Borough of Wilson

Fall/Winter 2021



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Visit the Borough website willsonborough.org

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR - DONALD R. BARRETT, JR

While 2021 has been a challenging year, and we have had a lot of ups and downs, it was, overall, a good year. We started out the year with the residual impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic and ended with community events and people finally able to gather again safely. We Celebrated 100 years as a borough (plus 1 year of course), attended sporting events at capacity and are starting to return to normal. Just because things look better socially, however, doesn't mean they are across the board. A lot of businesses were impacted here in the Borough, and this will definitely have us adjusting for the next few years so that we can



recover fully. To accomplish this, we will need to make choices as a council that will impact our community and our future.

Budget time is never fun, and 2022 is going to be a challenge. One of the good things about Wilson Borough is our lack of debt service. We have NO outstanding loans and are excellent at paying our bills. Our front office works hard to bring in money but also keep us on the plus side, ledger-wise. With the aforementioned impacts to businesses, it comes down to making decisions that may be hard for some. For example: do we postpone fixing the swimming pool or replace a 30-year-old firetruck? These are the types of tough choices that we will need to make. The Sale of Easton Hospital to St Luke's for which I am extremely thankful, also adds to the impacts on our tax base.

Sure, it is easy to say let's make some cuts in our departments, personnel, budgets, etc., but until you look over everything any minor cuts can have a huge impact. Last year we saw crime go to the lowest it has been in a while. I read some posts that declared it was "time to move", but looking at the numbers, crime is down over consecutive years. In 2017, there were 338 Part 1 Offenses; currently, we are at 128. These improvements are not just part 1 offenses; we have seen these totals drop year after year across the board. So, do we risk cutting police resources knowing there has been a recent positive impact (and I can say it is directly because of our Police Department). They have fought to keep Spanky's closed and do a lot more that we don't see. The police department also received approximately \$160,000 in grants obtained by our chief and engineering firm to help keep us moving in the right direction.

Our Fire Department answered a total of 625 calls (EMS and Fire combined) and in an average call time of under 5 minutes. It takes about 2.5 minutes to be enroute. Our ladder truck, however, is currently in bad shape and will cost us about a million dollars to replace. We are able to cover this expense with a CD. I believe that this is something the Borough desperately needs to keep its residents safe.

After last Winter, I don't think we can afford cuts in Public Works. Yes it may have taken a bit longer than folks would have liked for alleys to be cleared, but we had an incredible winter storm *Continued on page 3*

2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA 18042



PENNSYLVANIA'S Largest Trauma Network

We've taken life-saving care to a new level.

St. Luke's network of trauma centers is now the largest in Pennsylvania.St. Luke's cares for thousands of patients every year at7 trauma centers throughout the region...

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Know where you can receive the most advanced care BEFORE you need it because injuries happen when you least expect them.



1-866-STLUKES (785-8537) • sluhn.org

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR Continued from cover

last year and they did an amazing job under those extreme circumstances. In my travels for work and seeing other towns, I can vouch firsthand that they did an amazing job.

We have also seen a warehouse project put on hold and concerns coming from neighboring communities about traffic it would generate. These same communities continue to build retail space and housing along an already congested area. This warehouse project will clean up a toxic waste area and daylight a stream that has been covered for over 100 years (the wetlands in the article) as well as bring badly needed revenue to the area. None of this could be done without PennDOT approval and they would have made sure the impacts to the roads and traffic were addressed. Of course, the other "albatross" (these are Northampton County's words, and I agree) is the Dixie Building; litigation cannot get here soon enough on this property. We need this property working for Wilson Borough and its residents and the same old story that this has been going on for the past 30 years and "is what it is" needs to end now. We added another filing to the original lawsuit asking for a cease and desist on all activities and use of the building until something is done immediately to clean it up. It is unsafe, and an eyesore, but condemning or exercising eminent domain would put a burden on the Borough that we do not need to bear or deserve. The sad part is that many of the projects in other areas could have been part of Wilson Borough, but all we have now is an empty cup. In 2020 the state lifted the restrictions on boroughs from having Redevelopment Authorities. I would like to see if we can work with the County to establish a redevelopment zone in Wilson Borough.

In closing I am going to circle back to our Celebration. Wilson Borough has survived 100 years and seen its fair share of adversity, and I am sure this will not be the last of the issues. The Celebration was pulled off by a very small group of hard-working and dedicated people. We may be a small borough but it doesn't mean we can't make a difference. It comes down to how bad we want the change. Complaints are just words that express dissatisfaction or annoyance about something. Actions speak louder than words. If you want to see more events, or if there is something that you feel can be improved upon from this year, I strongly encourage you to join the Celebration committee. If you are sincerely worried about crime, create or join a block watch group. If you are concerned about kids trampling your flowers, coach, or volunteer to work with youth in one of the many community sports organizations we have! Turn your negative concerns into positive outcomes! You can impact this community. Make it what you want; don't simply rely on us to do it all. On that point:

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. - James Baldwin

PS: This post will not impact trash pickup nor next year's Trick or Treating (to be held October 31, 2022, from 6pm to 8pm).

