

The Shamrock

East Pittsburgh's Quarterly Newsletter



Caring for our Community

Where Are We?

Believe it or not East Pittsburgh is a good place to live. We are a bedroom community which means that we are primarily residential and do not have a significant number of businesses. While there are limitations due to transportation infrastructure, we are in a great location. As residents of East Pittsburgh we have immediate access to Route 30, and subsequently direct access to Interstate 376—Parkway East, for access to Pittsburgh, the airport, or eastbound to the turnpike and Westmoreland County. Shopping is just to the left and right of us in Forest Hills/Braddock Hills and in North Versailles. It's a relatively short trip to Monroeville if you know where you want to turn from the Triboro. Finally we are close to Swissvale, Edgewood, the Waterfront, Kennywood and Sandcastle.

What we may lack in businesses, our neighbors have made up for us. This also means that we don't have the traffic, congestion and other problems that come with additional economic activity.

Who Are We?

Between 2019 and 2021 we worked with consultants, constituents and our neighbors of Braddock and North Braddock to create a Joint Comprehensive Plan (www.bencompplan.org). The research and input that went into creating the plan showed that we are a community that wants a safe and secure place to live. That we want transportation options and that we care about our future.

How Do We Get There?

The Port Authority, through the NexTransit plan (<https://nextransit.network>) is developing a stronger transportation infrastructure. The County is finding a way to connect the bike/pedestrian trails in Trafford and in Homestead. The trail would include East Pittsburgh, providing additional recreational and exercise opportunities literally at our doorsteps.

We are working with Braddock to improve the business district on Brad-

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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:

About a month ago I came across a couple within the borough and stopped to talk to them about trash, waste removal, and the appropriate way to put out waste for weekly pickup.

At the end of the conversation they asked what I did for the borough. What was my job? I explained that I was the borough manager. The reply surprised me—they said they didn't know that we had a borough manager in East Pittsburgh. Over the course of the next minute or two they went on to explain that they don't bother to read the Shamrock or anything else that we send out from this office.

What does this have to do with anything? One of the things that we are working hard on is improving the borough—making it a better place to live. In order to do that we need civic engagement. We need to hear from you. Not just your complaints. These are important, and one of the best ways for us to work on correcting issues, but we also need your voice for how to make long term improvements.

What would you like to see happen in East Pittsburgh? What can we make happen? Our Mayor is working hard to hear from all of you. Our Council is prepared to and is authorizing projects to improve the way we do business and to improve the infrastructure of the borough.

I am working to address resident concerns and to seek opportunities to both fund the necessary projects and create additional partnerships where we can work collaboratively with our neighbors for a better region.

I invite you to join us. Pay attention to the Shamrock, to Facebook, to our website. Attend Council meetings. Volunteer when we ask for people to serve on committees. This borough belongs to you and it will not succeed without your help.

Regards,

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager

The Mayor's Desk:

I hope you and your families are having a safe and fun summer. I'm certainly enjoying the summer weather; even the warmer days we've had so far. In fact, the only thing I haven't enjoyed are the days of storms and power outages. But as I took measures to stay cool and keep my food from spoiling I started thinking: this should only last for a short period of time. What if this turned into a long term situation? What if this were to last for several weeks or longer, how long would I be able to survive on my own? I've been thinking long and hard about this. And now I ask you: if there were a long-term power outage would you and your family be able to survive on your own? If so, for how long?

The fact of the matter is in the post 9/11 world all the leading agencies specializing in disaster aid and recovery have been warning that all Americans begin taking measures to support themselves and their families for extended periods **without any assistance from outside agencies**. In short, there are approximately 350 million Americans in this country and there are several events that occur around the country every year that will make it impossible for the federal government and emergency assistance agencies to help everyone. Add to that the state our nation's economy and it becomes abundantly clear why we need to be able to independently survive during any kind of crisis.

Information may vary from one agency to the next, but they all agree on one thing: that every family should have an emergency supply kit. The kit should include, but is not limited to food, water, clothing, extra blankets, candles, matches, battery operated devices (flashlights, radios etc.) various battery sizes, medications and first aid kits, toiletries and cleaning supplies (bleach, clothing and dish detergents - also for floor, tub and toilet) and garbage bags to last your family for several weeks.

