

# The Shamrock

East Pittsburgh's Quarterly Newsletter



## Holiday Joy in the time of COVID

Depending on the day and who you talk to COVID-19 has made life difficult, has fatigued us, or has allowed us to (re)connect with people in different ways.

Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day picnics were cancelled or reduced in size. Graduation and birthday celebrations occurred as "drive thru" event. Luckily, our infection count has topped out at 22 total infections since March. We have not had any deaths. Because of these low numbers, we felt it safe to hold trick-or-treating a couple of weeks ago.

Now that we are quickly approaching the colder weather and the time when families and friends again would normally gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, Channukah, Kwanzaa, we are asking that East Pittsburgh remain steady in our fight with COVID.

As difficult as it can be, please continue to follow the CDC guidelines for masks, handwashing and social distancing. Our goal is for everyone to have as safe and happy a holiday season as possible with those you care about.

The elected officials and staff of the Borough wish you and yours a safe and joyful holiday season.

**Due to safety concerns, The Borough will not be holding its annual Holiday Party at the Community Center this year.**

**We regret not being able to provide a gathering place and the normal activities that have become a part of our annual event.**

**Anyone with a child in need of a gift is welcome to submit a request to Santa through the borough office at 412-823-7124 or by emailing [holidays@eastpittsburghboro.com](mailto:holidays@eastpittsburghboro.com). Please include the name, age and gender of the child.**

### 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

Borough of East Pittsburgh

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

Mayor: Louis Payne

Council:

Mary Carol Kennedy—President

Stacey Simon—Vice President

Paul Borkowski

Earnest Frazier

Jonathan Reyes

Borough Manager:  
Seth Abrams

## From the Manager:

The election is over and its time to get in full gear for the holidays and our cold and windy winter. Please make sure to take a look at the updates in this quarter's newsletter, including updates on the formation of a **regional police department** (p 4), **street and parking** updates (p 5), and information about the 2021 Council meetings (back page). We also said goodbye to 3 long term employees this quarter (below).

If there are items and topics you would like to see or know about for future issues please let me know.

Your feedback is always welcome. We only improve by working together

Stay warm, stay safe, and may you have a joyful holiday season.

Regards,  
Seth Abrams  
Borough Manager

## Transitions

### Goodbyes:

The Borough would like to thank **Peg Huffman** for her years of service as our Borough Secretary. Peg retired in September to focus on her health.

On October 6th we mourned the unexpected loss of **Maggie Lydic**, the Assistant Tax Collector. Maggie was the sister-in-law of our tax collector, Eileen Navish. Her cheerful smile and wonderful personality will be missed.

On November 15th, **Eileen Navish** our long time Tax Collector will be resigning.

We **welcome Leax Gordon**, who has joined our Public Works department. Leax began his work here in September and brings with him 3 years of experience in public works.

## Feral Cats

There is a small but dedicated group of people that continue to work to control the feral cat population in East Pittsburgh. Over the first 8 months of the year they have trapped approximately 50 cats. Kittens are cared for and adopted out. Adult cats that cannot be adopted follow the TNR protocols where they are spay/neutered and have their ear clipped so you can recognize these cats.

If you are interested in assisting by feeding, helping to trap or by making a financial donation please contact the Borough offices.

## Property Tax

Borough taxes will remain at face value until 12/31/20. After this, they will be delinquent and subject to penalty and delinquent fees

## School Taxes

School taxes are at penalty value unless you are an installment plan.



**View the new Code online at:**

<http://eastpittsburghboro.com/ordinances/>

**Welcome to**



Please look for banners to be hung around our main roads.



