## The Borough of Wilson

#### Spring/Summer 2021



## Visit the Borough website wllsonboroughorg

## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR - DONALD R. BARRETT JR

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Welcome to 2021! We are all asking THE question - when will things return to normal? I'm not sure if I ever want to go back to normal. I typically don't like be normal, nor aim for normal and - let's face it - normal is never good enough. We the residents of the Borough deserve more than just normal.

I have been waiting for life to return to normal since March of 2020, and it scares me to think if we go back what will happen. Last year, we were supposed to be celebrating 100 years of Wilson Borough! Instead the Celebration Committee was forced to delay the celebration three times in the course of waiting for things to return to normal,finally settling on October 14,15,16 of this year at Meuser



Park. COVID-19 has changed a lot of things and we need to make sure that we are better prepared for anything that may happen in the future.

Here is something worth celebrating - we have seen a marked reduction in crime in Wilson Borough. I love to read the posts on Facebook that say crime is "rampant" and that announce "I can't wait to leave this town and move someplace safer". Let's face it, crime is everywhere and you are not going to get away by running someplace else. As I said once before, the best quote I heard was that people often believe that the grass is greener on the other side, but that people who live there also weed and feed and take care of their property too, which is why it is so green. We need to work together on our property – the Boro. We need to get involved and be part of the solution. We have a Block Watch, yet I see almost nobody joining or participating. I see lots of people attending the Community Yard Sale (and hopefully the Easter Egg hunt in 2022) but we need people to join and be part of Block Watch. If you see something happening don't just blast it on social media; that accomplishes nothing. Call the police, plain and simple. If you have not realized this yet, we do NOT monitor Social media for issues. With respect to recent stats on crime in the Boro, I am happy to say that in 2018 we had 259 Part 1 offenses and since then we have cut that down to between 177 and 174; as of this letter we are at 51. To say the least, our police department does an amazing job. Our officers average about 450 calls per officer. That is a lot of calls! Compare that to Palmer Township and Easton who's officers answers about half that total per officer. Their departments are much larger but, with all the work our team has done, I feel incredibly safe with them covering our town and am proud of all that they accomplish.

Continued on page 3

## 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA 18042



Barry Herman, MD • Manoj Mittal, MD • Shanker Mukherjee, MD • Amit Sohagia, MD • Stephen Willis, MD



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## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Our Fire Department has answered over 210 calls (both EMS and Fire) already in 2021, with an average response time for both types of calls at around 5 minutes. Of course, the year is still young. EMS calls have a quicker response than Fire but the average for both is amazing. This is extremely important when every second counts. And I have personally witnessed the response and serve that our first responders offer and I can honestly say we have the best. The fact that we are such a small town gives me the feeling that service is taken personally. They aren't helping a just a citizen, but a family member.

Public works was extremely busy in 2020 and in 2021. The Blizzard of the Century did not make it easy. I had to drive during the storm and I will tell you that our roads were one of the clearest in the area and state. Yes, I acknowledge that alleys were an issue, but Eric and the Team worked hard to clear them as quickly as possible. Living in Wilson Borough myself, I know that our alleys are narrow and the roads are being torn up by UGI and other utilities. But this is being addressed as well. After school breaks for the summer, UGI and Wilson Borough will start milling and repaving the roads torn up by UGI. UGI will also be looking to do more construction this summer and we are asking that these roads be milled and paved as well. For too long, we have just overlaid asphalt on top of asphalt, making it so we have very little curb, which can cause flooding. Milling will be part of the repaving and we will be posting a list of areas they will be working on once confirmed.

With COVID-19 our office staff and code enforcement has faced special challenges. Even though the office is closed, business has continued and they have been coordinating all aspects of business. Unfortunately, the layout of Borough hall is not one that is well designed for pandemics. As the restriction lifts, we will be open once again for business.