I think it best to have enough of these supplies to last the duration of whatever crisis scenario that may occur: power outage due to high winds, heavy rainfall/snow storm, any solar event, any social dis-

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turbance or economic issues or job loss. If you have not done so already, start storing these items **now** while there is no crisis, and these items can be had at cost.

Again, if there were a long-term power outage or other crisis scenario (for whatever reason) would you and your family be able to survive on your own? If so, for how long? If not, what will you do? Outside assistance, if there is any, may be very limited.

For information on citizen preparedness and how to best prepare your family to survive a crisis go to www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE READY (1-800-237-3239) for a free brochure.

Yours in preparedness,

Markus E. Adams

Mayor

WASTE REMOVAL—Council will consider placing the Solid Waste contract out for bid, with new service to begin in 2022.

A part of this process will include the establishment of an annual Trash Fee for residents. Until this time, East Pittsburgh has been able to absorb the cost of trash pick up within our property taxes. We currently spend over \$94,000 per year for trash pickup. We expect the cost to rise significantly with the new contract and the Borough can no longer absorb the costs.

Council will accept public comment on this topic at its upcoming meetings (see page 7).



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NEW DAY MINISTRIES 808 Main Street, East Pgh 15112



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and
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and
First Lady Darnella Williams*

For more information visit www.Newdayministriesofpittsburgh.com
or call 412-376-2611. Fax 412-376-2612
Email: newdaypgh@yahoo.com



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dock Avenue. When our neighbors grow, we grow.

The borough staff are working hard to enforce the ordinances we have. The focus is on health and safety and on overall quality of life. To that end, we have been ticketing and citing properties that are allowing their trash to be torn open by rodents or who are not using trash bags at all. Ponding water in trash cans without lids, in tires and other areas are another safety concern for the breeding of mosquitos. Grass, shrubbery and vegetation are always a summer issue. While it is dry now and not much is growing, it is important to keep all of your property properly maintained. This includes the edges of properties that may have weeds or plants extending onto/over the sidewalks and into the alleyways. This uncut vegetation is not only unsightly, but it also poses a potential hazard for people walking and to cars driving past them. Nobody wants to see their vehicle scratched by a branch that wasn't cut.

The Borough was recently awarded a grant from the State to create a plan to reduce blight in the borough. The contract is out for proposals and we plan to engage with a consultant by October. The goal is to help us plan for the use and/or disposal of abandoned land and structures. Once we are armed with the information we need, we can seek specific funding, if needed) to market, sell, or transfer properties to owners who will maintain and improve them, creating a better environment.

What About Council?

The elected officials are reviewing updated legislation to help clarify processes and laws. In the upcoming weeks and months they will be considering ordinances to regulate soliciting/peddling/yard sales/food trucks, small cell antenna's (5G networks), and an update to the solid waste ordinance. Over the spring they approved a Quality of Life Ordinance as an additional option for the enforcement of certain violations.

Council works for you, and the borough staff work for Council. Without your voices, your input and your vision this borough cannot move forward. The elected officials and staff have ideas, but if they don't meet the needs of our residents than we are not helping, and that is not what we are here to do. Our goal is to provide a responsive government, a place where people want to live, where they have access to the amenities they need, and where residents, investors and businesses have pride in the place they call home.

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PAUL J. BORGONY, *Funeral Director*

JOSEPH N. STREDNAK, *Funeral Director*

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STEPHANIE L. DORIGUZZI, *Supv.*

NICHOLAS A. RICCI, *Funeral Director*

www.laniganfuneralhome.com

*Coming
Soon!*



Payments by credit card or e-check.

The Borough Office expects to be able to take credit card or e-check payments in September 2021. By partnering with MuniPAY, you will be able to pay permit fees, fines, and all other payments online, in person or over the phone. If you choose to use one of these options you will be charged a convenience fee by our payment partner. E-checks will be assessed an additional \$1.50 per transaction. Credit card payments will be subject to a 2.65% fee, or \$3.00, whichever is greater. By using a third party the borough does not make any additional money by charging higher rates, nor do we cost the taxpayers money by paying for transaction fees on the back end.

Braddock, East Pittsburgh, and North Braddock are collectively participating in the Allegheny Together business district revitalization program, which supports business district development in communities throughout Allegheny County through strategic planning and technical support.

Help shape the Braddock Ave. business district by offering your feedback at a Build Session!

