

BOROUGH OF EDGEWORTH

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Dear Residents,

Spring 2020



Spring is just around the corner! Here are some helpful reminders that you may find useful as we head into warmer days. Be sure to follow the Edgeworth Borough Facebook page and website to stay up to date on events and announcements. As always, feel free to contact the Borough Office with any questions.

2020 Primary Elections

Pennsylvania's Primary Elections will occur on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 for state and federal offices. **All residents will cast their ballots at Edgeworth Elementary**, located at 200 Meadow Lane. To register to vote, vote-by-mail, check your registration, and find information regarding voting, please visit votespa.com.



Edgeworth Borough Designated a Banner Community!



For the third year in a row, Edgeworth has been named a Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities. This honor is given to communities throughout Allegheny County that demonstrate commitment to professional development, intergovernmental cooperation, sound fiscal management and proactive communications for their residents and staff. Edgeworth is honored to receive this recognition!

Local Government Week

Each year, municipalities across Pennsylvania celebrate Local Government Week during the second week of April. Local Government Week is aimed at educating residents about the purpose, roles, and responsibilities of local government, as well as recognizing local leaders for their dedication and service. For more information about Edgeworth's government, administration, and services, and to keep up with what's happening in the Borough, please visit our website.

Mandatory Recycling Changes Begin April 1st!

On January 1, 2020, Waste Management implemented numerous changes to acceptable recyclable materials. From now on, only plastic bottles, jugs, and jars labeled #1 and #2, as well as cardboard, mixed paper, aluminum, and tin are accepted in residents' recycling cans. No plastic bags, glass, other plastic materials, or Styrofoam are allowed in single stream recycling. The same material restrictions apply to the Recycling Center located on Chestnut Road. Beginning on April 1, 2020, Waste Management drivers will begin rejecting recycling cans that contain non-recyclable items. In order to properly recycle glass bottles, jugs, and jars, residents may utilize the glass-only dumpster located at the Recycling Center. Please keep these changes in mind when collecting your recyclables each week, and help us to recycle properly!

RECYCLING RULES

1. RECYCLE ALL BOTTLES, CANS AND PAPER
2. KEEP ITEMS CLEAN AND DRY
3. NO PLASTIC BAGS

Always recycle:



Plastic Bottles & Containers

Plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs



Food & Beverage Cans

Tin, aluminum, steel food and beverage cans



Paper

Cardboard, paper, newspaper, paperboard, magazines



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard

Flatten all boxes (do not bundle/tie up)

Watch Out for Water Loss

Have you noticed a recent increase in your water bill? Look out for a few common culprits, including exterior hose bibs, faucets and toilets. If you suspect that your toilet may be to blame, simply place food coloring in the tank of the toilet and do not flush. Check back in a few hours, and if the food coloring has entered the bowl, more than likely the flap valve in the tank has gone bad. If you are handy around the house, the flap can be changed easily – if not, a handy man or neighbor may be able to assist you.

Spring Leaf Collection

Due to spring's early arrival, leaf collection has already begun! Please have all leaves placed to the curb before **Friday, April 17th**. Leaves that are gathered after this date will need to be bagged and left for Waste Management until the fall collection time. Please observe the following rules:

1. If at all possible, place leaves along the street line or in the curb lawn, and **NOT** on the pavement.
2. Do not mix brush, shrubbery clippings, grass, root balls, clumps of dirt or foreign objects with the leaves since this could cause a serious injury to our Public Works employees and will **clog** or **damage** the leaf collection machine, slowing down the entire operation. Grass and shrubbery clippings are to be bagged for weekly garbage collection. Leaves that are mixed with brush/grass will not be collected.
3. As a reminder, brush collection occurs weekly on Mondays and Fridays.



Recent Updates to Edgeworth's Zoning Ordinance

Southwestern Pennsylvania has seen a recent increase in gas and oil resource development throughout the area. Many municipalities have addressed their local laws regulating this industry in order to protect residents and natural resources. After receiving feedback from concerned residents, Borough Council recently updated the Borough's zoning ordinance relating to gas resources development in Edgeworth. The updates include requiring applicants to produce detailed environmental impact studies, increasing property setbacks, and increasing insurance and bonding requirements. Protecting our community's natural resources and charming nature is of the utmost importance to Edgeworth's Council and administration. During the review process, Borough Council determined that and the Borough retains the gas and oil rights to all Borough-owned land. Further discussion regarding changes to the gas resources development ordinance is ongoing.