We have a lot of projects we are working on from roads being repaired, the pool being remodeled, giving the police a functional police station, and the Centennial Celebration to name a few. All these things take time and after four years - almost five - we are finally starting on a new scoreboard at Fisk Field. These are all team efforts and every member of Council has contributed. In addition, we have a lawsuit currently against the owners of the Dixie Building. The filing is quite extensive and a matter of public record if you wish to look it over; the Case Number is C-48-CV-2020-06058. Your officials are working hard and I will continue to broadcast Council meetings.

Being small is not always a bad thing. As Borough residents we are blessed to have a lot of resources and benefits, such as our own library, wilsonborough.org, police, fire, public works, code, office staff, councilpersons, and each other. Join me, and let's work to be part of the change, coming together to make this town better. Let's be more than normal!

Donald R. Barrett Jr

## POLICE CHIEF

#### **CURFEW ORDINANCE**

Just a reminder about the Borough's Curfew Ordinance: Borough Ordinance No. 655 states that those under 18 years of age are not allowed out in public between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am unless that child is accompanied by a parent or guardian, going to or from work, on lawful business for their parent, returning from school or going to school, or on an emergency errand authorized by their parents.

Any child who violates this ordinance can be detained until a parent or guardian can be notified. Parents will receive a warning for the first offense. Subsequent offenses will result in a citation with up to a \$300.00 fine.

#### **PARKING ISSUES**

The Wilson Police respond to hundreds of parking complaints each year. The most common complaints are: Vehicles parked without moving for over 72 hours, unregistered/uninspected vehicles, and residents with off street parking who park on the street. Please remember that vehicles cannot be parked in the same spot for over 72 hours and all vehicles must have current inspection, registration, emissions, and insurance. if you have off street parking, please be considerate of your neighbors.

Thank You!

Wilson Borough would like to thank the businesses and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### **FIREWORKS**

Although the fireworks law in Pennsylvania has changed to allow the purchase of "consumer grade" fireworks please be aware.

#### SMOKE DETECTORS

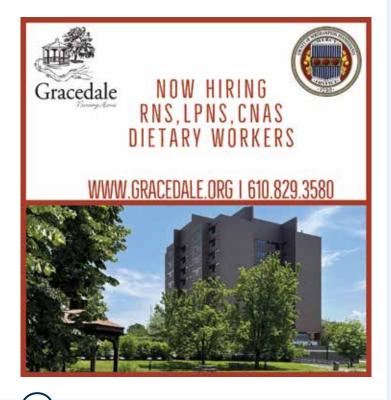
The Wilson Borough Fire Department in conjunction with the American Red Cross is offering all Wilson Borough homeowners a fire safety review and up to 4 smoke detectors installed in your home. Please call the fire department at 610-253-2035 to set up a visit.

## **FIRE CHIEF**

Although the state of Pennsylvania now allows certain types of fireworks to be legally sold to residents, please remember that the law also states:

- They cannot be ignited or discharged on public or private property without express permission of the property owner.
- They cannot be discharged from or within a motor vehicle or building.
- They cannot be discharged toward a motor vehicle or building.
- They cannot be discharged within 150 feet of an occupied structure, whether or not a person is actually present.
- They cannot be discharged while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.

The Wilson Borough Fire Department is always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the department or have any questions about joining, please stop by the station on Butler St. at any time and speak to one of the firefighters on duty.







### IMPORTANT ORDINANCES EVERY RESIDENT SHOULD KNOW:

- 1. Garbage may not be placed out for pick up until 24 hours prior.
- All electronic devices must be picked up by appointment only. Please call Waste Management at Your Door. Call 1-800-449-7587, online at WMatYourDoor.com, or Email at AtYourDoor@WM.com
- 3. Curb grass (grass growing between curb and street) is responsibility of the resident to trim or remove.
- 4. Lawns and all grassy areas cannot exceed 10 inches in height. Under no circumstances should grass or weeds be blown onto the Borough streets or alley ways.
- 5. Snow must be removed from all walkways within 15 hours after snow fall. Under no circumstance should any snow be blown into Borough streets or alley ways. The Wilson Borough Fire Department requests that fire hydrants near your home should be shoveled open.
- 6. It shall be unlawful for anyone to store abandoned or junk automobiles, dump garbage, rubbish, or other debris of an offensive or obnoxious nature in the Borough of Wilson.
- 7. Business license: All businesses (including rentals) conducting business in the Borough of Wilson will be required to obtain a business license.

