

The Shamrock

East Pittsburgh's Quarterly Newsletter



Join Us!

On Saturday, May 14th, 2022 from 9:00 AM to Noon we will be gathering as a community to help clean up our neighborhood. Department of Public Works staff and your elected officials will be on hand to help beautify our borough.

We will also have a dumpster available for any large items you have not been able to get rid of.

EAST PITTSBURGH

COMMUNITY

Cleanup

May 14, 2022 9:00 AM—Noon

Meet @ Gymnasium (516 Bessemer)
PPE provided. Refreshments provided

www.eastpittsburghboro.com/cleanup

- Plant Flowers
- Pick up Litter
- Clean up a vacant Lot

Household Hazardous Waste will be picked up beforehand, on April 30, 2022 by Republic Services.

Letter pickers, trash bags, gloves and vests will be provided as well as refreshments.

Opportunities include:

- the annual flower planting on the Triboro Expressway
- Litter cleanup along the streets and parks
- Vacant lot cleanout

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
Jonathan Reyes—Vice President
Chad Nicholson
Mark Petri

Borough Manager:
Seth Abrams

From the Manager:

Spring is upon us. In between the snowflakes I have spotted flowers popping out of the ground, trees budding and of course more birds singing.

Spring also traditionally means **Spring Cleaning**. After a long absence, we are proud to bring back a community clean up day on May 14th. This a great way to become or stay involved in your community and a way to meet some of your neighbors.

The crews will be meeting at the gymnasium parking lot at 516 Bessemer Ave. at 9:00 AM on May 14, 2022.

We will provide trash bags, litter pickers (to save your backs and knees) and gloves. Water and snacks will also be provided.

We will have the annual flower planting on the Triboro expressway, litter patrols, and cleaning up of at least one vacant lot. The Public Works crew will be on hand to help load things and take out larger brush from the lot.

I encourage each of you to become involved—attend the council meetings (2nd Tuesday @ 6 pm and 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm) to find out what is going on and what is being planned.

We have a ways to go, but there are ideas out there, and council is always looking to hear from YOU—our constituents.

In closing, I encourage you to enjoy the warming weather, get involved, talk to your neighbor, help make East Pittsburgh the best it can be.

Regards,

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager

The Mayor's Desk:

Neighbors,

I hope this writing finds you and your families well.

The purpose of this article is to draw attention to the current state of affairs of our nation and the world and what it means to us and our community. It is similar to, based in part on and validates the necessity of a previously written article a couple of issues ago concerning preparedness.

I will preface this writing with the fact that I typically would not come to you with such a dire message, but it is just a reflection of the world and times we are living in. It is with this in mind that I find it necessary to reiterate that previous message because there is a storm on the horizon and it is fast approaching. As such, It is my duty as mayor to ensure that you, my neighbors, are aware of this and make the most of the opportunity before you to make the best and necessary preparations possible for you and your families.

There are troubling times ahead. If you have not been paying attention the world is facing the real possibility of a food shortage. This is for several reasons: weather patterns, politically based decreases in planting and harvesting, economic upheaval, inflation and war all have it appear that we are headed in that direction.

The indicators are everywhere that this will have a serious impact on everyone except the most wealthy (I don't know about you, but I don't know anyone in that category). And it's not only food. The costs of everything food, fuel, clothing, utility bills are all increasing. These and many other items may become not only unaffordable, but also unobtainable. But, without food nothing else matters. I was grocery shopping recently and realized that the cost of what was in my cart has almost doubled in the last three years. As if this was not enough officials are warning that certain foods, more specifically wheat products and sunflower oil, are items that are expected to disappear from grocery store shelves. According to some dietary experts; through bread and breakfast cereals to pastas and pastries, Americans consume approximately 180 lbs of wheat per person every year. And though you may not use or cook directly with sunflower oil it is used in many products that you may buy, increasing the cost of those items if they can be had at all due to the war in Europe. Its been

(Continued on page 3)

Property Maintenance Reminders

With our recent rains this is the time to think about your property maintenance. **Grass** and other plant growth must be kept at a height of less than 10 inches—well past your ankle. Trees and shrubs must also be kept trimmed so as not to interfere with sidewalks, streets, and alleyways.

