

The Shamrock

East Pittsburgh's Quarterly Newsletter



A HISTORIC MOMENT IN EAST PITTSBURGH

By Jonathan Reyes, councilmember

Since 1926, when Black History was just a week-long celebration, mayors of many cities would celebrate Black achievement by making yearly official proclamations. Esteemed Black Harvard graduate and historian Carter G Woodson inspired this trend through the establishment of the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). 95 years later, the Borough of East Pittsburgh has a Black history achievement of its own!

On January 22, 2021 Markus Adams was sworn in as our borough's first African American Mayor since its 1895 incorporation.

Mr. Adams is currently serving East Pittsburgh as interim mayor after Mayor Louis Payne stepped down from 23 years of service. As interim mayor Adams promises to do his best to follow the path that Mayor Payne has set. Adams has stated that he intends to seek the seat for a full term during this year's election.

Markus has always had love and concern for East Pittsburgh, but he did not always see a way he could serve his community until a work accident caused him to reflect and question how he could give back. Adams started in 2017 by aiding at the summer lunch program by keeping the kids busy with activities before and after lunch was served. This move started a snowballing effect of service as he saw opportunities present themselves. When Mayor Payne became ill, Adams helped lead the food bank distribution. Councilmember Paul Borkowski informed him about the formation of a planning committee, and he joined. After that Councilmember Stacy Simon asked him to fill in the vacant seat of the Zoning Hearing Board. When the position for the mayor became available, he struggled with the prospect. The idea was almost comical to see himself in that position, but thankfully his history of leadership proved him otherwise and he encouraged himself with a notion that he could either sit and complain about the things that need to change; or he could do something about it. The rest is yet to come.

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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: Markus Adams

Council:

Mary Carol Kennedy—President

Stacey Simon—Vice President

Paul Borkowski

Earnest Frazier

Jonathan Reyes

Borough Manager:

Seth Abrams

From the Manager:

They say that '21 is going to be a good year. When the band The Who wrote those lyrics they meant 1921. I think this also applies to 2021. Nationally we have a vaccine that is making its way to people. It will still take a while, but soon it will be available to everyone.

With thoughts of soon to come warmer weather, the Borough is eager to continue the municipal improvements—paving where we can, hopefully moving and updating our Bessemer Ave. playground, removing or selling properties that are abandoned and a danger.

We are now in the organizational progress with Rankin and Braddock to create the regional police department. While I don't have any updates at this time, know that we are working through the paperwork, bylaws, and other things needed to create a new entity.

Here's to seeing you on the streets later this year.

Regards,

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager

The Mayor's Desk:

Residents,

After a 23 year legacy of faithful service Mayor Louis Payne has chosen to retire from public life. His contributions to our borough are many and will be long lasting. His dedication and guidance of this community will always be remembered by myself and many others. I thank him for his advice and instruction. I wish him well in all that he does in the future.

In accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania I have been appointed to fill the vacancy of Mayor for the Borough of East Pittsburgh. As Mayor, I am responsible for the public safety and emergency response to events in our Borough. Additionally, Council and I will be seeking ways and methods to attract as much prosperity as we are capable of generating. We want East Pittsburgh to be the envy of this region and a place where everyone feels safe and proud to live here.

I am accountable to and committed to the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this Borough Council and to you, the residents of East Pittsburgh. Therefore, I welcome your questions, comments and concerns revolving around the health, safety and wellbeing of you, your family and our Borough.

As spring and summer approaches I will be out in the streets of our Borough to meet and hear from you. Until then, I wish you warmth and good health. Please stay safe.

Warm regards,

Markus E. Adams
Mayor

(left) "Handoff of Duties", Markus Adams, Mayor and Louis J. Payne, retired Mayor of East Pittsburgh



Nutroll Sale & Cookie Walk

SATURDAY

MARCH 27

11AM-2PM



SATURDAY

MARCH 27

11AM-2PM

NUT POPPY APRICOT

\$15 each

St. John's Orthodox Church
211 Cable Avenue

MASKS REQUIRED

CDC GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED

Spring Property Reminders

As we all prepare for spring, weather please remember to keep up on property maintenance. Grass and other plant growth must be kept at a height of less than 10 inches. Trees and shrubs must also be kept trimmed so as not to interfere with sidewalks, streets, and alleyways.