# **St. John's Church**

## **Christmas Food & Bake Sale**



**211 Cable Avenue**  
**Saturday, December 12**  
**11 AM- 4PM**

**Haluski   Pirohi   Soups   Nutroll**  
**Christmas Cookie Plates**

**TAKE OUT ONLY**

**Call 412-824-0246 to place order**

**Thank you to those who sponsored banners to commemorate East Pittsburgh's  
125th Anniversary.**

Big's Sanitation, Hon. James Brewster, Code Enforcement Agency/Mon  
Valley Initiative, DeLuca Roofing,  
Dinnin & Parkins Insurance,  
Glenn Engineering, Lanigan  
Funeral Home, Mary Carol Ken-  
nedy, Manna from on High  
Ministries, Minuteman Press,  
Mayor Louis J. Payne, Whitney  
Construction



## FALL LEAF PICKUP THROUGH NOVEMBER

The East Pittsburgh Department of Public Works is available to dispose of your leaves.

It's as simple as:

- 1 Please rake/gather your leaves into one location near the street or alley where the DPW staff have access to them.
- 2 Call the Borough Office at 412-823-7124 to request a leaf pickup.

### Recycling

In the spring of this year we began an experimental program to provide for recycling . We currently have 2 small dumpsters that are marked for recycling in the parking lot of the Community Center. While recycling is not mandatory in the borough, we are pleased to see that a number of residents are using the single stream recycling offered. We are asking everyone to please **ONLY PLACE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS** in these dumpsters. If regular rubbish is found in the recycling bins, Big's must treat the entire dumpster as trash.



### Closure of the Community Center

Election Day 2020 was the final day that the Community Center, or Gym, at 516 Bessemer Ave. was open to the public. Due to significant mold and other deterioration over the years the Borough finds itself forced to permanently close this building for health and safety reasons.

We have engaged Axis Architecture to help in planning a suitable replacement for this critically important center of the community.

Over the coming months we will have additional information to share as we continue to move towards a future of growth for East Pittsburgh.



## A Message from Mary Carol Kennedy, Council President

Can we reflect, for a moment, on some of the lessons from our holiday celebrations – gratitude, love for one another including the least of those among us, spreading Godly light, self-determination, purpose, and faith. These words seem so meaningful during the holiday season. Yet unfortunately as we begin the next year it becomes more difficult to live these values.

This is the time when we most need the wisdom delivered through our individual cultures. Simple acts of kindness can go a long way to spread a sense of positivity and hope among each other. Respect for and kindness toward one another are powerful tools for living when they become habitual.

Here's to a renewed sense of appreciation for our neighbors who far exceed the folks on either side of us. Let's become the change we seek in 2021.



# DINNER WITH BEN

## Joint Comprehensive Plan Community Conversation 03

The purpose of the Public Meeting is to introduce the project, share what progress has been made about the three communities, and gain input on strategies moving forward. As we all adjust to the “New Normal”, we are committed to providing safe and accessible alternatives for the community to give input with an open house and stations across the communities

### STAY CONNECTED!

If you need additional information, please contact any of the following:

**Tosan Adoki**

**BEN Project Manager**

[Tosan@evolveea.com](mailto:Tosan@evolveea.com)

**OFFICIAL OPEN HOUSE**  
**SATURDAY, NOV 21st**  
**1:00 to 4:00 PM**  
 Woodland Hills School District  
 531 Jones Avenue  
 North Braddock, PA 15104

**STATIONS**  
**Braddock History Center**  
 609 6th Street  
 North Braddock, PA 15104

The BEN Joint Comprehensive Plan is a project of the Braddock, East Pittsburgh and North Braddock Boroughs

Supported by Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)



## Regional Police Update

East Pittsburgh is committed to bringing back a local police department. The State Police have, and are continuing to do an excellent job within our borough, but we also know that we need more regular local patrols and the ability to enforce our local laws.

To help us reach this goal East Pittsburgh has partnered with Braddock and Rankin to form a planning commission to develop a plan for a regional police department that would patrol all three boroughs. During a preliminary

study North Braddock decided to opt out of this partnership.

The three participating municipalities are receiving technical assistance from the Department of Community and Economic Development which also sponsored the original study.

