

ShrewsBury Borough

NEWSLETTER

July, August and September, 2019

HOLIDAY DELAY TRASH COLLECTION

The Friday, July 5 trash collection will be on Saturday due to the holiday. The week of Labor Day, collection will be delayed both days the week of September 1 (will be collected on Wednesday and Saturday).



TRASH COLLECTION REMINDERS

You are allowed to place four (4) bags or containers (32 gallon) no heavier than 50 pounds out each collection day and must be out by 6:00 a.m. Cardboard boxes placed out for Friday recycling collection must be **flattened and bundled**.

COMMUNITY BENCHES

The benches at the main square (Forrest Avenue and Main Street) deteriorated beyond repair. We are requesting donations to replace the benches. The benches are a great asset to downtown Shrewsbury. Each bench would cost between \$750.00 to \$1,000.00. Benches can be plated or engraved to memorialize or honor any group or individual. Please contact us for information.

From Mayor Sharkey

As I write this, tomorrow, May 31st, is commencement at Susquehannock High School and a great time to reflect on the contributions of our community's youth. I had the privilege to recognize one Girl Scout Gold Award recipient and six Eagle Scouts in the past few months. Tomorrow's commencement ceremony will include five of these outstanding young people. It is wonderful to see how their scouting projects benefit the community at large and it's inspiring to see our future generations developing solutions and sharing them with us.

Last month, our Council called an emergency meeting to address concerns from citizens related to water and sewer line installation for a development project in Shrewsbury Township adjacent to the Borough. It was a great example of how our local elected government is responsive to our citizens.

We celebrated Memorial Day a few days ago. For some, the holiday signals the beginning of summer, but I hope we regard it as a somber occasion to remember the many sacrifices our veterans make, especially those who deployed to fight and didn't return. In a few weeks, we'll celebrate Independence Day and I'd like to remind everyone who uses fireworks to do so legally and safely and to be respectful of your neighbors and keep Shrewsbury Borough a great place to live.

Michael G. Sharkey, Mayor

A Few Words from Richard Buchanan, Council President

SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEE

Many residents called the office inquiring about the abbreviation of **S CAP IMP** on the Quarterly billing statement. This stands for Sewer Capital Improvements and this additional, on-going fee is how we are going to pay for the major improvements at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This first project is to replace the belt filter press that was installed when the plant was built in 1972. Our share of this project is \$1.7 million. The loan will be for a period of four years, but even when that loan is paid off there will be further work required. We anticipate having to obtain a second loan when the first loan is paid off. These funds are being tracked separately, so we can assure you that the money is going only to this necessary work.

Shrewsbury Borough
35 West Railroad Avenue
Shrewsbury, PA 17361
(717) 235-4371
www.shrewsburyborough.org
Email@ShrewsburyBorough.org

PUBLIC WORKS



Water Main Replacement Project

Bids will be received on June 11th for the water main and water service replacement project on Woodland Drive (addresses 1 to 33) and Essex Circle Drive. The new plastic water mains and services' lifespan is 50 to 100 years. The project will improve water quality and reliability. The residents affected by the project will be notified prior to start.

Water Meter Replacement

The Public Works Department is replacing water meters. The current positive displacement water meters are over 25 years old. The new magnetic meters require less maintenance, detect water leaks, log readings, lower energy and increase efficiency. The 2019 water meter program includes East Clearview Drive, Raypaula Drive, Skyview Drive, Westview Drive, Circle Drive, Brook Meadow Circle, Clear Run Drive, McCleary Court, Woodlake Court, and Northbrook Lane. Appointments are from 7AM to 3PM. We will never show up at your house unannounced. Do not let anyone in your house without proper identification and a scheduled appointment. **The new water meter is no cost to our customers so please schedule an appointment by calling 717-235-1427!**

Water Leaks

The Public Works Department responded to 18 water service leaks during the last year. Most water leaks are not visible. Please be aware of the following signals that identify a water leak.

- Lower than normal water pressure
- Dirty water
- Hissing or rumbling at water meter
- Wet area in your yard at all times and not just after rain events

- During the dry and hot season there is one area in your yard that remains green and grows quickly

If you have any questions about your water service or water pressure please contact us for a free visit.

Practice Water Conservation

Water conservation is an excellent practice to reduce your water and sewer bill and protect Shrewsbury's most precious resource. Water and sewer are billed based on water usage and water meter readings.

Water Conservation Tips:

- Check water meter periodically to make sure there are not any leaks in your house. Some leaks (toilets) may not be heard and must be checked via the meter. The Public Works Department can teach you to read the meter and analyze readings.
- Do not use the toilet as a garbage can. Five to seven gallons of water are used with every flush.
- Use dishwasher and washing machine when you have a full load. Will save 5 to 15 gallons per wash.
- Keep a container of drinking water in refrigerator instead of allowing water to run to cool for drinking.
- Turn water off when brushing teeth.
- Limit your shower to less than five minutes. Conservation can potentially save 1,000 gallons of water per month.
- Showers (10-25 gallons) use less water than baths (70 gallons).
- Water plants during coolest parts of the day (morning or evening) to avoid evaporation.
- Cover the swimming pool to eliminate evaporation.
- Mulch outdoor plants to help with soil moisture.
- Purchase and install a rain barrel for watering to capture rainwater.
- Use a broom instead of water to clean your driveway, porch, or sidewalk.
- Mow your yard to 3" height for a deeper root structure and avoid watering grass.
- Be Smart, Save Money, and Use Water Wisely!!!