Spring and summer is also when we see **mosquitos and other pests**. Tires and other objects that could hold standing water should be covered or emptied on a regular basis.

Trash needs to be placed into waste cans with a lid in order to prevent animals from tearing open your trash bags. Trash that is left out and scattered by animals or others will be ticketed under Ord. 929 and Chapter 315 of the Borough Code.

If you have any questions about your responsibility as a resident please contact Code enforcement at 412-823-5473 and leave a message or call the Borough Office at 412-823-7124. You may also email firemarshal@eastpittsburghboro.com



(Continued from page 2)

stated that both Russia and Ukraine produce about 30 percent of the world's wheat crops. And, while it is true that the United States is in the top five of world wheat producers (coming in at number three), she only produces 6 to 7 percent of the worlds wheat consumption. And much of the grain that is produced will go to other countries as we are a major exporter of that wheat.

Also, the most recent strain of avian or "Bird Flu", according to PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals), has resulted in 27 million chickens and turkeys having been culled since February 2022 to prevent the spreading of this disease.

Add to all of this that 100,000 Ukrainians will be, rightfully, welcomed into the country as quickly as possible with the end goal of uniting them with family members already living here. This is in addition to the 210,000 migrants that have entered the country via Mexico in March 2022 alone.

What does this mean for us? It's pretty simple really; an increasing population with decreasing food supply and a potentially expanding war means the very serious potential for a food shortage in this country and this is what we need to prepare for.

Please, take advantage of this time fill your pantries and start a victory garden. Any and everything you do now can make a great difference later. Make sure you start working towards the emergency supply kit I listed in the previous article. That kit should include but not be limited to food, water, clothing, extra blankets, candles matches or lighters, battery operated devices (flashlights, radios etc.) with varying battery sizes, medications and first aid kits, toiletries and cleaning supplies (bleach, clothing and dish detergent- also for floor, tub and toilet) and garbage bags. Remember, with approximately 350 million people in this country, there may not be enough assistance from any of the numerous agencies to provide for everyone...if any at all.

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

Markus E. Adams
Mayor

Meaningful Affordable

Patrick T.
Lanigan
Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.

On-Site Crematory

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700 Linden Ave at Cable
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112
412-824-8800

Turtle Creek / Monroeville
1111 Monroeville Avenue
Turtle Creek, PA 15145
412-823-9350

Patrick T. Lanigan, Supervisor *Stephanie L. Doriguzzi, Supervisor*
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Joseph N. Strednak Funeral Director *Jessica D. Cespedes, Funeral Director*

www.laniganfuneralhome.com

WE 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 and Face Book.

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:

Agenda Meetings 6:00 pm

May 10, 2022

June 14, 2022

July 12, 2022

August 9, 2022

September 13, 2022

Business Meetings 7:00 pm

May 17, 2022

June 21, 2022

July 19, 2022

August 16, 2022

September 20, 2022

Being a Good Neighbor

With the warmer weather, open windows, and spring/summer projects upon us, please remember to be respectful of your neighbors.

- Keep late night noise and loud music to a minimum.
- Lawns and shrubs should remain trimmed so as not to block access to sidewalks or alleys.
- Pick up the litter around your home. Unfortunately some loose letter will end up on your property due to wind, accidentally or by others who don't care.
- TRASH REMINDER: Trash cans and waste is not to go out until Thursday evening before trash pickup. Trash that is placed out is unsightly and detracts from the neighborhood. Code Enforcement will ticket you if trash is found to be placed out earlier in the week..

Trax Alley Playground Opens

The Borough of East Pittsburgh opened its newest playground on Trax Alley on Friday, March 18, 2022. The new playground was built on a lot that had served as an ice rink in the 1970's and is less than a block away from the outdated playground it is replacing on Bessemer Ave.

"We are here to welcome the positive. The children in East Pittsburgh have a new, safe, and quite lovely playground," said Council President Mary Carol Kennedy, who has been working on this project since she joined East Pittsburgh Council 9 years ago.

