

BOROUGH OF EDGEWORTH

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Summer 2020 ☀️

Dear Residents,

Summer has arrived! Here are some informative articles to keep in mind as we enjoy sunny days. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and check the website to stay up to date on everything happening in our town. As always, feel free to contact the Borough Office with any questions.

Recycling Reminders



The Recycling Center on Chestnut Road is home to a glass collection bin and three large recycling bins that are available for Edgeworth residents to recycle paper, tin and aluminum cans, cardboard and plastic items. The Recycling Center is a service provided to residents in addition to curbside recycling. However, in recent months the bins have been littered with plastic bags, rubber tires, used sporting equipment, styrofoam, and many other types of garbage. When enough contaminants, or garbage, is found in a recycling bin, the entire collection is deemed unrecyclable and sent to a landfill. While we may wish that everything we dispose of is recyclable, placing trash in recycling containers actually

does more harm than good. Due to increasingly high levels of contamination, the Borough is analyzing ways to ensure recycling is efficient and effective throughout Edgeworth for years to come. Our summer intern, Emily, will be monitoring the effectiveness of the Recycling Center this summer, while surveying residents about their recycling habits and tracking the types of material that are being placed into the bins. If you see her please say hello and share your insight on recycling!

Meet Emily Schnarre!

Emily Schnarre will be spending the summer with Edgeworth as a sustainability intern. She is originally from Cranberry Township, and is currently pursuing her Masters of Geography at the University of Alabama. She will be working on improving Edgeworth Borough's sustainability initiatives using the guidelines set forth by the Sustainable Pennsylvania Certification. Emily will also be gathering survey data and developing recommendations regarding the Recycling Center, in hopes to alleviate contamination and improve recycling quality. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, watching Alabama football, and playing with her dog, Levi. She is very excited for this summer opportunity! Be sure to say hello to Emily as you see her around the Borough.

Building and Zoning Permits: When Are They Required?

Renovation season has arrived! Many residents take advantage of the summer season to begin renovation or construction projects around their property. Most projects require a zoning or building permit to be issued prior to work commencing. Zoning permits are required for projects including installing or replacing fencing, driveways, decks, patios, sheds, and retaining walls. Simply repairing sections of these items may not typically require a permit, however we recommend calling the Borough office to discuss the specifics of your project. Building permits are required for projects including any structural changes or updates on your property, increasing or changing the footprint of a structure, electrical or plumbing modifications, and any new construction. Aesthetic updates do not typically require a permit. Keep this list in mind when considering your future renovations, and call the Borough office if you are unsure whether or not your project requires a permit!



Replacing the Holiday Tree

The beloved pine tree in Way Park, strung with lights for the holidays each winter, has unfortunately been experiencing a disease called needle cast, and is dying. The Borough Arborist has recommended that due to the failing condition of the tree, and the high maintenance cost incurred each year, the tree should be removed. The Shade Tree Commission recently determined that a smaller, healthy pine tree also located in the park should become the replacement holiday tree, and authorized the removal of the dying pine. The removal will take place in the coming months, and a new tree will be planted in its place.



Keeping Sidewalks Clear



Keep pedestrian safety in mind when landscaping and gardening this summer. Borough ordinances require that all sidewalks remain free and clear of obstructions for the width of the sidewalk area, and up to seven feet high, in order to allow two pedestrians to utilize the sidewalk at one time. Obstructions include but are not limited to shrubs, bushes, flowers, tree branches, and other plants. Residents must cut back

or tie any branches, leaves or plants that encroach onto the sidewalk and limit pedestrian use. Keeping sidewalks clear in front of your property ensures that residents and visitors can safely enjoy our community's beautiful scenery.

Infrastructure Updates

Look out for infrastructure projects that will take place throughout the Borough this summer! A portion of the Oliver Road combined sewer system will be reconstructed into separate storm and sanitary lines. The road will be repaved upon completion of the project. Additionally, the brick wall bordering the Borough building along Chestnut Road will be repaired. When the projects commence, please be aware of increased traffic and any construction staff in these areas.

The Importance of Reducing Stress

The sun is out, the weather is finally warming up, and now is the perfect time to relax and de-stress. Mental Health America lists signs of stress as constant worrying, feeling overwhelmed, the inability to relax or concentrate, and moodiness. Live Well Allegheny and the Allegheny County Health Department recommend reducing stress levels by taking time to reflect on the positive experiences you had throughout the day, being active for 30 to 60 minutes a day, expressing your feelings, and eating healthy foods. Spending time outside can be very beneficial to mental health and we encourage our residents to enjoy our beautiful parks, miles of sidewalks, and beautiful street trees. For more information about managing stress and living well, visit livewellallegheny.com

Messages from the Edgeworth Police Department

The Edgeworth Police would like to remind all residents of a few summer safety measures. As always, do not hesitate to call us at 412-741-9400.