A Spotlight on Cochran Hose Company

Since its organization in 1876, the volunteers at Cochran Hose Company have been providing high quality fire protection and emergency response to communities in the Quaker Valley. Throughout 2019, volunteers responded to 715 fire and medical service calls, while also undergoing extensive training to ensure they are prepared for any situation that may arise. In addition to the protection they provide to the community, Cochran Hose Co. members work diligently to educate and engage students and the public around fire prevention, basic first aid, and safety tips. Each year, they hold a Toys for Tots Drive, Santa at the Station day, and numerous community outreach events. Volunteer firefighters serving with Cochran Hose Co. are passionate about helping their community. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, and are between the ages of 14 and 70, please visit cochranhose.org for more information about how to join.



Upcoming Infrastructure Projects

During the summer months, contractors will be working on Oliver Road to separate the storm sewer system running beneath the street. This project will help to mitigate basement flooding for residents on Oliver Road, as well as to update existing infrastructure. Affected residents will be notified and provided with further detail in the coming weeks. Additionally, paving crews will be remilling and paving sections of Academy Avenue that were deemed insufficient in the fall. Look out for these improvements to the Borough throughout the year!

Have You Heard About 5G Small Cell Towers?

You may have recently noticed small coffee-can shaped towers placed on telephone poles in the Quaker Village Shopping Center, in Sewickley, and near Edgeworth Elementary. These small towers are being installed to support 5G cellular technology across the nation. Currently, Pennsylvania courts have determined that companies implementing 5G technology fall under the definition of a public utility. A public utility designation severely limits the control that municipalities across the state can exercise regarding the placement of the small cell towers. Edgeworth Borough has a zoning ordinance that regulates installing small cell towers on private property, however the provisions of that ordinance do not apply to public rights-of-way. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court will issue a decision in the coming months to determine whether or not small cell towers in public rights-of-way are public utilities. Presently, there are no additionally planned installations of small cell towers in Edgeworth.

The Benefits of Residential Rain Gardens



Looking for a way to help protect Edgeworth's beautiful natural resources? Consider planting a rain garden! Rain gardens are planted in bowl-shaped or dipped areas in a yard, and help to absorb rain water and runoff that would otherwise end up in the Ohio River or Little Sewickley Creek. The deep rooted, native plants placed in rain gardens also work as a natural filter for pesticides, fertilizers, and other harmful

pollutants that would otherwise drain into our streams. When properly installed, water is directed to the rain garden via stone swales or underground pipe, and then absorbed back into the ground within twenty-four hours. Rain gardens can absorb approximately 30% more runoff compared to an average lawn, and act as a great way to reduce polluted stormwater and preserve our beloved creeks.

Take a Walk in the Park!

As warm weather approaches and days turn longer, the spring season is a great time to take advantage of outdoor opportunities. Studies from Harvard Health show that spending time outside elevates happiness, increases physical activity, and improves mental health. Allegheny County offers numerous activities at North Park and Settler's Cabin Park, including educational classes, fitness sessions, and volunteer opportunities. We also encourage all residents to enjoy Edgeworth's three beautiful parks: Way, Morrow-Pontefract, and Walker, throughout the year. For more information about Allegheny County parks, visit livewellallegheny.com.



HAPPY SPRING!

Recommendations from the CDC: Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

STAY INFORMED!! FOLLOW THE CURRENT GUIDELINES FROM COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS

What steps can my family take to reduce our risk of getting COVID-19?

Practice everyday preventive actions to help reduce your risk of getting sick and remind everyone in your home to do the same. These actions are especially important for older adults and people who have severe chronic medical conditions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles).

What should I do if someone in my house gets sick with COVID-19?

Most people who get COVID-19 will be able to recover at home. [CDC has directions](#) for people who are recovering at home and their caregivers, including:

- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. In adults, emergency warning signs*:
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion or inability to arouse
 - Bluish lips or face
 - *This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning.
- Use a separate room and bathroom for sick household members (if possible).
- Clean hands regularly by handwashing with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Provide your sick household member with clean disposable facemasks to wear at home, if available, to help prevent spreading COVID-19 to others.
- [Clean the sick room and bathroom](#), as needed, to avoid unnecessary contact with the sick person.

Proud to Serve the Borough of Edgeworth

All Volunteer Since 1876

Anybody that lives in the Quaker Valley area has heard the loud sound of the Cochran Hose Company (Sewickley Volunteer Fire Department) fire horn, alerting firefighters and residents alike that the fire trucks will soon be rolling through town. But did you know that each and every time you hear that horn, 35 of your neighbors are *voluntarily* receiving the call to respond to an emergency? They are leaving behind their jobs and families, giving up their own time for the safety of the community. And every one of them will tell you that 2019 was quite a year! Last year we were dispatched to 715 total calls, making it our busiest year to date and crushing 2018's previous record of 444 dispatched calls. The majority of our calls are in our coverage area of Sewickley, Edgeworth, Glen Osborne, and Haysville, although we often respond to surrounding communities to provide mutual aid.

