

ATGLEN BOROUGH NEWS

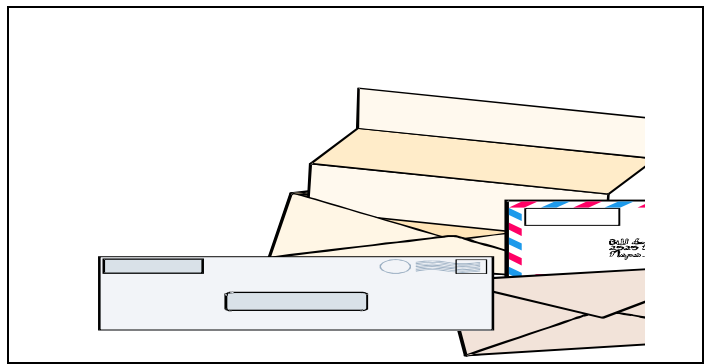
March 2010

SNOW EMERGENCIES

Without fail, every winter we receive some snow and ice storms. Some winters are more severe than others and as we all know this year has been a record year for snowfall. Regardless if it is a severe storm or not, our staff prepares to do their best to have our roads in as good a condition as possible. Our employees and the contractors we hire, spend long hours in tough conditions to make the roads as safe as possible. Please be respectful as they plow -- they are doing the best they can with available equipment and weather conditions. While we would like to snap our fingers and have the snow disappear, we cannot and we do our best under the circumstances. With any accumulation of snow, our first priority is safety and the need to clear a path to allow emergency vehicles to respond to your home. Eventually the snowplow will return to widen the roadway. The second storm was a particularly difficult storm and for the first time in many years we contracted a service provider to assist in plowing and removing snow from the streets; a total of 175 dump truck loads of snow were hauled to the "old" park. To date, total snowstorm costs have exceeded \$13,000.

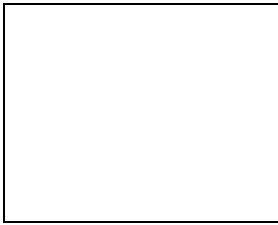
A number of unexpected obstacles prevented us from getting to a couple of streets in a timely manner but overall our efforts to plow the streets were accomplished in that they were all passable. We would like to thank you for your patience during this "out of the ordinary" snow storm and appreciate your support for any future storms.

The success of our winter maintenance program also requires cooperation from our residents. By following these guidelines during



snowstorms you can assist us in keeping the roadways open:

- Don't abandon cars on a street during a snowstorm. Obviously, any vehicle that becomes stuck or is stranded creates major difficulties. The owner is responsible for clearing out and removing the vehicle. In the future, any stranded vehicles blocking the snow removal route will be towed at the owner's expense.
- If possible, remove all parked vehicles from streets before the storm and keep them off until the streets are cleared.
- **Don't push or shovel snow into the street.** This practice creates a safety hazard and prolongs the process. Wait as long as possible to clear the area next to the road, allowing more time for the snow plows to push the snow back.
- Properly prepare your vehicle for winter driving. If you do not have confidence when driving on snow and ice, don't drive. Share the ride with someone or change your schedule so that you don't have to travel. Wait until the roads are clear before traveling.
- **When clearing your driveway, be aware that when streets are plowed and widened the snow will go into your driveway.** Clearing a wider area on the edge of the street before your driveway will allow much of the snow to leave the plow before your driveway.
- Route 372 (Lower Valley Road, Main Street and Valley Avenue), a section of Green Street, Swan and Upper Valley Roads are State Roads. We do not plow or maintain these roads. Call PennDOT at 484-340-3200 to report problems with these roads.



The 2010 Census is Coming to Your Mailbox in March!

What is the Census?

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States.

When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form. Any personal data you provide is protected under federal law.

You can get more information and view the questions online at <http://2010.census.gov/>

How does it affect you?

When we all answer the Census, our needs are heard.

The data collected by the census determines the number of seats Pennsylvania has in the U.S. House of Representatives. It also affects the number of State Senators and Representatives (and influence) that our region has in Harrisburg.

Our community also benefits from getting an accurate count of residents because Federal and State spending is influenced by the number and needs of our residents. The 2010 Census will help to determine how communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like:

- Schools
- Public Works Projects; water, sewer, bridges, etc
- Emergency services
- Hospitals
- Senior centers
- Job training centers

The recent water main replacements on East Main Street and Ridge Avenue were funded by federal grants. Plus, people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and much more.

That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Your participation isn't just important — it's mandatory!



Chester County Senior Centers Providing Free Tax Assistance to Senior Citizens.

With April 15 closer than you think, low and moderate income senior citizens can rest easier knowing that **FREE** tax preparation assistance is available at their local senior center. Now through April 14, IRS-trained volunteers are available to help low-and moderate-income individuals with special attention to those aged 60 and older to file federal, state, and local returns with the 1040 tax form and basic schedules at no cost through the AARP Tax Aide Program.

The following Chester County senior centers are AARP tax preparation centers: Phoenixville, Coatesville, Downingtown, Oxford, Kennett Square, and West Chester. Appointments are required; contact the senior center of your choice. Go to www.Atglen.org for a press release with more information or www.ChesterCountySeniors.org for a listing of all participating centers.

Oxford – 610.932.5244, Coatesville – 610.383.6900.