- We strongly encourage all residents who are walking throughout the Borough to utilize sidewalks instead of walking in the street. This will ensure that pedestrians receive proper clearance from vehicles, and that motorists are not forced to make sudden stops or swerve into oncoming traffic. Please enjoy walking our beautiful streets safely and responsibly!
- All bicyclists must obey all traffic laws, including stop signs and yield signs, and motorists must provide at least four feet of distance at a safe speed when passing a bicycle.
- State law requires anyone under the age of twelve to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Please ensure your children are wearing helmets!



In addition, please be mindful of water safety while swimming this summer. Little Sewickley Creek and the Ohio River can have unpredictable and dangerous river currents. Please don't venture into the water if you are unaware of its depth. Finally, monitor children while swimming in rivers or backyard pools at all times. Keep safety in mind, and enjoy the warm weather!

Vacancies on Boards and Commissions

The Borough of Edgeworth is looking for residents who want to become involved in their local government and serve the community that they call home. There are currently vacancies on the Leetsdale Municipal Authority, and the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Board of Appeals. The Leetsdale Municipal Authority is a joint sewer authority governed by Edgeworth and Leetsdale boroughs, and meets monthly. The UCC Board of Appeals meets as needed, and a resident filling the vacancy must be a registered architect, engineer, or have relevant construction experience. Interested residents can inquire by contacting the Borough office at 412-741-2866, or by email at office@edgeworthborough.org.

Stormwater Violations: What To Do If You See Them Happen

Protecting our waterways from harmful chemicals, debris, and other material is more important than ever. Residents and contractors who follow guidance for limiting stormwater runoff and practice good housekeeping techniques are helping to keep Little Sewickley Creek and the Ohio River healthy and sustainable. However, sometimes illicit discharges into catch basins do occur. If you see someone dumping or sweeping materials into a catch basin, whether intentional or not, follow these steps:

- Make a note of where and when the discharge occurred, as well as the type of substance
- Contact the Edgeworth Police Department at 412-741-9400, or the Borough Office at 412-741-2866, to report your observations.
- Provide the officer or Borough employee with as much information about the discharge as possible.
- Continue to follow landscaping guidance and other tips to ensure rainwater is the only substance flowing into catch basins!



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Edgeworth Borough Green Phase Operations

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Edgeworth Borough implemented numerous measures to keep employees, residents, and the general public safe and healthy. As restrictions begin to lift at the state and county level, the Borough will take a strategic approach to resume full operations. As the situation remains fluid, with changing guidance being issued on a weekly and monthly basis, we will continue to follow the Department of Health and CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of employees and residents alike.

Borough Building and Administrative Offices

After being closed for over two months, beginning June 8th, the Borough Building will open again to the public. We still encourage residents and contractors to make an appointment prior to arriving if possible, or to communicate via email or telephone. Please limit your in-person interaction, and be mindful of six feet of space between yourself and others. All staff and members of the public are advised to stay home if they have a temperature, feel sick, or exhibit symptoms of Covid-19. Frequently touched areas will be sanitized often. Visitors must use hand sanitizer prior to meeting with Borough employees.

Public Meetings

Public meetings, including Borough Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and other meetings will resume in person beginning June 8th. The provisions of Act 15 of 2020 are still in effect at this time, and we will allow members of Council and Committees to participate remotely if they feel more comfortable doing so. Members of the public can submit questions through email prior to the meeting if they do not wish to attend in person, and the meetings will still be live streamed on Zoom through the end of June. Wash or sanitize your hands prior to coming to the meeting. When attending meetings social distancing will be required, and members of the public will be admitted on a first come first served basis. If the Council Chambers becomes too crowded for social distancing to be practical, members of the public may need to participate in the meeting on Zoom. All staff and members of the public are advised to stay home if they have a temperature, feel sick, or exhibit symptoms of Covid-19. Frequently touched areas will be sanitized often. Visitors must use hand sanitizer prior to entering the meeting.

Walker Park Restrooms

The restrooms in Walker Park have been unlocked for public use. These restrooms are for individual use, and are sanitized on a periodic basis. Be mindful of common touch points (door handles etc.) and use appropriate PPE. Please wash or sanitize your hands before and after use of the restrooms. All members of the public are advised to stay home if they have a temperature, feel sick, or exhibit symptoms of Covid-19.

Walker Park Shelter Rentals

The shelters in Walker Park will resume rentals beginning on June 8th. Practice sensible social distancing while using the shelters. Wash your hands often, and bring hand sanitizer when available. Be mindful of the six feet of space between yourself and others. Due to the size of the shelters and depending on current guidelines from the state and CDC, the number of guests per shelter may be limited. Shelters will be sanitized on a periodic basis; however, we cannot guarantee that someone has not used the shelter prior to your arrival. Please continue to use proper protective measures when using the shelters. All members of the public are advised to stay home if they have a temperature, feel sick, or exhibit symptoms of Covid-19.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at the Borough office. We continue to hold the safety of the staff and public in the highest regard and will monitor and update our policies and procedures as needed.

Thank you, and take care!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Schwend', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Schwend
Borough Manager