

# BOROUGH OF EDGEWORTH

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Spring 2021

Dear Residents,

Spring has arrived! Here are some helpful reminders that you may find useful as we head into beautiful weather. Remember to check in with the Edgeworth Borough Facebook page and website to keep up with events and announcements. As always, feel free to contact the Borough Office with any questions.

## 2021 Primary Elections



Pennsylvania's Primary Elections will occur on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 for local and county 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](http://votespa.com).

## Edgeworth Borough Designated a Banner Community!

For the fourth consecutive year, Edgeworth Borough has been designated a Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities! This honor is given to communities throughout Allegheny County in order to recognize communities that actively demonstrate a commitment to professional development, financial management, transparency, accountability, and proactive communications for all residents and community members. Edgeworth is proud to receive this recognition!

## Local Government Week

Celebrate Local Government Week with us in April! Celebrated by municipalities across Pennsylvania, 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, look out for highlights on our Facebook page and website from April 12-16.

## Spring Leaf Collection

Spring leaf collection is underway! Please have all leaves placed to the curb before Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Leaves that are gathered after this date must be bagged and left for Waste Management until the fall collection. 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

In order to ensure that the best interests of residents and the community are being met, Borough Council has spent the last several months reviewing and proposing changes to two sections of the Borough's zoning ordinance, relating to gas resources development and small cell tower regulations. Recently, Southwestern Pennsylvania communities have experienced increased activity in both industries, and municipalities, including Edgeworth, are updating ordinances to ensure compliance. Discussions have included concerned residents, industry experts, and legal input to make sure all viewpoints were taken into consideration. Borough Council has worked to ensure that all proposed changes meet legal specifications, while keeping the safety, nature and charm of the community as top priority. The proposed ordinance revisions will be going through the adoption process in the coming months. For further updates, please refer to the website.





## 2021 Infrastructure Updates



Spring and summer will be a busy time for infrastructure updates in Edgeworth! Multiple sections of road throughout the Borough will be repaved during the summer months, including parts of Beaver Road, Maple Lane, Sycamore Road, and Spruce Lane. Additionally, Borough contractors will work to repair and stabilize streambank erosion along Creek Drive and in Walker Park. Be sure to watch out for these updates throughout the season!

### **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.

### **Building and Zoning Permits: When Are They Required?**

Many residents take advantage of the Spring season to begin planning renovation or construction projects around their property. It's important to remember that most projects require a zoning or building permit to be issued **prior to** work commencing. Zoning permits are required for projects such as 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 in advance. 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, such as painting or cabinet replacements, do not typically require a permit. Keep this list in mind when considering your future renovations, and call the Borough office with any questions you may have regarding the permitting process!

## Healthy Habits are Easy to Implement!

It's possible to get overwhelmed by all of the recommendations related to healthy eating, exercise, and stress management, but implementing a healthy lifestyle for your family is simpler than it may seem! Let's Move Pittsburgh is a family health collaborative that promotes easy-to-remember messaging about making healthy choices. Just remember 5-2-1-0! Aim for these goals every day: five or more servings of fruits and vegetables, two hours or less of recreational screen time, one hour or more of physical activity, and zero sugary drinks. Following this formula will increase overall health! For more information, visit [livewellallegHENY.com](http://livewellallegHENY.com).



## Shade Tree Maintenance

Shade trees are a valuable and treasured aspect of our community. Proper care is essential in order to keep trees healthy for current residents and future generations! Shade trees are located in the curb lawn, typically found between the sidewalk and pavement. After biannual analysis by the Borough Arborist, contracted crews prune, maintain, and preventatively treat shade trees across Edgeworth. Dead, dying, and diseased trees are removed after careful consideration, and a replacement tree is planted to ensure longevity and desirable streetscapes. If you have a concern related to a shade tree on your property, please notify the Borough office. Additionally, as a Tree City USA community, Arbor Day is recognized yearly in Edgeworth! Look out for updates on our website and Facebook page related to celebrating trees on Arbor Day, celebrated in Pennsylvania on April 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Keep Your Yard Stormwater Friendly!

For many residents, springtime brings about plans for landscaping and lawncare. In addition to aesthetic elements, properly maintaining your lawn helps to protect local waterways by slowing down and absorbing water runoff. As you prepare your property for warmer weather, follow these tips to help keep our waterways safe from harmful runoff!

- Avoid setting your lawn mower height below three inches. Deeper root systems absorb runoff from storm events more efficiently, and help to preserve moisture in during dry spells. A greener lawn throughout the summer is an added benefit!
- Consider using a mulching lawn mower. The mulched grass clippings provide extra nutrients to your lawn, and the mowers help to limit the number of clippings and other debris flowing into catch basins.
- Apply fertilizers sparingly, if at all. Additional fertilizers are typically not necessary on lawns with naturally thick cover. If your property does require fertilizer, consider using natural options, such as compost. Monitoring your lawn and reducing the rate of fertilizers used will reduce the risk of harmful chemicals caught up in runoff.
- Look into the benefits of rain barrels! When connected to downspouts, these barrels capture water that would otherwise wash into catch basins. The collected water can be used for hydrating gardens and lawns. For more information about installing and using rain barrels, check out [prc.org](http://prc.org).

