

# The Shamrock

East Pittsburgh's Quarterly Newsletter



## Welcome Back to the Shamrock

After a three-year hiatus, East Pittsburgh proudly welcomes back The Shamrock Newsletter. The goal of the new Shamrock is to keep you, our readers and residents, informed of the happenings in the Borough. Whether its highlighting someone's success, the opening of a new business, or keeping you informed of the construction and improvements being made.

In July of this year Debra Clark volunteered to take on the duties as the new staff writer.

If you have announcements, stories, or other goings on in the Borough and would like to have something published please contact either Debra Clark at [dc.thekatsmeow@gmail.com](mailto:dc.thekatsmeow@gmail.com) or Seth Abrams at [epabrams@eastpittsburghboro.com](mailto:epabrams@eastpittsburghboro.com) to be featured in the next issue to The Shamrock.

### Important Contacts

- State Police Emergency—911
- Non Emergency/Dispatch—  
(412) 299-1607
- Borough Offices—(412) 823-7124
- Code Enforcement -  
(412) 823-5473
- Tax Collector— (412) 823-3155
- Garbage Pickup—  
(724) 379-4331
- Water— (412)243 -6200
- Electricity— (412) 393-7100  
Report Power Outages—  
(412) 393-7000
- Gas— (800) 764-0111

## Changes in Our Borough Council—

### Goodbye's and Hello's

With this month's election we are preparing to say goodbye to two council members and welcome to two new members.

Dennis Simon is retiring from Council after 30 years of service to the Borough. When reflecting on three decades of service, one might be surprised to know that his political career began with some friends who were upset because the basketball court lights were being turned off too early in the evening. Since Council would not change the time, he and a friend were encouraged to run, which they did. That was 1989. At no point did Dennis believe that he would be in public service for 30 years.

In 1994 Mr. Simon became the Council President, a position he has held for the remainder of his tenure. Other offices he has held include board member and chair of the Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority, board member of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, board member and chair of the Turtle Creek Valley COG, board member of the Allegheny County Boroughs Association including two terms as president and chair of the Allegheny League of Municipalities. With all of these accomplishments, Simon was asked to reflect on his accomplishments.

The first lesson he learned was how to count. When it comes time to vote

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Borough of East Pittsburgh

813 Linden Ave  
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112  
(412) 823-7124

Mayor: Louis Payne

Council:

Dennis Simon—President

Mary Carol Kennedy—Vice President

Paul Borkowski

Joseph Esposto

Stacey Simon

Borough Manager:

Seth Abrams

Newsletter Writer: Debra Clark

## From the Manager:

Welcome to November and the first issue of our new Shamrock Newsletter! Our goal is to have an informed and active community. The best way to accomplish this is through communications – in the near future expect to see more information about meetings, construction, and other borough happenings. You will find all of this in the pages of this and future issues of the Shamrock and on our website – [www.eastpittsburghboro.com](http://www.eastpittsburghboro.com).

By the time that you are reading this, I will have been working for you, the residents of East Pittsburgh for about 3 months. I have had the pleasure to meet a few of you at council meetings and when you visit our office. It is my hope that you will continue to give me the opportunity to get to know you so that the borough staff and I can make East Pittsburgh a place you continue to be proud to call “home”.

Regards,

Seth Abrams  
Borough Manager

## Borough Pride

The Borough has obtained funding for the following projects that are to start in the Spring of 2020.

The following streets will be paved in the early Spring of 2020, Wood Alley (Glosser to Western), Franklin Ave (Grandview to Main), Christina Alley (Grandview to Main).

The Borough also will soon be seeking bids to demolish the following vacant, condemned properties: 409 Grandview, 527 Bessemer, 530 1/2-532 Grandview and possibly up to seven more properties.



## From the Mayor's Desk:

Be on the lookout for new and needed plans for our community in the next 6 months. This starts with the re-launch of The Shamrock, which we plan to print quarterly. We have also hired Seth Abrams, who will handle all of our day-to-day operations and procedures. Seth has already made improvements to our financial operations and in other areas.

We presently have 9 houses on our demolition list, and we hope to finish 4-5 of these by the spring of 2020. Also due in the spring of 2020 is paving of Franklin St, Christina Alley and Wood Alley.

The Borough is looking at options to either remodel the community center or to build a new municipal office/community center at 506-516 Bessemer. This would give us meeting spaces and make our offices more accessible.

Other improvements in the works include a new playground.

Please, as always, I welcome your comments and concerns. You can contact me anytime at 412-824-4471. I hope you share this bright future with me.

Mayor Louis J. Payne.

The Borough has applied for grant funding to pave Grandview Avenue from Howard to Ridge and to demolish more condemned houses in 2020.