Change your clocks...



Change your batteries!

March 14th is Daylight Saving Time. While you are changing your clocks **ahead** an hour, please also change your smoke detector batteries and check the age of your smoke detector. Units that are 10 years old or older should be replaced with a new smoke or smoke/carbon monoxide detector. It has been shown that the effectiveness of smoke detectors decreases over time, and may not alert you in the event of an emergency.

KEEPING OUR BOROUGH CLEAN

Garbage, Trash, Refuse, and Recycling Reminders for 2021

Trash collection is provided by Bigs Sanitation. If you have a concern, you may reach them directly at 724-379-4331. Pickup is every Thursday, and trash should be placed out the night before to ensure it is picked up the following morning. Big's Holiday schedule is listed below.

New Years 2021 (Friday, January 1st, 2021) - Friday one day behind

Easter 2021 (Sunday, April 4th, 2021) - Regularly scheduled pickups

Memorial Day 2021 (Monday, May 31st, 2021) - One day behind pickups

Independence Day 2021 (Sunday, July 4th, 2021) - Regularly scheduled pickups

Labor Day 2021 (Monday, September 6th, 2021) - One day behind pickups

Thanksgiving 2021 (Thursday, November 25th, 2021) - Thursday and Friday one day behind

Christmas 2021 (Saturday, December 25th, 2021) - Regularly scheduled pickups

These are the **ONLY** Holidays when we will be running one day behind.

Trash must be placed at the curb the night before your scheduled pickup day. Please remove your trash cans from the curb by the day after pickup. All trash should be sealed, or enclosed to prohibit vermin from being attracted to or getting into the trash. Trash cans need to be kept clean to prohibit obnoxious odors. Bag all food waste.

- One large item is allowed to be placed with your rubbish per week.
- The trash hauler is not responsible for articles left on or near cans, damages to cans, etc.
- Please confine pets on pickup day.
- Pennsylvania law prohibits landfill disposal of electronics, hazardous waste, special waste, oil, paint, car batteries, etc.
- No building materials or motor vehicle parts are to be placed with rubbish. Dispose of building materials and motor vehicle parts by contacting a waste hauler separately.
- All carpets and carpet padding must be cut into four (4) foot lengths and bundled/tied in to bundles that are no more than two (2) foot in diameter and weigh no more than 30 lbs.
- No person shall place or deposit any highly inflammable or explosive materials, cylinders under pressure, cylinders of toxic or deadly gases, poisons and other such materials in any garbage and refuse container that might endanger the life or safety of the person engaged in the collection of such contents.

The Borough will pick up the following items for a fee:

TV's: \$5

Passenger car tires: \$2

Truck Tires: \$3

Payment can be made by cash or check.
Contact the Borough Office to schedule a 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.



Storage of Household Refuse— All household refuse and garbage is to be stored in bags and trash cans. If you must place trash outside of a can, please use heavy weight black trash bags that can better withstand exposure and are less likely to tear. Trash is not to be placed on the curb or in the alley before 6 pm on the night before pickup and cans must be picked up and returned to your property on the day of pickup.

Pet Waste— By Borough ordinance and for sanitation, please make sure to pick up after your pet when out in public. The Borough has a pet waste station at the community center on Bessemer. Nobody likes to clean up someone else's dog waste from their yard.

East Pittsburgh Longest Serving Mayor to Retire After 23 Years

In December, Mayor Louis J. Payne announced his retirement. Below is the press release that was on our website and printed in the Valley Mirror.

EAST PITTSBURGH – Mayor Louis J. Payne announced his intention to retire after 23 years of service to the Borough, on January 4, 2021.

As a lifelong volunteer, Lou Payne has always been active in his community. Early on in his career he volunteered with St. Williams School & Church, the East Pittsburgh Athletic Association, as a volunteer firefighter, and for the East Pittsburgh Economic Development Corporation. Payne was also a driving force behind East Pittsburgh's Centennial Celebration in 1995. As the Mayor he held numerous offices, including treasurer, vice-president, and president of the Allegheny County Mayor's Association.