A Few Words *(continued from page 1)*

SEWER IMPROVEMENT LOAN

The Borough completed an application for a sewer improvement loan with PENNVEST. The Borough does not qualify for a grant. We expect the loan to be approved, which will be at an interest rate of about 1.5 to 2%. This will dramatically save us money as compared to a conventional bank loan.

44 SOUTH MAIN STREET PROPERTY

We did receive several suggestions about what the Borough Council should do with the vacant former library building on Main Street. Some interest was shown about developing a Historical Society to use the building, but how to fund such an effort is not easily answered. This is a difficult decision to make and your ideas and suggestions are still sought. If you feel strongly about our retaining the library building, please attend a Council meeting to express your ideas and how to fund your suggestions.

SELLING ADDITIONAL SEWER CAPACITY

The legal work to develop an acceptable plan to sell off some of our reserve sewer capacity will soon be completed. If you have a business that uses more than one EDU (Equivalent Dwelling Unit), or own property that you may wish to develop later, please watch for notices of public meetings on this issue. The foresight of past Councils has proven to be valid, but we are at the point that a return from our investment in EDU capacity is needed now. Our goal is to have a fair and equitable plan to sell what is not needed - yet still retain a reasonable reserve. Those who wish to retain EDUs for future use are going to have to put their money down now.

DID YOU KNOW?

Water/Sewer customers can track water usage from the water meter inside your house. Never gauge water usage based on how much money you pay for water/sewer service. Water/sewer rates change but "consumption" is always present on your water/sewer bills. Most water leaks inside your house are toilets that do not shut off properly. You can check your toilets by placing 12 drops of food coloring in the toilet tank and check the toilet bowl an hour later. If the food color is present in the toilet bowl, your toilet is leaking. Not all toilet leaks are audible but the water meter and food coloring are excellent tools to find the leak.

JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON VACANCY

Last summer, one of this year's Susquehannock graduates attended a program called Keystone Boy's State. This is a week-long program that provides students between 11th and 12th grade an in-depth learning experience on how local and state government function. Upon his return, he proposed establishing a Junior Council Person program which was approved by Borough Council. The goal of the Junior Council Person program is to provide a youth perspective to Council and to have them involved at Council meetings. There are two Junior Council Persons, one is a graduating senior and that seat will be vacant with the new school year. We are looking for interested high school students going into their junior year to volunteer and help be the voice of youth.



A Note About Fireworks:

Pennsylvania's fireworks laws changed in late 2017 and many people believe all fireworks are legal to be used anywhere. However, the law is clear that it is prohibited to set them off within 150 feet of an occupied structure (whether or not a person is actually present). Listed below are the basic restrictions as found on the Pennsylvania State Police FAQ for fireworks:

1. They cannot be ignited or discharged on a public or private property without express permission of the property owner.
2. They cannot be discharged from or within a motor vehicle or building.
3. They cannot be discharged toward a motor vehicle or building.
4. They cannot be discharged within 150 feet of an occupied structure, whether or not a person is actually present.
5. They cannot be discharged while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.

We also passed a fireworks ordinance recently that limits the times of day fireworks are allowed to be used (not after 10:00 p.m. and not before 7:00 a.m.) and additional restrictions.

From The Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Company

FIREMENS' CARNIVAL (June 24 thru 29)

Come on out and enjoy nightly entertainment, awesome rides, and fantastic food! Bingo will be played every evening starting at 7:00. There will also be two raffles, one is a game of chance including various prizes and the other is a sportsman raffle. Stop by the stands and check it out! Here is the entertainment lineup for the week with shows starting at 7:30:

Monday – Troy Engle and the Southern Skies
Tuesday – Nashville Recording Artist Chad Reinert
Wednesday – Big Wheeley and the Whitewalls
Thursday – Tanner Mountain Band (Salute to Veterans)
Friday – Elvis with Rich and the Roadrunners
Saturday – Colt Wilbur Band

FIREWORKS!!! Start at 10:45 p.m. on Saturday night! Ride nights are Monday thru Thursday and you can visit the Fire Company's website for a \$2.00 off coupon or cut one out of the Community Courier. Parking is available at the carnival grounds but will be limited on Saturday night and you are requested to park at the Grace Fellowship Church

on East Forrest Avenue (across from Wendy's) with free shuttle service provided. Thank you for supporting your local volunteer fire company!

LIONS CLUB YARD SALE

On **Saturday, August 24**, the Shrewsbury Lions Club will be having a yard sale on the fire company's carnival grounds. Spaces are available to rent at \$20.00. Please contact Michele at lionmichele@protonmail.com or by phone at 910-477-2289 if you are interested in renting a space. The Fire Company will be serving various food items at the cookshack.

FALL FEST

Mark your calendar for the 3rd annual Fall Fest on **Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 – 3:00**. There will be over 40 vendors, pumpkin painting, and funnel cakes. The cookshack will be serving the famous pit beef and homemade soups plus other food items. There will also be rides provided by Russ Amusements. If you are a vendor interested in renting a space, please contact the Fire Company at info@shrewsburyfire.com.

LIVE-IN PROGRAM

The Fire Company offers a live-in program to qualified applicants. Please contact the station at live-in@shrewsburyfire.com for more information or to download an application. You can also call the station at 717-235-4476 to set up an appointment. You can arrange to visit and tour the station and check out the live-in bunkrooms and also meet some of the professionally trained volunteers!

The Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Company is always looking for volunteers in all capacities. Please contact the station or stop by to see how you can become a volunteer today!!