To assist in keeping our streets as well maintained as possible the Borough has invested in a new dump truck/plow and salt spreader as well as a second plow that will more easily fit down our alley ways.

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## Annual Children's Holiday Party

at the Community Center on Bessemer Street

The annual children's holiday party will include a

- magic show
- Cookie decorating
- Crafts
- Music and refreshments

**Monday, December 9th from 6:15-8:15 pm**

Santa arrives at 6:30 pm.

## New Business in town

Chontas Tang Soo Do opened on September 1, 2019 and is located just off Rt.30 in the East Pittsburgh Mall. We are a clean 1,700 square foot advanced self-defense and martial arts training facility. Our facility includes clean individual changing rooms, high impact padded flooring, hanging and movable contact bags and an advanced audio, video and security system. Chontas Tang Soo Do offers traditional Korean Martial Art which includes personal safety, self-defense, confidence, leadership skills, stranger awareness and self-control. These are just a few aspects of what you will learn training at our school. Master Chontas can be reached at:(412) 855-4695, on the web at: [www.chontastsd.com](http://www.chontastsd.com), or on Facebook: ChontasTangSooDo

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 527 RELOCATING TO EAST PITTSBURGH

East Pittsburgh would like to welcome American Legion Post 527. They have purchased the former VFW 5008 building located at 401 Draper St. East Pittsburgh, PA 15112.

Ms. Carmella Dearmon is the current Commander of the Post. Ms. Dearmon is a native of North Braddock, PA and has one adult son. She is a 1985 graduate of Turtle Creek High School and went on to join the United States Navy where she served from 1986-2006. Currently Ms. Dearmon is employed with VA Pittsburgh Health Care System as a Business Manager of the Emergency Department. Ms. Dearmon says that she is proud to be moving to East Pittsburgh and to fellowship with its Residents.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

The American Legion is looking forward to the acceptance of both Veterans and civilians. The price for annual membership(s) for civilians to become Associate Members is \$30 yearly and for Veterans to become Legionnaires is \$33.

The American Legion will be available to rent for events such as banquet's, wedding receptions, graduations and other party planning needs. Ms. Dearmon also is looking forward to bringing back "Bingo Nights" in the coming year.

There will be a motorcade on Saturday, November 23rd beginning at noon from the American Legion's current location in Rankin at 103 W Braddock Ave, Rankin, Pennsylvania 15104 and ending at their new location at 401 Draper Street, East Pittsburgh, PA 15104. This will be followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration at 1:00pm. All residents are welcome to attend, no membership required.



## Neighborhood Crime Watch

We are seeking individuals who are interested in forming and renewing the Neighborhood Crime Watch. A program such as this only succeeds if the residents of our community are willing to commit time and effort to organize and monitor their streets.

We will hold an informational meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at the Senior Center on 700 Grandview Ave, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
**WARNING**  
 THE NEIGHBORS OF THIS  
 COMMUNITY ARE ORGANIZED  
 AGAINST CRIME



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make sure that you know where your coalitions and supporters are. As a new council member, Dennis was in the minority, so he had to build relationships. His biggest accomplishments involve the community's finances. In 1996 we entered the distressed community status. In 1999 we exited as the fastest community ever to successfully move out of distressed status. He is also very proud of working to consistently improve the financial status of the Borough. Simon is leaving Council with the Borough in solid financial condition.

In wrapping up Mr. Simon would like to be remembered for his love and service to East Pittsburgh—always looking for ways to help the Borough. In his newly discovered free time he will be spending more time with his grandchildren, continue his consulting work, remain on the WPJWA board, and continue involvement in the Democratic Party.

We wish Denny the best and thank him for his service to the Borough.

Joe Esposto took the oath of office in 2011 and will end his service at the end of this year. During his time on Council he

served as the chair of the public works committee.

Joe is a North Braddock native, father of 3 and loving dedicated husband of 41 years of marriage to his wife Anita.

His career began with Pittsburgh Crank Services and has held other positions along with being an employee of our local Sunoco for 11 years. Despite all of Joe's responsibilities, he never missed one of our council meetings in the 8 years that he served- that adds up to 96 meetings, not including all the special meetings during that period.

Joe said that he learned a lot during his time, however one of the biggest lessons came during his first two months in office when he learned that laws take time to implement and results are not always visible or clear. The things that he is most proud of while serving, are that the board lowered the taxes for the residents and always having a surplus at the end of each year that he served.

We wish Joe the best and thank him for his service to the Borough.

Please Welcome Earnest Frazier and Jonathan Reyes as our two new Members of Council-elect.