## SEWER AND GARBAGE INFORMATION

Wilson Borough Sewer and Garbage Bills are sent to residents quarterly, *March, June, September, and December* each year. The bills are due at the end of the month they were mailed.

- March bill is for the months of August, September, and October of the preceding year.
- June bill is for the months of November, December of the preceding year and January of the current year.
- September bill is for the months of February, March and April of the current year.
- December bill is for the months of May, June and July of the current year.

A resident has several ways to pay their Sewer/Garbage bills.

- 1. Visit the Borough Business Office at 2040 Hay Terrace Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (once building reopens?)
- 2. Drop box: After business office hours there is a drop box located to the right of the front door that you may drop your payment in.
- 3. Online Bill Pay: Should you choose to use your financial institution's online bill pay please be aware we DO NOT receive the payments electronically (EFT). A paper check is printed and mailed to the Borough Office. This process can take anywhere from 7 to 10 business days. Please be aware when mailing a check the Borough has 180 days to cash the check unless otherwise noted on the check.
- 4. Now you may pay your Sewer/Garbage Bill and Wilson Borough Real Estate Property Tax online with a Credit Card or Electronic Check. You may only pay this way if you are CURRENT on your Sewer/Garbage bills. If we receive payments for an account that is in Shut-Off status, the payment will be returned.

#### Official Payments online bill pay

www.officialpayments.com

DO NOT create an account on the Official Payment's website. Please follow instructions below:

- 1. Click the "Local Payment" box.
- 2. Choose State.
- 3. Choose Wilson Borough in the "Entity" box.
- 4. Click on the Payment Type (Chose either Sewer/Garbage or Real Property Taxes).
- 5. Click Make a Payment and follow the instructions for each page.

It should be noted that there is a fee for a credit card payment. To determine the credit card payment fee click on the Fee Calculator link and follow the instructions. This fee is charged by Official Payments. The Borough does not make money on this.

If you have received a shut-off notice from Wilson Borough you MUST pay in certified funds or cash ONLY. If you receive a letter from Easton Suburban Water Authority with a 10-day notice for shut-off a \$50 fee will be assessed to your sewer/ garbage bill. This fee is incurred from Easton Suburban Water Authority, and also must be paid in certified funds or cash.

Please contact the Business Office at 610-258-6142 before making a payment so that we can inform you of the correct account number and total amount due.

\*\*Senior Garbage discount is available to all residents 65 and older who own their home. Please bring in your driver's license to the Borough office and we can adjust your account accordingly. \*\*

## **FLUSHABLE WIPES**

"Flushable" wipes, along with Clorox and other disinfectant wipes, are clogging pipes and sewer lines, and especially pumps at sewer treatment facilities.

The Borough of Wilson would like to remind residents to avoid flushing the following items: Diapers and baby wipes — even flushable wipes; feminine hygiene products and personal care wipes; cleaning/disinfecting wipes and disposable toilet brushes; paper towels; disposable gloves.

Flushing these types of items can cause backups in your personal sanitary sewer lateral and sanitary sewer main systems.

If a personal sewer lateral backs up, it is the property owner's responsibility and can be very costly.



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## **PAVILION-PARK RENTALS**

#### **MEUSER PARK RENTAL**

The rental of Meuser Park does not include the use of the pavilions or band shell area. Those are charged separately.

Park only for Residents: \$100 rental fee and \$100 CASH ONLY refundable cleanup deposit.

Park only for Non-Residents: \$150 rental fee and \$100 CASH ONLY refundable cleanup deposit.

Public events held at Meuser Park will require evidence of liability insurance. Event liability insurance must be in the amount of \$1,00,000 naming Wilson Borough, Wilson Borough Council and Wilson Borough Employees as additional insureds.

#### **PAVILIONS**

The Pavilions are available for rental all year however, for the months from October through April the water will be turned off, depending on the weather.