While specific budgets and details will need to be worked out, the goals of the regional police department are to be able to hire full time police officers, set high standards for community policing, professionalism, and accountability. While increasing expectations we will be increasing wages and benefits. We also expect to significantly decrease turnover and overtime so that officers are not forced to work double shifts or for multiple departments to make a living wage.

As this process moves forward we will be keeping residents up to date through this newsletter, our website and our Facebook page.

The development and implementation of this plan is expected to last through 2021.

### Code Enforcement and Public Safety

In our work to improve the appearance of the Borough, Council has recently enacted or begun enforcing ordinances (see next page). Over the coming months expect Council to take up additional measures to encourage property owners to maintain their land and buildings. Any proposed changes will be advertised and will also be available in the borough office or website for public view and comment prior to approval.

### 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. Our DPW staff will plow and/or salt the streets as quickly as possible in preparation and during a snow or ice event. Let's have a safe winter!

### Trash Reminders

**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.** (Section 58.1) The only time this changes is during a Holiday, which will back garbage pick up one day. Thanksgiving will delay pickup by one day. There will not be any delays for Christmas or New Years.

## Streets

It is well known that parking is very limited in the borough. In response to numerous resident complaints the borough has responded two ways to help keep on street parking available. Please help us to keep our borough attractive by following the ordinances and keeping the streets clear.

**Parking Chairs** In October the borough began enforcing its “parking chair” ordinance. Anyone wishing to collect their chairs, cones and other items may contact the Borough Office at 412-823-7124. Any items stored for 30 days or longer will be disposed of. The “Pittsburgh parking chair” will not be removed during a snow event.

Residents who have had chairs, cones, or buckets removed may pick up their items at the Community Center on November 22, 2020 from 9 am to 4 pm. Any items left will be disposed of. Future dates will be on December 17, 2020 and January 21, 2021.



**Nuisance Vehicles** The Borough Code states that it is “unlawful to store, park or place any unregistered, uninspected, inoperative, unlicensed, junked, or nuisance motor vehicle or trailer on any premises not designated for that use, whether such premises shall be public or private” We are tagging vehicles that are uninspected or inoperative, and having them removed from the streets and alleys.

### **Found—contact the Boro Office**

Small pink change purse with the word “SUMMER” printed on it.



## Advertising Opportunities—reach the residents of East Pittsburgh

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

1/2 page: \$100      1/8 page: \$40  
1/4 page: \$70      1/16 page: \$25

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



813 Linden Ave  
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

### **EAST PITTSBURGH BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2021**

Beginning in 2021, the East Pittsburgh Council will begin holding **agenda meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.** These meetings are open to the public for comment and are **in addition to the regular monthly meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.** All meetings are held at the Senior Citizen's Center located at 700 Grandview Ave, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112 dependent on CDC guidelines. If virtual meetings occur the link and telephone number will be posted on the Borough website, [www.eastpittsburghboro.com](http://www.eastpittsburghboro.com) and on the borough Facebook page.

January 4, 2021 – Organization Meeting & election of officers

January 12, 2021 – agenda mtg

January 19, 2021 – regular mtg

February 9, 2021 – agenda mtg

February 16, 2021 – regular mtg

March 9, 2021 – agenda mtg

March 16, 2021 – regular mtg

April 13, 2021 – agenda mtg

April 20, 2021 – regular mtg

May 11, 2021 – agenda mtg

May 18, 2021 – regular mtg

June 8, 2021 – agenda mtg

June 15, 2021 – regular mtg

July 13, 2021 – agenda mtg

July 20, 2021 – regular mtg

August 10, 2021 – agenda mtg

August 17, 2021 – regular mtg

September 14, 2021 – agenda mtg

September 21, 2021 – regular mtg

October 12, 2021 – agenda mtg

October 19, 2021 – regular mtg

November 9, 2021 – agenda mtg

November 16, 2021 – regular mtg

December 14, 2021 – agenda mtg

December 21, 2021 – regular mtg

The public is welcome to attend and participate