## Utility Assistance

### Sewage:

ALCOSAN has committed nearly a million dollars in order to provide this vital customer assistance program for low-income individuals and families. It has contracted with Dollar Energy Fund Inc. to administer the program. Dollar Energy is a leader in this field, and it already handles similar assistance programs for other utilities.

Dozens of social service agencies that work with Dollar Energy throughout the region are now accepting applications.

The fund will provide a \$32 credit every three months to qualifying low-income homeowners. To be eligible, applicants must be served by ALCOSAN and meet the family income limits set by the federal government.

The Borough office staff can provide you with an application and the income guidelines.

### General

Dollar Energy also administers utility assistance programs on behalf of Duquesne Light and People's Gas.

The closest Centers to register and apply are:

Holy Family Institute, Edgewood Towne Center

1789 South Braddock Avenue  
Suite 585  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Phone: 412-244-8010

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Salvation Army - McKeesport

821 Walnut Street  
McKeesport, PA 15134

Phone: 412-673-6627

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Salvation Army - Steel Valley

104 East Ninth Street  
PO Box 395  
Homestead, PA 15120

Phone: 412-461-2460

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When going to your appointment, please make sure to bring the following items:

- Names of everyone in your household
- Birthdates of everyone in your household
- Proof of income of everyone in your household
- A copy of your most recent utility bill
- Your utility account number
- Proof of all payments made in the last 90 days



## Code Enforcement and Public Safety

Winter is vastly approaching and with that being said, here are a few requirements from the Borough to help keep things tidy as the winds can obstruct parts of the alley ways with garbage cans.

All garbage and rubbish is required to be stored in an approved garbage container with a properly fitted lid. Lids are required to keep out rodents and other foraging pests away from our homes – an open trash can is an invitation for food.

No garbage or rubbish is permitted to be stored outside unless it is in the garbage containers (this will help keep down the rodent population).

No garbage containers are permitted to be placed along the roadway or alley until the night before garbage pick up, which is Wednesday evening after 6:00pm. The only time this changes is during a Holiday, which will back garbage pick up one day.

The borough's local contracted garbage company will only take one large item such as furniture. If you place more than one item out per week Big's will not pick up any of the items.

The company will not pick up building materials.

To schedule large furniture or appliances please contact Big's Sanitation at (724) 379-4331 or The Borough at (412) 823-7124

### Winter Sidewalk Requirements

All property owners are responsible for snow and ice removal to be completed within 24 hours of the end of a snow event. Door tags will be issued initially as a reminder to remove the snow and ice from the sidewalks. Door tags will only be issued once.

Let's have a safe winter!

## Advertising Opportunities—reach the residents of our Borough

Beginning with the February 2020 edition of The Shamrock, we will be offering advertising space for purchase.

The pricing is per issue, and as follows:

1/2 page: \$100

1/8 page: \$40

1/4 page: \$70

1/16 page : \$25

Advertisements must be submitted in one of the following formats for publication:

MS Word, pdf or JPEG/TIFF/PNG

Please Contact Seth Abrams for more information at [epabrams@eastpittsburghboro.com](mailto:epabrams@eastpittsburghboro.com) or 412-823-7124

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The Borough encourages you, our residents to attend Borough meetings to allow for residents to be in the know about the plans to maintain our community! Borough meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month beginning at 7pm at the Senior Center (Hose House) on 700 Grandview Avenue.

## Comprehensive Planning

A comprehensive plan is a process where a community determines their goals and aspirations which provide a vision for the future growth and development of that community. You, the residents of East Pittsburgh, are the community and this plan, when completed will be based on your input and what you would like to see occur in East Pittsburgh.

Braddock, East Pittsburgh, and North Braddock (BEN) have come together to create a joint comprehensive plan. We are working as a unit to make decisions on our shared values. These decisions will guide our growth and development moving forward over a 5-10 year period. As identified in our first Community Conversation on October 1st in Braddock, the BEN communities already have a history of collaboration, so we look forward to continuing that work.

If you participated in the first Community Conversation, thank you. If you did not, please consider participating in future meetings. Our second Community Conversation will occur in March, 2020. It will be held here in East Pittsburgh. More details will come out in the next issue of the Shamrock with the specific date and time of this important event.

The more community residents who are engaged, the better our plan will speak to your goals and aspirations. Be present, be heard, and assist in creating the framework that will guide to BEN communities

### Community Celebrations

- ⇒ Thank you to Manna From on High Church for running a successful summer basketball program. Over 35 children participated in this series.
- ⇒ Congratulations to Pastor Arthur Williams of New Day Ministries on the celebration of his 73rd Birthday.
- ⇒ Congratulations to St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church on celebrating their 100th Anniversary!