Donald R. Barrett, Jr

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

	LJ		
December 13, 2021	March 14, 2022	June 27, 2022	September 26, 2022
December 27, 2021	March 28, 2022	July 11, 2022	October 10, 2022
January 3, 2022	April 11, 2022	July 25, 2022	October 24, 2022
January 10, 2022	April 25, 2022	August 8, 2022	November 14, 2022
January 24, 2022	May 9, 2022	August 22, 2022	November 28, 2022
February 14, 2022	May 23, 2022	September 12, 2022	December 12, 2022
February 28, 2022	June 13, 2022		December 26, 2022



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.

WILSON BOROUGH CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

Did you know that all our ordinances are codified and online for all to see? Wilson Borough uses eCode 360 to publish and maintain all our ordinances. The ordinances are organized by chapter and are both searchable and printable. New ordinances are added upon adoption. You can find them by visiting the Borough website, under the Departments/Code Enforcement tab. If you have any further questions, please contact the Codes and Zoning Department at 610-483-2315.

Many Forms and Documents can be found on the Borough's Website: Departments/Code Enforcement/Permits & Fee Schedule.

CODE PROCESS

Over the years, residents have asked about the Code Enforcement process and why it appears to take a long time for a resolution to a Code issue. This is just an overview; the actual process can be quite involved and time consuming!

It either begins with a complaint from a resident or an observation by Code Enforcement. The information received is reviewed against the Borough's Codes to verify that a violation does exist.

A letter is sent to the owner or occupant of the property explaining the issue, the code violated and a time to resolve it by. Most times, this is the all that needs to be done and the matter is taken care of. After a follow up, if the matter is not resolved additional notices are sent to resolve the violation. If those notices are ignored, the property is posted with a copy of the sent notice(s) and timeframe by which the issue must be resolved. Where these attempts do not result in a resolution to the matter, a Citation or Civil Action is filed with the local District Justice. Should the defendant plead guilty and remit the fine to the Court, the matter is closed, even though the violation remains. If the defendant requests a hearing, one is scheduled before the District Justice. If the outcome of this hearing is a guilty verdict, a fine is assessed only and the defendant has thirty days to appeal the verdict to Common Pleas Court. If the defendant does not appeal after the thirty days, the fine must be paid. For the Borough to have the violation resolved, an enforcement action must be filed in Common Pleas Court. For an appeal at the Common Pleas level, the hearing process begins all over again and the previous fine is set aside. At this hearing, the Judge may uphold the District Court decision for the fine or overturn their decision.

Again, it is only a fine, an enforcement action may still be required to compel compliance with the Codes. This whole process can take a lot of time, but it is what the Code Enforcement Department is required to do as part of the enforcement process to gain compliance. -



CODE FEE SCHEDULE

Home Inspection

- Each dwelling unit to be inspected is \$100
- Each Commercial or Industrial use under 5,000 square feet to be inspected is \$125 per building.
- Each Commercial or Industrial use over 5,000 square feet to be inspected is \$175 per building.
- Certificate of Occupancy is \$50.

Building Fees

• \$25 for the first \$500 and \$2.50 for each additional \$100, not to exceed \$10,000.

Electrical Fees

 \$25 for the first \$500 and \$2.50 for each additional \$100, not to exceed \$10,000.

Plumbing Fees

- \$25 for the first \$500 and \$2.50 for each additional \$100. not to exceed \$10,000.
- The tapping fee will be \$1000 to access and utilize the sewer line off of the Property, \$500 if the line is within the Property boundary.
- There must always be a Master Plumber on the job, duly licensed by the Borough of Wilson.

Trenches and Excavations

- \$10 per square foot of restoration.
- Permit fee \$25

Demolition

- Residential \$8 per square foot
- Commercial \$8 per square foot

ALL FEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020



Street Signs

- Handicap parking \$125
- Business directional \$60 (\$160 if a pole is required)
- Business parking \$125

Business Privilege

- Business Privilege license \$25
- Business Privilege tax: .0015 of gross income earned in the Borough

Moving Permit

• \$5.00 fee

Health Inspections and Licenses

- Initial inspection and license \$150
- Renewal (yearly) \$85
- Re-Inspection due to violation \$35
- Temporary license (14 days or less per year) \$10/day
- Nonprofit organizations shall comply with Chapter 78 of the Department of Agriculture Code; however, no fee is required.

