

# BOROUGH OF EDGEWORTH

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**Winter 2021**

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Dear Residents,

As we settle in for the winter months, Edgeworth Borough would like to wish all residents and their families a delightful holiday season. Please keep in mind the following items as you prepare for colder days ahead. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact the Borough Office.

### **Property Tax Rate to Remain at 4.15 Mills**

For the nineteenth consecutive year, the tax rate for 2022 will remain constant at 4.15 mills (\$4.15 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation). Edgeworth Borough Council will set the property tax millage rate and adopt the 2022 budget during their regular monthly meeting at 7:00 pm on December 21st. In addition, a public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for 6:45 pm on December 21st. A copy of the proposed budget is available for review in the Borough Office during regular business hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on weekdays.

### **Holiday Garbage Collection**

There will be **no delay** in garbage collection for the weeks of Christmas and New Year's. Please keep in mind that garbage may not be placed at the curb for collection more than twenty-four hours in advance. Due to the large amount of waste generated during the holiday season, it often takes longer to complete collection of the entire Borough, particularly the week after Christmas. If your garbage is not collected by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, please contact the Borough office on Thursday morning. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience.

### **Sidewalk Repair Program: Thank You!**

The bi-annual sidewalk repair program is wrapping up for the year! We'd like to extend our gratitude to all residents who cooperated with sidewalk repair notices throughout the summer and fall. Many residents utilized the grinding option provided by the Borough's contractor, which eliminated tripping hazards while keeping otherwise safe sidewalk slabs intact. The willingness to replace or grind sidewalk slabs in order to reduce tripping hazards and eliminate unsafe conditions helps to keep Edgeworth an enjoyable, walkable community for all.



## Edgeworth Employees Holiday Fund

In recognition of the efforts of our Borough employees (police, public works and office staff) throughout the year, Mayor Gary Smith would like to ask any residents wishing to contribute to the *Edgeworth Employees Holiday Fund* to either mail their checks to the Edgeworth Borough Building, 301 Beaver Road, Edgeworth, PA 15143, or drop them off at your convenience. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

## Leaf Collection

We ask that all residents have their yards raked and have leaves ready for curbside pick-up in order for the leaf truck to make its final pass along each street beginning the week of December 13th - weather permitting. Remember to separate leaves from branches and brush – they are collected with two different machines. The Borough will again collect leaves in bulk during the spring for a two-week period beginning in April 2022. In between these times, leaves can be bagged and placed at the curb for Waste Management's regular pick-up on Wednesdays.

## Sustainable Holiday Tips and Tricks

The holiday season brings joy to many, but always results in an abundance of waste generated from shipping, packaging, and materials that are unable to be recycled. According to Stanford University, Americans produce 25% more waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's than any other time of the year, roughly one million extra tons of garbage per week! In order to combat extra waste generation, consider giving experience gifts rather than physical items wrapped in packaging. Experiences could include concert or sports tickets, restaurant gift cards, memberships



to local gyms or museums, or other outings. Handmade gifts are also a great way to give loved ones something unique. Additionally, keep recyclable material in mind when wrapping presents. Plastic ribbon, wrapping paper, and tissue paper are not recyclable! Brown paper, reusable bows, or upcycled fabric wrappings can be just as pretty, yet far better for the environment. Be sure to check whether items are truly recyclable before disposing of them in your recycling can or at the Edgeworth Recycling Center, as to not contaminate otherwise good material. Finally, consider energy usage when decorating for the holidays. Remember to turn off holiday light displays when retiring for the evening, utilize LED bulbs, and make your own natural décor, such as popcorn or cranberry strings, pine bows, or holly! Help us to keep our community sustainable for generations to come, during the holidays and throughout the year.



## Caring for Newly Planted Trees



Each Fall and Spring season, new shade trees are planted by the Borough in carefully selected locations. Shade trees provide numerous benefits to our community, including cleaner air, increased shade, increased property values. Properly caring for newly planted trees is crucial to their long-term viability and health, and helps to ensure that those benefits will continue for generations to come. If you have a recently-planted tree in front of your property, please follow these tips to help young trees thrive!

- Keep trees appropriately watered. If a Gatorbag is attached to the trunk, check the water level every two to three days to gauge how often it should be filled. If no Gatorbag is attached, be sure to keep the area around the tree moist but not water-logged. Trees should be watered thoroughly at least once per week.
- Avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides for your lawn around the new tree.
- Mulch rings around the base of the tree should be maintained. Mulching aids in maintaining a uniform soil temperature, providing key nutrients required for growth, and improving soil structure. Be careful not to build mulch up around the base of the trunk!
- Avoid using weed eaters too close to the trunk. Weed eaters can cause severe damage to the trunk, and potentially kill young trees.

## A Holiday Message from the Police

The Edgeworth Police Department would like to remind all residents to remain vigilant of identity theft risks during the holiday season. When completing any transactions online, be sure that you are using a secure website. Always err on the side of caution when answering phone calls, emails, or text messages asking for financial or personal information. If you do notice fraudulent activity on your bank accounts, be sure to contact your financial institution immediately, and come to the Police Department to file a report. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the Police Department with any concerns you may have. Happy holidays!

## Proper Winter Salting Techniques

Winters in Pittsburgh are known for snow accumulations, but did you know that excess build up of salt and other deicers can negatively impact our waterways? To help reduce that risk, be sure to shovel walkways before applying deicers moderately and evenly. Spreading larger amounts of salt will not equate to faster melting. Remember to sweep excess salt from pavement into your yard once ice buildups have melted. This helps to keep salt from washing into catch basins, and working its way into the Ohio River. Finally, keep an eye on the temperature! Salt does not effectively work under 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Other traction agents, such as kitty litter or sand, are effective options during freezing temperatures.

*Edgeworth Borough Wishes Everyone a Happy Holiday Season!*