We will brainstorm ways to make the business district more user-friendly and welcoming, attract new people and businesses, and make the district more eligible for public funding and private investment.



Place - Monday 8/23
5:30-7:30 pm

- Riverfront redevelopment and usage
- Walkability and public transportation
- Corridor, gateways, and intersection improvements
- Using vacant/public space for placemaking



Market - Tuesday 8/24
5:30-7:30 pm

- Assistance to existing businesses (e.g. mentoring, financing)
- Addressing vacancy and renovating buildings
- Mixed use (retail, light industrial, manufacturing) real estate
- Piloting food and farming businesses



Identity - Thursday 8/26
5:30 - 7:30pm

- Black owned business cluster
- Growing the maker/creative economy
- Youth engagement and recreation
- Celebrating cultural history and diversity of the region

*All Build Sessions will be held at Greater Valley Community Services (300 Holland Ave, Braddock, PA 15104).

RSVP @ bit.ly/BENbiz, or contact Allegheny Together Program Manager Nicole Muise-Kielkucki at nicole.muisekielkucki@fourtheconomy.com or call 412-212-6892





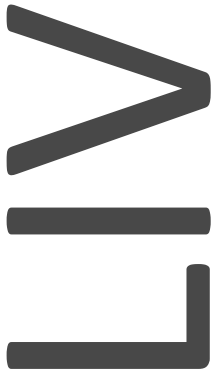
The General Election will take place before our next issue, so here is your reminder:

ELECTION DAY is NOVEMBER 2, 2021

East Pittsburgh's new polling location is the American Legion Post 527 located at 401 Draper St.

Please contact the Borough at 412-823-7124 with any questions.

W AND IN PERSON



Borough Council meetings have resumed in-person meetings. Council holds an agenda meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

The business meeting is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

All meetings are held at 700 Grandview Ave, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

Meetings are also broadcast live via Ring Central. The link for remote attendance can be found on the borough website.

Agendas for the business meeting are posted on the borough website, Facebook page and at the Borough Office and Senior Center by Monday afternoon the day before the meeting.

Upcoming Dates:

Business Meetings

August 17, 2021

September 21, 2021

October 19, 2021

November 16, 2021

December 21, 2021

Agenda Meetings

September 14, 2021

October 12, 2021

November 9, 2021

December 14, 2021



Ready[®]

**It's Not Luck.
It's Being
Prepared.**

COVID—19 VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are now readily available at most pharmacies and various clinics. Please check with your PCP or call 211 to find a location convenient for you.

1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month

GREEN GROCER

APRIL - NOVEMBER 2021 SCHEDULE

Green Grocer is a mobile farmer's market truck. We sell fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, meat and dry goods in your neighborhood.

FORMS OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED

- Cash
- Credit and Debit Cards
- SNAP/EBT (Food Stamps)
- FMNP and SFMNP vouchers
- Food Bucks Rx
- Food Bucks

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Masks/face coverings over nose required
- Observe 6 ft. social distancing from others
- Boarding the truck not permitted

SNAP (food stamps) can help you buy food. Call the Food Bank for help applying. **1-833-822-SNAP (7627)**

412-745-6499
greengrocer@pittsburghfoodbank.org
pittsburghfoodbank.org/green-grocer
facebook.com/greengrocerpgh
twitter.com/greengrocerpgh

Greater Pittsburgh
**community
 food bank** 

Green Grocer does not operate when the temperature or windchill is below 25 or when roads are dangerous.

Recycling—In

the spring of 2020 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.



Reminder: The dumpster located at 506/516 Bessemer Ave. is for Borough use only. When residents and businesses fill this dumpster we are unable to throw away the litter and other debris that we pick up on a daily basis. Please call Big's directly at 724-379-4331 if you have large or unusual items that may not be accepted with the regular weekly pickup.



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://bit.ly/3cZSgLB>

Advertising Opportunities—reach the residents of East Pittsburgh

The Shamrock is printed on a quarterly basis, February, May, August and November of each year.

The pricing is per issue, and as follows: Advertisements must be submitted in one of the following formats

Full page: \$180 1/4 page: \$70 for publication: MS Word, pdf or JPEG/TIFF/PNG

1/2 page: \$100 Business card: \$40

Please Contact Seth Abrams for more information at epabrams@eastpittsburghboro.com or 412-823-7124