Grass/Weed Cutting or Snow/Ice Removal from private property

 The cost to remove will be passed on to the property owner

CAREGIVERS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY CAN GET ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Contact Northampton County Area Agency on Aging at 610-829-4540 for more information

- Caregivers can receive reimbursement for approved, out-ofpocket caregiving expenses such as respite care, assistance with personal care and consumable supplies such as adult disposable depends and nutritional drink supplements.
- Care receiver is age 60 or older and requires assistance with bathing dressing etc., or under age 60 with a diagnosis of dementia
- Reimbursement is based on the household income of the care receiver
- Assistance for Grandparents who are 55+ and are the primary caregiver for their grandchildren
- Assistance for older adults who are 55+ and are the primary caregiver for their adult children age 18-59 with a diagnosis of a non-dementia related disability.



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.



Santa Delivers

Presented by The Wilson Borough Police Department The Wilson Borough Fire Department And Wilson Borough Block Watch

Date: December 18, 2021

Time: 10 AM - 5 PM



Bring a SMALL wrapped gift including your child's name and address on the gift to the Wilson Borough Fire Department starting Monday, November 29th through Friday, December 17th, from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. Gifts will be delivered to your child by Santa Claus on a fire truck on Sunday, December 18th, from 10:00 am — 5:00 pm. This



only for the residents of Wilson Borough.

Contact: Missy Corrado Wilson Borough Police Department 2035 Butler St. (610) 258-8746

As the cold weather approaches, the Wilson Borough Fire department is asking for assistance in keeping hydrants clear of snow and ice. If you have a hydrant near your home, please clear a three-foot area from the hydrant.



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WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is the term used to indicate the active response plan when a snow storm severely impacts the Borough of Wilson. When a snow emergency is called you have 4 hours to remove all your vehicles from a snow emergency route. The snow emergency routes are listed below.

PILE SNOW HERE DRIVEWAY SHOULDER

Cars parked on any posted Snow Emergency Route must be moved when a Snow Emergency is declared. Cars which are not moved will be towed at the owner's expense.

A snow emergency will be advertised on 69 news, WilsonBorough.org, Twitter, Facebook and Nixile. When a snow emergency is called you may park at the tennis courts, Wilson High School parking lot and Jeffrey field. Once the snow emergency is lifted you have to remove all cars from those designated parking areas.

STREET	FROM	то
FRONT STREET	25TH STREET	IRON STREET
IRON STREET	AVONA AVE	BORO GARAGE ENTRANCE
AVONA AVE.	IRON STREET	FREEMANSBURG AVE.
23RD STREET	FREEMANSBURG AVE.	BUTLER STREET
23RD STREET	FRONT STREET	FREEMANSBURG AVE.
24TH STREET	FREEMANSBURG AVE.	WASHINGTON BLVD.
21ST STREET	BUTLER STREET	NORTHAMPTON STREET
20TH STREET	NORTHAMPTON STREET	SPRING GARDEN STREET
18TH STREET	BUTLER STREET	NORTHAMPTON STREET
17TH STREET	BUTLER STREET	WOOD AVE.
15TH STREET	NORTHAMPTON STREET	SPRING GARDEN STREET
SPRING GARDEN STREET	15TH STREET	20TH STREET
FERRY STREET	22ND STREET	NORTHAMPTON STREET
LEHIGH STREET	21ST STREET	22ND STREET
FREEMANSBURG AVE.	18TH STREET	25TH STREET
BUTLER STREET	15TH STREET	25TH STREET
NORTHAMPTON STREET	15TH STREET	25TH STREET
WASHINGTON BLVD.	15TH STREET	24TH STREET

SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES WILSON BORO

Just a reminder about inclement weather; When the forecast calls for heavy snow or ice the mayor can declare a snow emergency:

Ordinance § 162-18 Declaration of snow and ice emergency:

In order to facilitate the movement of traffic and to combat the hazards of snow and ice on the snow emergency routes named in § 162-20, the Mayor in his discretion may declare a snow and ice emergency, designated in this article as a "snow emergency." The Mayor may declare any snow emergency route or any part of a snow emergency route to be free from restrictions herein imposed when, in his opinion, the weather or street conditions warrant such an exclusion. Information on the existence of a snow emergency may be given by the Borough through radio, newspaper or other available media, and information on the termination or modification of the emergency may be given by use of the same media.

§ 162-19 Parking and driving restrictions on snow emergency routes.

After any snow emergency is declared, it shall be unlawful at any time during the continuance of the emergency for any person:

- A. To park or leave unattended a motor vehicle or to allow that vehicle to remain parked or unattended anywhere on any snow emergency route designated in § 162-20.
- B. To drive any motor vehicle on any such snow emergency route, unless that vehicle is equipped with snow tires, chains, all weather tires or studded tires that are approved by the commonwealth.