The Cochran Hose Company was founded in 1876 when Sewickley resident George W. Cochran raised concerns about the lack of fire protection in the borough. Our early days consisted of hand drawn hose and chemical carts, and then later, horse drawn carriages. We have come a long way since our beginning. We now serve our community with two engines, one aerial truck (105 ft. ladder), one rescue truck, and one squad. We are certified in basic vehicle rescue and are licensed by the PA Department of Health as a Quick Response Service (QRS). We are also proud to say that 75% of our active firefighters have received the nationally recognized certification of Firefighter I. We have so many exciting things happening in 2020 and we want to take this opportunity to share them with you, the residents we so proudly serve.

New Squad Purchased for QRS Program

Our QRS program exists to allow our medically trained personnel to respond to medical emergencies with Valley Ambulance and assist with live-saving care. We have been able to provide this service by responding in our Squad, which has all necessary equipment for basic life support. Our old Squad was ten years old with increased mileage and expected wear and tear. It had become very apparent to our membership that we would be able to better serve our community with a newer model. Therefore, we are now the proud owners of a 2020 Chevy Tahoe. This new vehicle will be outfitted with the appropriate sirens and radio systems. To improve on our old Squad, it will also contain an organizational cabinet for our medical supplies and very basic firefighting equipment for an officer "on duty".

28 New SCBAS in Service

Out of all of the tools that our firefighters use, one of the most important is the self-contained breathing apparatuses (SBCAs). These air packs that we wear on our back contain roughly 45 minutes of breathing air to help us safely enter a burning structure or other hazardous environment. As our old models were approaching the end of their lifespan, we made the decision to invest over \$200,000 in 28 brand new MSA G1 SCBAs. These units arrived to our station in February and we could not have been more excited! Out of these 28 air packs, 15 of them contain a handheld thermal-imaging camera (TIC). This powerful tool can be used to do everything from locating fire behind a wall to finding a victim in smoke-filled room- and so much more. Our firefighters love how comfortable both the air packs and the face pieces are to wear, as well as how user friendly these models are. However, one of the best things about the MSA G1s is that most all of our mutual aid departments have them too. Working together in emergency situations will now be much easier.

Training Update

We would not be the strong team that we are today without frequent training. The second and fourth Mondays of each month are our drill nights. February and March were dedicated to making our members proficient and comfortable using our new SCBAs. Each member was required to complete a list of competencies before being approved to use the new air packs. Our trainings always involve refining our firefighting skills and drilling for any possible scenario. In our field, there is no room for anything but perfection. We are also looking forward to taking classes together as a group this year including Pump Operations I and II, Aerial Operations, and a Structural Burn Session.

It's All About Community Outreach

At Cochran Hose, we know that we are so lucky to be a part of such a special community and we enjoy engaging with the public as much as possible. In 2019, our members dedicated 360 total hours to community outreach and fire prevention education. One of our ways of doing this is through our pre-school and elementary school tour program. Each tour begins with a fire safety discussion and having firefighter dress in full bunker gear with an air pack. Then we move on to every kid's favorite part- going inside the fire trucks! To end things, we send each of our young visitors home with a special gift from the firefighters. Over 300 kids participated in our tour program last year through local pre-schools, scout troops, and other community organizations. Of course, our tours are only one of the many ways we stay involved with the local community.

- During the Sewickley Harvest Festival in September, we host our annual open house and invite the public to see our station, our trucks, and learn about fire safety!
- October is fire prevention month. Our members join with firefighters throughout the QV area to visit all the schools in the district. We host fire drills at each school and have firefighters visit each elementary school classroom.
- We begin our annual Toys for Tots drive in October. Multiple businesses in Sewickley participate as drop off locations. Our trucks can always be found at Light Up Night for additional toy drop offs.
- Our free 'Santa at the Station' event in December has now been going on for 10 years! So many local families have made the afternoon full of crafts, cookies, fire-truck rides, and Santa an annual tradition.

Volunteers Needed

PA had about 300,000 volunteer firefighters in the 1970's. Today, we are down to about 38,000. We are always accepting new members to join our team! We encourage anyone that's interested to stop by our station any Monday evening at 7pm or email us at recruiting@cochranhose.org.

Contact Us

Find us on Facebook! **Cochran Hose Company- Sewickley Fire Department**

Visit us at www.cochranhose.org