#### SMALL PAVILION

- Resident \$ 75 plus a \$100 CASH ONLY refundable deposit.
- Non-Resident \$100 plus a \$100 CASH ONLY refundable deposit.

#### LARGE PAVILION

- Resident \$125 plus a \$100 CASH ONLY refundable deposit.
- Non-Resident \$150 plus a \$100 CASH ONLY refundable deposit.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE FOR CANCELLATIONS.

#### PAVILION/PARK RULES

- NO ALCOHOL
- NO DJ'S
- YOU MAY USE GRILLS BUT YOU MUST TAKE HOT COALS WITH YOU. NO DUMPING.
- PAVILIONS MUST BE CLEANED AND ALL REFUSE CANS MUST BE EMPTY AND REFUSE MUST BE PLACED IN THE DUMPSTER. THE DUMPSTER IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF THE PARKING LOT.
- NO PARKING ON THE GRASS OR IN THE PARK.
- NO VEHICLES PERMITTED PAST THE PARKING LOT.
- Use of Band shell and park are charged separately.

YOU MUST APPLY AND PAY FOR USAGE OF THE PAVILIONS NO EXCEPTIONS.

#### **BAND SHELL**

The rental of the Band Shell does not include the use of the park or pavilions, those are charged separately.

Band shell only for Residents: \$75 rental fee and \$100 CASH ONLY refundable cleanup deposit.

Band shell only for Non-Residents: \$125 rental fee and \$100 CASH ONLY refundable cleanup deposit.

Public events held at Meuser Park will require evidence of liability insurance. Event liability insurance must be in the amount of \$1,00,000 naming Wilson Borough, Wilson Borough Council and Wilson Borough Employees as additional insureds.

## SWEET 165 • PROMS • HOLIDAY PARTY • WEDDINGS



## **MEUSER PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

22nd and Northampton Streets Wilson Borough, Pennsylvania

#### 2021 SCHEDULE

Watch for the announcement of additional programs! Open dates are June 27 and July 11.

#### <u>TBA</u>

Sunday, July 11\* 6:00 to 8:00 pm

#### Johnny's Jukebox Band

Sunday, July 18\* 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Come out for a night of oldies rock and soul music from the sixties and seventies.

#### The Swing Time Dolls

Sunday, July 25\* 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Come out and join the girls for an evening of music to remember.

#### The Nazareth Community Band

Sunday, August 1\* 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Let's give a warm welcome to these musical ambassadors from our neighboring community to the North.

#### Lehigh Valley Italian American Band

Sunday, August 8\* 6:00 to 8:00 pm Under the direction of Matt Cascioli, the name says it all.

#### Little Brass Band of the Lehigh Valley

Sunday, August 15\* 6:00 to 8:00 pm

This band brings their own exciting brass sound to our summer series.

#### Easton Municipal Band

Sunday, August 22\* 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Let's welcome one of the Lehigh Valley's most popular municipal bands.

#### The Main Street Cruisers

Sunday, August 29\* 6:00 to 8:00 pm Wrap up the season with Oldies! Oldies! Oldies!

#### PLEASE WEAR MASKS AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING. STOP BY THE REFRESHMENT STAND BEFORE OR DURING THE CONCERT!

Homemade Barbecue, Hot Dogs, Sauer Kraut, Coffee, Soda, Water, Hershey's Ice Cream Proceeds from Refreshment Stand Sales Benefit The Friends of Meuser Library.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AT MARY MEUSER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

#### "ANY STRING GOES"

Our knit, crochet and fiber crafting group meets every Wednesday at 4 pm. If you knit, crochet, spin, sew, embroider, etc., bring your current project and sit and chat with us. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, you are welcome to come and give it a go. We will have some yarn and needles available for practicing and some experienced crafters to show you the ropes, and the "strings". Hope to see you there!

#### THE MEUSER BOOK CLUB

The Meuser Book Club meets the third Tuesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. Book titles are chosen by our members in advance. If interested, please call the Library at 610-258-3040 or email us at meuserlib.adult@rcn.com. Weather permitting, we meet in person here at the Library under the tent in our backyard. Otherwise, ZOOM meeting instructions will be available that morning. We always welcome new members!