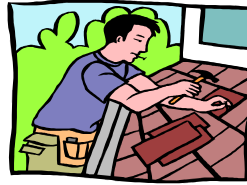
Water Public Notification (PN) Mandate

Department of Environmental Protection revised the PN requirements to provide for different delivery deadlines of notices based on the persistence of the violations and the seriousness of any potential adverse health effects that may be involved. Beginning May 10, 2010, the Borough must provide direct delivery of public notice to each service connection using one or more of the following methods: hand delivery, electronic mail, automatic telephone dialing systems, or another form of direct delivery approved in writing by DEP. The customers must be notified within 24 hours of a violation or a potential health issue. We must also issue a "Problem Corrected" notice within 24 hours of correcting the problem. Following the evaluation of options, the Borough entered into a contract with SwiftReach Networks. Swift911 is an Emergency Notification Service and is designed to notify people instantaneously, reaching multiple communication devices simultaneously.

Previously, emergency notification solutions were either too expensive, requiring significant capital investment, or too labor intensive, requiring municipal workers to make individual phone calls or go door-to-door.

SwiftReach is a relative inexpensive solution for notification. The Service broadcasts voice messages to any or all individuals within the community without requiring any capital investment. With an annual subscription fee of \$200.00 and telephone notification calls billed at 5¢/30 second increments we can meet a variety of notification needs.

Many situations exist in which a government agency would like to contact the residents of its community. The situations can vary from water emergencies, shortages and restrictions, water leaks, flooding, police emergencies and industrial situations. Should you have any questions regarding the system and mandate from the State please contact the Borough Office.



State Mandates Home Improvement Contractor Licensing

The Commonwealth passed the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act 132 of 2008.

The law establishes a mandatory registration program for contractors who offer or perform home improvements in Pennsylvania. The statute establishes minimum insurance requirements for contractors; requires contractors to provide their registration number in their ads and contracts; establishes required contract terms for home improvement contracts; prohibits unfair business practices; and creates a criminal penalty for home improvement fraud. Visit <http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/> for more details on the program. This is a State program and is not enforced by local municipalities. All home improvements in the Borough must still comply with local zoning and building codes. Please contact the Borough Office at 610-593-6854 for any questions you may have.

Welcome Back

Services will once again be held at

**Faith Community
United Methodist Church**
332 Chester Street

Please call 610.864.6464
for more information.

Borough Event

Over the last several years Atglen residents Ed and Kelly Heaton have become the "official" Borough photographers. Photographic images taken by both Ed and Kelly can be seen gracing the walls of the Borough office and meeting room. Please visit the Atglen Borough

website, www.atglen.org, to view Ed and Kelly's photographs of scenes in-and-around the Borough. A comprehensive look at Ed and Kelly's work can be found on their websites: www.edheaton.com and www.kellyheaton.com.

Ed's interest in photography began as a simple hobby and has blossomed into a rewarding experience. Ed is now a published and award-winning photographer. We are pleased to announce that Ed will be teaching a six (6) week course on Creative Close-up and Macro Photography in the Natural World*. This course will be offered in the meeting room of the Borough Hall beginning Thursday, March 4th. Please contact Ed at www.edheaton.com if you have an interest in improving your photographic skills and participating in this course.

*Students should be familiar with the functions of their camera and have some familiarity with exposure.



Reminder: **Recycling Available**

The Borough offers voluntary recycling of glass, aluminum & tin cans, #1 thru #7 plastics, paper and newspapers. There are two containers located at the Borough Garage at 125 Liberty Street.

The igloos that were used in the *past have been replaced* with one large container for all **Co-mingled Recyclables**; they include **#1 & 2 plastic bottles/jugs (with lids removed and discarded), other #1 through #7 plastics, glass jars/bottles, tin and aluminum cans.** The Borough requests that you crush your plastics and aluminum cans if possible to allow more room in the container.

Please do not put plastic bottle lids, plastic grocery bags, plastic trash bags or rigid plastic items in the container, as they are not considered recyclables. *see note below

We will continue to have a separate dumpster for paper and newspaper.

No Cardboard Please.

Recycling Note from the Chester County Solid Waste Authority

WHEN IN DOUBT – THROW IT OUT!

Chester County residents are great recyclers, but shouldn't be tempted to be too zealous putting items in the bin that do not belong and "trashing" the recyclables. Properly prepared and collected recyclables are valued commodities sold on a global market. When too many non-recyclables (trash) are mixed in with the recyclables it all becomes "trash" because it is too costly to separate and requires disposal at a landfill.

Scrap metal, pieces of wood, yard waste and children's toys are just a few of the items that "*contaminate*" the recyclables. Scrap metal may be taken to a scrap dealer, yard waste should be composted and reusable children's toys may be donated or thrown away if broken. Do not put them in the recycling bins.

Plastic bags present another problem. Recyclables should never be put in plastic bags. Plastic bags are not recyclable, they jam the source separating equipment at recycling facilities. Plastic shopping bags can be returned to your local grocery store and plastic trash bags should be used for trash only, not recyclables.

If there is no recycling symbol, throw it out.

If in doubt, throw it out!

Visit www.chestercountyswa.org for more information about recycling.

Meetings

All Meetings are held in the Borough Office located at 120 West Main Street at 7:00 p.m.

Borough Council – 1st Monday