After raising a family and retiring Payne was approached to run for mayor. He was jokingly told that all he had to do was "show up to meetings and not do anything." Lou of course found that impossible to do. Whether residents saw him during his daily walks through the borough, picking up litter, or simply being an active voice in his community, he gave his full attention to each person with whom he spoke.

During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Payne worked to ensure that the borough had flowers to plant on Braddock Ave, that the children had activities to participate in that included various holiday parties and community days events to refurbishing the basketball courts. Payne's largest accomplishment has been to maintain the drive to create a regional police force and improve the professionalism of law enforcement across the area. Significant progress has been made under his leadership, and we believe it will be a reality in 2022.

Mayor Payne, a lifelong resident of East Pittsburgh will be retiring and moving to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

A New Vision

Approximately 7 months ago the Borough engaged Axis Architecture to help us conceptualize what an updated and more easily accessible Borough building and community center might look like. The end goal is to build something for our needs today that will continue to serve us for generations to come.

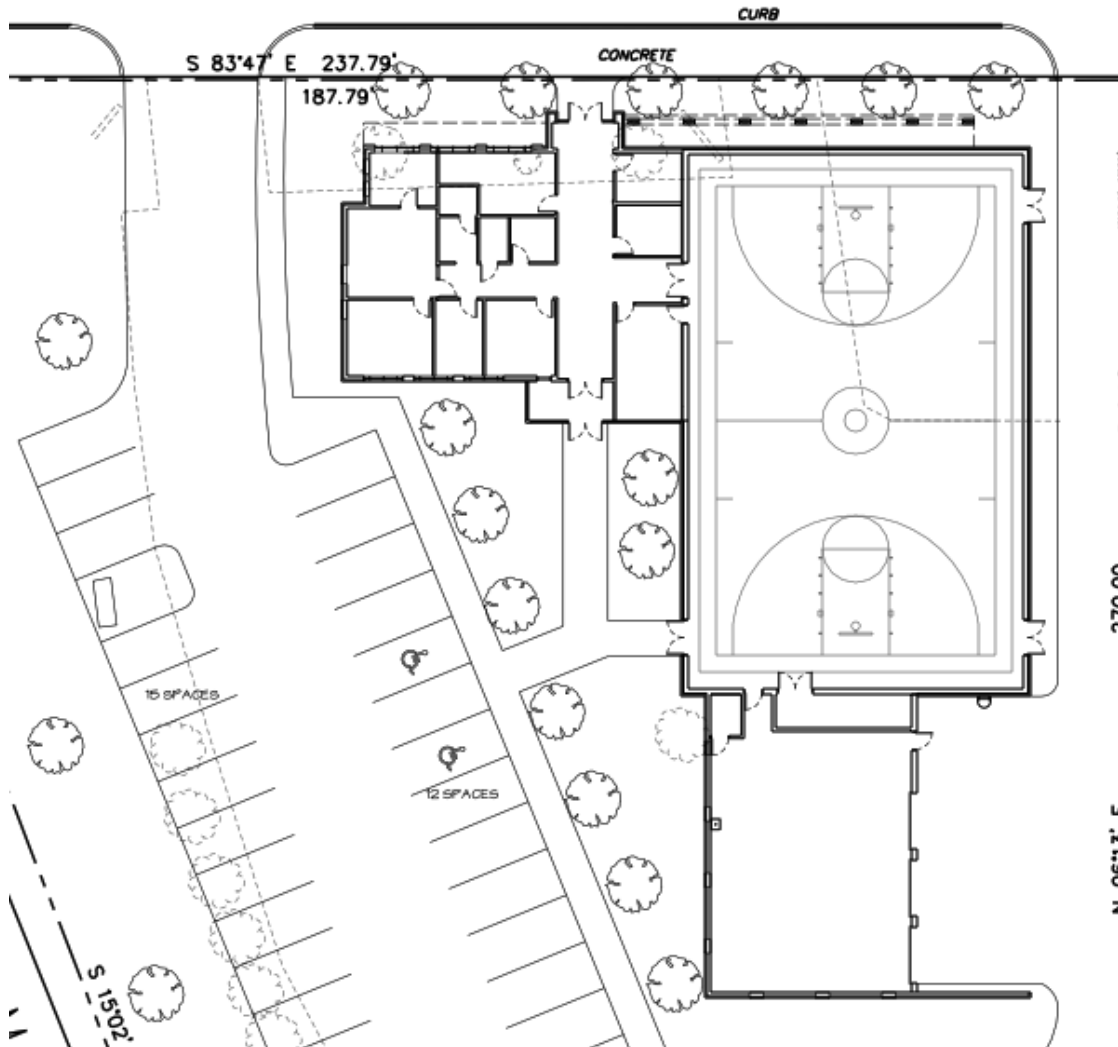
We are now proud to unveil the drawings and proposed location for our new home. Once built, the building will allow for the merging of all services from the business office to public works as well as a community space to replace the closed community center on Bessemer. The new space will include a full sized basketball court to encourage sports