#### **MEUSER'S STORYTIMES ARE BACK!**

Our popular children's story time hour will be returning in May every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Registration will be required due to social distancing requirements. Space is limited, so reserve your space soon! Call the Library for more information: 610-258-3040.

#### **HOOPLA HAS LAUNCHED!**

At long last, Meuser Library has launched HOOPLA, a library streaming platform. All patrons with current library accounts in good standing who live in the Wilson Area School District are eligible. Hoopla is a groundbreaking digital media service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately, or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later. There are hundreds of thousands of titles to choose from, with more being added daily. Hoopla is like having your public library at your fingertips "anytime, anywhere"! Currently, each patron is allowed three (3) borrowing transactions per month.

#### 2021 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

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To all our wonderful patrons! Welcome to our 2021 Summer Reading Program. This year's theme, "Tails and Tales", will be a joint mix of virtual story times and programs, suggested crafts and activities, and contactless curbside material pickup. We begin with:

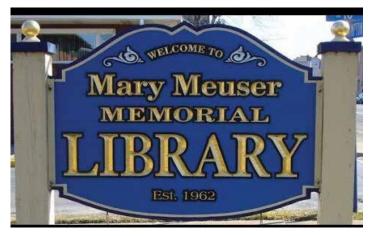
#### Wildlands Conservancy

June 15

#### 10:00 am-12:00 pm

There will be a passer-by table activity and animal presentation. (Masks and social distancing must be practiced; please be respectful of others!)

**Field Kits** are available, in limited quantity. They may be picked up at Meuser Library and will be exclusive to Mary Meuser Library juvenile card holders.



Wildlands Conservancy reserves the right to photograph participants during activities, and to use these photographic images in commercial or non-commercial publicity for nature programs or facilities.

#### Magic Tales with Daniel Lusk

Available on Facebook June 29, 2021 through July 3.

Magic lessons on Facebook 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10.

We will announce the programs and all other new additions and changes throughout the summer on our website, meuserlib.org. Follow us on our Facebook page, and watch for our monthly email blasts. Any questions feel free to call us, 610-258-3040, or email us at meuserlib.juv@rcn.com or meuserlib.adult@rcn.com.

#### "STICK FIGURE POETRY"

"STICK FIGURE POETRY" and Open Mic meets "virtually" the third Thursday of every month from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. This event is open to all ages and all genres including music, poetry, and fiction. Join in and share your talents! Contact the Library at <u>meuserlib@rcn.com</u>, or call us at 610-258-3040 for Zoom instructions.

#### CHROME BOOKS AND TABLETS

CHROME BOOKS and TABLETS are now available for in-library use in our Children's Department. We also offer a juvenile computer station with printer capability and WI FI printing. If you haven't already, come check them out!

## CHECK OUT OUR LOCAL MUSEUM PASSES NOW AVAILABLE TO OUR PATRONS!

We currently have museum passes available to our patrons for visiting the America On Wheels Museum in Allentown, The Sigal Museum in Easton, The Nurture Nature Center in Easton, and the Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem. Several other museum passes will be available in the near future. Call the Library for additional information.

#### **GETTING ITCHY FOR OUR ANNUAL BOOK FAIR?**

Planning is underway for our annual Book Fair to be held Saturday, September 11, and Sunday, September 12. Watch for details throughout July and August. Meanwhile, visit our Book Nook in the rear of the Adult section and find lots of gently



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**BOROUGH OF WILSON** 

2040 Hay Terrace | Wilson Borough, PA 18042 | 610-258-6142 | 610-258-6639 (fax) www.wilsonborough.org

#### MAYOR

Donald R. Barrett Jr.....610-253-0360 mayor@wilsonborough.org

#### **BOROUGH MANAGER/SECRETARY**

Jill A. Garcia......610-258-6142 boroughsecretary@wilsonborough.org

#### **BOROUGH TREASURER/CLERK**

Steph Jones......610-258-6142 boroughclerk@wilsonborough.org

#### SUPERVISOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Eric Flowers......610-258-6143 publicworks@wilsonborough.org