Ms. Kennedy thanked all the vendors who worked to make this playground a reality. Funding for this project was provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, The Borough of East Pittsburgh and US Steel Corporation. Senator Brewster believes that every town has tax payers who deserve to see a return in their investment when grant programs are available, and provided the support to obtain the grant from DCED in 2021.



The ribbon cutting was performed by Ms. Kennedy, Senator Jim Brewster, and Jon Olszewski of US Steel Corporation.

The new playsets include swings and separate modules designed for 2–



5-year-old and 5-12 year-old children. A cornhole set is located at the rear of the playground.

Council Vacancy

We wish Earnest Frazier, Councilmember-at-large well and thank him for his service to the Borough and the youth, specifically through the basketball clinic that occurs every summer. Mr. Frazier is no longer able to serve due to moving out of the borough. Council is seeking applicants to fill the rest of the term, until December 31, 2023. Qualified applicants need to reside in the borough for at least one year prior to appointment. Please send letters of interest and any inquiries to Seth Abrams, Borough Manager at epabrams@eastpittsburghboro.com or the Borough Office at 813 Linden Ave., East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

The Dollar Energy Fund can assist low income individuals & families in applying for assistance from the following agencies:

- Duquesne Light
- People's Natural Gas
- ALCOSAN

They can also assist with applying for LIHEAP and other social services that you may benefit from.

You may find more information at www.dollarenergyfund.org

The closest office to East Pittsburgh is **Holy Family Institute, Edgewood Towne Center**

Address:

1789 South Braddock Avenue
Suite 585

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Phone: 412-244-8010

The Port Authority provides transportation via the 59 or 69 lines without transfers.

Please be prepared with a copy of the appropriate utility bill, identification, your social security number and proof of income.



WATT | CHOICES
OUR ENERGY...YOUR POWER TO SAVE®

Duquesne Light's WATT CHOICES program helps customers conserve energy and reduce demand while lowering their electricity costs. Watt Choices invites residential, commercial and industrial customers to take advantage of a wide range of energy efficiency, conservation and demand-response measures. By participating in these programs, customers are not only learning ways to conserve energy, they also are reducing their overall impact on the environment through reduced power plant emissions and load reduction.

Visit: www.wattchoices.com



LIHWAP may be able to assist you with overdue water and wastewater bills.

What is LIHWAP?

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary emergency program to help low-income families pay overdue water bills. LIHWAP is a grant. You do not have to repay it.

To receive help...

- Apply starting January 4, 2022.
- You don't have to be on public assistance.
- You need to have an unpaid water bill.
- You can either rent or own your home.

How does LIHWAP work?

LIHWAP Crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your water service. You can receive one Crisis grant for your drinking water service and one Crisis grant for your wastewater service, up to \$2,500 each.

Crisis situations include:

- Past-due water bills.
- Termination of utility service.
- Danger of having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days).

How do I apply?

- Apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.
- Request an application by calling the Statewide Customer Service Center at 877-395-8930 or call PA Relay at 711 for the hearing impaired.
- Applications are available at your local county assistance office.

To apply, you will need:

- Names of people in your household;
- Dates of birth for all household members;
- Social Security numbers for all household members;
- Proof of income for all household members; and
- A recent water bill.

Who is eligible?

You may qualify for a LIHWAP grant if:

- You must have an overdue water bill that you are responsible for paying.
- Your household income meets the following income guidelines:

INCOME GUIDELINES

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$ 19,320
2	\$ 26,130
3	\$ 32,940
4	\$ 39,750
5	\$ 46,560
6	\$ 53,370
7	\$ 60,180
8	\$ 66,990
9	\$ 73,800
10	\$ 80,610

Each Additional Person
Add \$ 6,810

After your application is processed, you will receive a written notice that will tell you if you qualify. If eligible, it will tell you the amount of your grant.



813 Linden Ave
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

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](#).

Municipal Property Tax Reminder: Property Taxes are due at face value until June 30, 2022. After that they move to penalty value with a 10% increase. Taxes are payable to the Borough Tax Collector: Patrick Geric, Tax Collector. Bills may be mailed or paid in person at 409 Center St, East Pittsburgh, PA on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm. The office can be reached at 412-823-3155 or taxcollector@eastpittsburghboro.com.

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