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View from Bessemer Ave

BESSEMER AVE. - 50' EXISTING ASPHALT



Layout/floorplan

2021 Borough Taxes

Borough taxes will be mailed on March 1, 2021. The discount of 2% is available until 4/30/2021 and face value until 6/30/2021.

Please note that checks and money orders are payable to the Borough of East Pittsburgh.

Borough taxes are printed on yellow paper and can be paid by mail or at the Borough Offices.

WHSD taxes are payable to Jordan Tax and are printed on white paper. These **cannot** be paid at the Borough Office.

Remember—if you are mailing your bill and would like a receipt, please send in the entire tax bill AND a self-addressed stamped envelope.

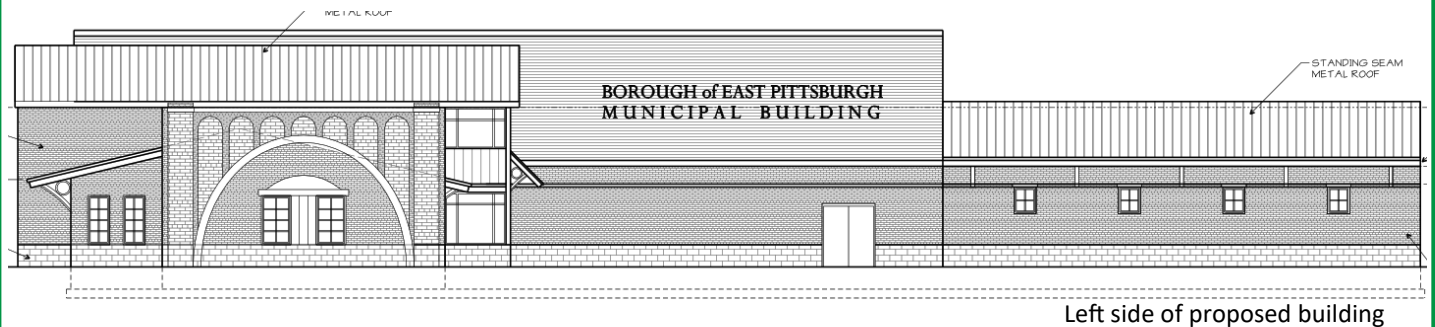
Patrick T.
Lanigan
Funeral Home
and Crematory, Inc.
Meaningful • Affordable

East Pittsburgh, PA • 412-824-8800
 PATRICK T. LANIGAN, *Supervisor*
 PAUL J. BORGONY, *Funeral Director*
 JOSEPH N. STREDNAK, *Funeral Director*
 Turtle Creek/Monroeville Chapel
 Turtle Creek, PA • 412-823-9350
 STEPHANIE L. DORIGUZZI, *Supv.*
 NICHOLAS A. RICCI, *Funeral Director*
 www.laniganfuneralhome.com

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and physical activity. We hope to attract a league to use this site as its home court.

By moving all services into one building we will be able to continue streaming council meetings and to have long term savings of over \$12,000 per year.



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 or 412-823-7124



813 Linden Ave
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

Stay up to date on the latest information liking and following us on Facebook @eastpittsburghboro and visiting our web page for official updates at www.eastpittsburghboro.com



Borough information for new and established residents is now available on our website by navigating to About Us>Groups>Community. The link is [Resident Welcome/Information Packet](#). It can also be reached directly with the following link: <http://>

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Markus' tenure comes directly after the borough's election of its first Black councilmembers, Earnest Frazier and Jonathan Reyes who began their 4 year terms in January 2020.

Markus can be reached at mayor@eastpittsburghboro.com.