#### **POLICE CHIEF**

Christian Meehan ......610-258-8746 cmeehan@wilsonpd.org

#### **FIRE CHIEF**

Joseph Sipel......610-253-2035 firechief@wilsonborough.org **RENTAL ADMINISTRATOR** 

Richard Wamsley ......610-258-4525 rwamsley@wilsonborough.org

#### **HEALTH OFFICER**

TAX COLLECTOR Dorothy Klass ......610-252-5983 Dot511@rcn.com

#### **BOROUGH CODE OFFICER**

Emanuel Machado.....610-438-2315 codes@wilsonborough.org

#### EASTON SUBURBAN WATER

AUTHORITY 3700 Hartley Ave P O Box 3819 Easton, PA 18043-3819 info@eswater.net 610-258-7181 | Fax 610-258-7780

#### 2020 - 21 HOLIDAYS (OFFICE CLOSED)

BOROUGH GARAGE 1415 Iron St Easton PA 18042

610-258-6413

#### MARY MEUSER LIBRARY

1803 Northampton St 610-258-3040 www.meuserlib.org

#### POLICE

2035 Butler St | 610-258-8746 Non-emergency 610-759-2200

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

2041 Butler St 610-253-2035

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE COURT 03-2-12, 3RD DISTRICT NORTHAMPTON COUNTY Richard Yetter

1710 Butler St | 610-258-4640

September 6, 2021 – Labor Day November 11, 2021 – Veterans Day November 25 & 26, 2021 – Thanksgiving



## PER CAPITA TAX

#### What is a Per Capita Tax:

Per Capita Tax is a tax levied by a taxing authority to everyone 18 years of age and older residing in their jurisdiction. "Per Capita" means "by head," so this tax is commonly called a head tax.

The Wilson Borough Per Capita Tax is mailed the beginning of each new year.

The Per Capita Tax was mailed February 4, 2021, if you have not received the bill you may call the Borough Office, and someone will be happy to give you your account number.

If paid on or before 3/31/21 amount due \$9.80

If paid on or before 6/1/21 amount due \$10.00

If paid after 6/1/21 amount due \$11.00

Checks may be made payable to the Borough of Wilson. Cash is also acceptable.

Continued from page 8 UPCOMING EVENTS AT MARY MEUSER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

December 23 & 24, 2021 - Christmas

December 31, 2021 - New Years

used hard cover fiction and non-fiction books for sale for only \$ 1.00 each! We also have a good selection of gently used DVDs, CDs and audiobooks for sale across from the Circulation Desk. All proceeds benefit the Library. Please note that we are unable to accept any donations prior to August 1. Please call before dropping off more than one box of books.

## SHOP AT REDNER'S AND HELP SUPPORT MEUSER LIBRARY!

Here's how it works: Stop at the store office or customer service area and get a Save-A-Tape card. By using this card each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. Bring your receipt into the library and place it in the "Redner's Save-A-Tape" bucket. Redner's will donate 1% of your purchases to the library.

## ...AND SUPPORT MEUSER LIBRARY BY SHOPPING THROUGH AMAZON SMILE!

Here's how it works at no extra cost to you: simply log on to www. smile.amazon.com, designate us as your charity, then continue shopping as you would anytime! Don't forget to bookmark the smile page. Each time you shop through Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Mary Meuser Library.

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## ACHY EAR PARTNERS

#### Children's ExpressCARE-Palmer Township

When your child can't wait for an appointment, Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital offers walk-in care just for kids at Children's ExpressCARE–Palmer Township. Learn more at LVHN.org/expresskids or call 888-402-LVHN.

Health Center at Palmer Township | 3701 Corriere Road, Easton





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## GOT A HOME CLEANUP PROJECT?



Visit www.thebagster.com Get \$10 Off One Collection: Promo Code: 265-WBPS

For bigger cleanups, call (800) 869-5566.



Easton, PA 18042





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Juice Bar Hours: Monday-Friday: 10:30-5:30

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