162-21 Emergency towing.

Any vehicle parked, stalled, incapable of moving under its own power or left unattended upon any street designated as a snow emergency route may be removed or towed to any other location by the Police Department at the owner's expense.

If you plan on going out of town during the winter months, please make arrangements with somebody who can move your car if it is parked on a snow emergency route. We do not like towing cars and it is very expensive!

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HAPPENINGS AT MEUSER LIBRARY

THE MEUSER BOOK CLUB meets the third Tuesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. in our Annex. If interested in joining, please call the Library at 610-258-3040 or email us at meuserlib.adult@rcn.com. We always welcome new members!

STICK FIGURE POETRY OPEN MIC NIGHT continues throughout the year on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in our Annex. Come out and share your talents, whether an aspiring writer, thespian, musician, or storyteller! All genres are welcome.

In conjunction with Lafayette College, we are hosting a **HOMEWORK HELP** and tutoring program every Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please contact the Library at 610-258-3040 for further information, or visit our website.



STORYTIME IS BACK!

After a long COVID pause, story time with Miss Natasha has resumed every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Bring your toddler or preschooler out for stories, crafts and music. Registration is recommended.

ANY STRING GOES, our Meuser Knitting Club, meets every Wednesday 4:00 p.m. in our Annex. Crochet-ers are also invited! Some beginning instruction is available. Bring your own supplies. Limited supplies will be available for beginners.

OUR ANNUAL BUS TRIP TO THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW will be happening in 2022. If you need a winter time pick-me up, check with us in February for more details. The event will be held in FDR Park Saturday, June 11through Sunday, June 19. Check our website (meuserlib. org) and/or our Facebook page for more information, or call the Library at 610-258-3040.

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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. Each month you may borrow up to three movies, music, audio books, eBooks, comics and TV shows from this digital streaming service 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.

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. Call the Library for additional information on how you can visit these museums at no cost.

Our "**COFFEE**, **TEA**, **AND MEMORIES**" lecture series will resume in 2022. Watch for our postings on our website (meuserlib.org), our Facebook page, or inquire at the Circulation Desk on your next Library visit.

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Exceptional care from the region's most trusted health partner is now closer than ever in Northampton County. Our brand-new hospital offers services for your entire family, including a 24/7 emergency room, health center and access to specialty care with Lehigh Valley Cancer Institute, Lehigh Valley Heart Institute and Lehigh Valley Institute for Surgical Excellence.

To make an appointment, call **888-402-LVHN** or visit **LVHN.org/hecktownoaks.**

Route 33 and Hecktown Road 3780 Hecktown Road | Easton, Pa.





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 Meehan610-258-8746 cmeehan@wilsonpd.org

FIRE CHIEF

Joseph Sipel......610-253-2035 firechief@wilsonborough.org

December 31, 2021 - New Year's Eve

RENTAL ADMINISTRATOR

Richard Wamsley610-258-4525 rwamsley@wilsonborough.org

HEALTH OFFICER

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)

2020 - 21 HOLID November 11, 2021 – Veterans Day November 25 & 26, 2021 – Thanksgiving December 23, 2021 - Christmas December 24, 2021 – Christmas

April 15, 2022 – Good Friday May 30, 2022 – Memorial Day July 4, 2022 – Independence Day September 5, 2022 – Labor Day



TAX COLLECTOR DOROTHY KLASS

2040 HAY TERRACE | EASTON, PA 18042 | 610-252-5983 | DOT511@RCN.COM

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm ONLY

Now you may pay your Wilson Borough Real Estate Property Tax ONLY online with a Credit Card or Electronic Check.

PLEASE DO NOT PAY WILSON SCHOOL TAX VIA THE OFFICIAL PAYMENTS SITE, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. CHECK OR CASH ARE THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE PAYMENTS!

Enter the Official Payment web site www.officialpayments.com and follow the steps listed below:

- Click the "Local Payment" box
- Choose State

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

It should be noted that there is a fee for this type of payment. To determine the credit card payment fee click on the Fee Calculator link and follow the instructions.

BOROUGH GARAGE

1415 Iron St Easton PA 18042 610-258-6143

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

SWEET 165 • PROMS • HOLIDAY PARTY • WEDDINGS





1337 Northampton St., Easton, Pennsylvania 610-253-4678 | www.AshtonFuneralHome.com R. Kline Ashton, Jr., Supervisor Debra Jo Ashton-Chase, Funeral Director | W. Scott Ashton, Funeral Director



• Adolescent Life Skills Training

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STORE HOURS: Monday-Friday: 10am-6pm Saturday: 10am-5pm **Closed Sunday**

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

We'ved moved from 25th St. in January 2021

3615 Nicholas St. | Easton, PA 18045 610-252-7707 www.essenceofhealthlehighvalley.com

