apply for Federal Assistance

You may [apply online](#) for individual assistance from FEMA or constituents may call the application phone number at 1-800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585).

Please be sure to read the above Sequence of Delivery Fact Sheet. Residents who wish to seek assistance are urged to apply as soon as possible to ensure their receive available assistance. There may be caps on funding available, and all applications must be received by FEMA within 60 days of the declaration date (September, 10th).

Tips for Applying

When you apply for assistance, have the following information readily available:

- A current phone number where you can be contacted
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying
- Your Social Security number, if available
- A general list of damage and losses
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name
- Remember to document everything – take photos and document all damages and keep all receipts related to cleanup and repairs.
- Apply for Assistance from the Small Business Administration

Apply for Assistance from the Small Business Administration

In addition to FEMA assistance programs, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses of any size, and most nonprofits. Similar to FEMA claims, SBA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. For small businesses, those engaged in aquaculture and most nonprofits, loans up to \$2 million is available for working capital needs even if there was no property damage, with a \$2 million maximum loan for any combination of property damage and working capital needs.

For homeowners: loans up to \$200,000 is available to repair or replace their primary residence.

For homeowners and renters: up to \$40,000 is available to replace personal property, including vehicles.

How to Apply to SBA

Businesses and residents can apply online at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov>

For questions and assistance completing an application, call 800-659-2955 or email DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. The SBA will answer specific questions about how a disaster loan may help each survivor recover from the disaster damage

Other Resources

- Red Cross: People in need of emergency assistance from the Red Cross can call: (800) RED-CROSS or (800) 507-6058. For people who have been displaced, please use the Red Cross website to find a shelter near you.
- Donations/Volunteerism: If you wish to assist with the recovery efforts, you should check in with your local governments/orgs first, or visit FEMA's Volunteer/Donate page.

Hurricane Ida Response Info from Montgomery County

Please find the latest Hurricane Ida recovery updates below.

SHELTER

The Red Cross Shelter at Norristown Area High School has been closed.

Montgomery County is offering resources to individuals and families who are currently experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness due to the impacts of Hurricane Ida. Residents should **contact Your Way Home by dialing 2-1-1 or texting their zip code to 898-211** to check availability of resources, which may include short term hotel housing in certain cases.

Short term hotel housing is prioritized for individuals or families who are:

- Sleeping outside
- Sleeping in a car
- Staying in overcrowded or unsafe housing conditions
- Staying in a hotel and are at risk of being displaced
- Staying in housing that is now condemned or otherwise deemed unsafe

Short-term hotel housing is offered at no cost to Montgomery County residents who have been displaced.

FREE ON-DEMAND TRANSPORTATION

No cost transportation through Gogo Grandparent is available for anyone who has been impacted by Hurricane Ida for basic transportation needs. Transportation is for anyone, not just seniors! Montgomery County residents can request free roundtrip transportation through the following process:

1. Step 1 - Sign Up:
 - a. Call 1 (855) 464-6872 and tell them you would like to sign up as part of **Montgomery County**, or
 - b. Visit <https://gogograndparent.com/montco> to sign up
2. Step 2 - Request a Car:
 - a. Call 1 (855) 464-6872
 - i. Press 1 for a car to your home
 - ii. Press 2 for a car to where we dropped you off last
 - iii. Press 0 to speak with an operator
3. Step 3 - A car comes to you!

This week, FEMA representatives will be going door to door in our hardest hit communities to make residents aware of the resources and funding available and to sign them up in person.

Before you apply for assistance, follow the below steps to start your recovery process:

1. Step 1: Take photos of your damaged home and belongings.
2. Step 2: Make a list of damaged/lost items.
3. Step 3: If you have insurance, you must file a claim with your insurance company. If you do not have insurance, continue to Step 4. (FEMA assistance cannot aid with losses already covered by insurance.)
4. Step 4: Apply for disaster assistance using one of the below methods:
 - a. Online

at www.disasterassistance.gov (Espanol: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/es>)

- b. Over the phone at 1-800-621-3362 / TTY 1-800-462-7585 (7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET, 7 days a week)
- c. Via the FEMA smartphone application: [Google Play](#) or [Apple App Store](#)
- d. In-person at a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) -*location and other details to be announced soon*

Montgomery County will announce the location of a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in the coming days. At the DRC residents can apply for aid in person, visit for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs, or ask questions related to their case. For additional information on the Pennsylvania disaster declaration, visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4618>.

Translated into 27 languages, the "[Help After a Disaster](#)" brochure is a tool that can be shared in your community to help people understand the types of FEMA Individual Assistance support that may be available in disaster recovery.

All updates continued to be posted at www.montcopa.org/lda.

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Planning for the next disaster



<https://www.montcopa.org/3850/Hazard-Mitigation-Planning>

Hazard Mitigation Planning | Montgomery County, PA - Official Website
Welcome to the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) web page. The goal of the hazard mitigation plan (HMP) is to minimize or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from known hazards by identifying and implementing cost-effective mitigation actions.

Please contribute to the planning process by submitting your comments to Montgomery County. The Borough adopts the Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be working with the County on grant applications for major hazard mitigation projects. Please stay tuned for more information on this subject.

Community Day 2021 is canceled due to IDA

It is with much frustration and regret that the Activities Committee announced the cancelation of Community Day. This special event was going to be a "return to normal" event. Ida had other plans. With the

Borough's focus on recovery from the storm damage, it is not possible to prepare for and host Community Day in the manner we had hoped. Planning for 2022 will start immediately!



ARE YOU READY MONTCO?



If you want to be alerted to emergencies and be informed, consider being "ReadyMontco"! Schwenksville Borough is striving to use ReadyMontco to send its emergency notifications. It's your official source for notifications about emergencies, severe weather, crime alerts and disasters. With ReadyMontco, you can choose to receive alerts via text, email and/or phone. You can

also choose to receive alerts from other parts of Montgomery County -maybe from where you work or whether other family members live.

ReadyMontco is administered by the **Montgomery County Department of Public Safety** and comes to you free of charge (text messaging and voice rates may apply). All it takes is about 10 minutes to create a profile and you'll be READY to go! **To sign up go to www.readymontco.org and click on the Sign Up tab at the top of the page.** If you need assistance, consider reaching out to a family member or neighbor. There is also a short "how to sign up" video you can watch. You will need to provide an email address to register, if you don't use email regularly, consider asking a friend to help you set up a GMAIL Account. You'll be prompted to enter basic contact information about how you would like to be contacted. If you have a smart phone, you can download the Everbridge Mobile Member from the App Store on your iPhone or Android. If you have questions, please call Borough Emergency Management Coordinator Chris Melville at 610-287-7442, Ext. 101.

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Smart 911 is here!

In an emergency, seconds count! Montgomery County has partnered with Smart911, allowing you to create an online profile that provides key information to 911, and first responders. You can upload as much, or as little information as you would like. Your profile can include information about your address, members of your household (2 and 4 legged!), or any medical information such as preexisting conditions or medication.

How does the system work in an emergency? When you dial 911, your profile will appear for the 911 call taker and dispatcher allowing them to access the information you have shared. Pertinent information can then be relayed to first responders. The information is safe, secure, and is only available when you call 911-The system is not accessible without the completion of a 911 call.

Help keep your loved ones safe by creating your free profile today for your household by visiting www.Smart911.com.

Electronic Sign Is Re-activated

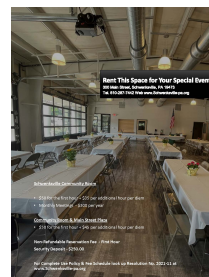
The electronic sign at 300 Main Street is operational again! After being shut down for more than a year due to construction and necessary updates, the much used and appreciated public communication tool is up and running again. To advertise on the sign please consult the Borough Website for the [application](#)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



Reservations for Borough Facilities

All reservations for the Borough Community Room scheduled for this fall will be fully refunded. Unfortunately, we do not have a timeline for the restoration as of yet.

We regret the inconvenience and stress this might cause. To speak with borough staff please email gail@schwenksville-pa.org.



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 October meetings will be held in person at the Schwenksville Branch of the Perkiomen Valley Library, 290 Second Street, Schwenksville, PA 19473. Access from Church Street.

**Hours of Operation -
Office is physically closed
until further notice due to
flooding**

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**

[Welcome Meeting Agendas/Minutes Things to Do](#)
[Borough Services Government Services](#)



