

The Borough of Wilson Newsletter



Summer 2026

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Call us:

610.258.6142

Visit the Borough website wilsonborough.org

HOW PENNSYLVANIA BOROUGHES MAKE DECISIONS

If you have ever wondered who makes the big decisions in your borough—and what role your mayor plays—you are not alone. Local government can seem complex, but the process is rooted in Pennsylvania law and is designed to reflect the needs of each community.

The Borough Council: Your Local Legislative Body

In Pennsylvania, boroughs operate under the Borough Code, which outlines how decisions are made. The borough council is the primary decision-making body. Council members are elected by residents and are responsible for passing ordinances, approving budgets, setting policies, and overseeing public services like police, public works, and recreation.

The council typically consists of seven members, although that number can vary. Council meetings—often held monthly—are open to the public, giving residents a chance to stay informed and involved.

Council members are elected by residents and are responsible for:

- Passing ordinances (local laws)
- Approving the annual budget
- Setting tax rates and fees
- Making policy decisions that affect the community
- Hiring key officials, including the borough manager

Council meetings are typically held monthly and are open to the public. Most borough councils have seven members, though the number can vary.

The Mayor: Ceremonial and Oversight Duties

The mayor in a Pennsylvania borough serves a mostly ceremonial and oversight role.

Key responsibilities include:

- Presiding over council meetings (but only votes to break a tie)
- Signing ordinances and legal documents
- Overseeing the police department
- Representing the borough at official functions
- Issuing proclamations or declaring emergencies

While the mayor doesn't control day-to-day operations, they often serve as a public face and communicator for the borough.

The Borough Manager: The Day-to-Day Administrator

The borough manager is a professional administrator hired by the council to run the day-to-day operations of the borough.

Their duties typically include:

- Preparing and managing the annual budget
- Supervising borough staff and departments
- Implementing council decisions and policies
- Overseeing contracts, infrastructure projects, and municipal services
- Advising council on policy matters and operational needs

The manager ensures the borough runs efficiently and stays compliant with state laws. They work behind the scenes, but their role is central to the borough's success.

Working Together for the Community

In short:

- The council sets the rules and direction.
- The mayor provides leadership and public representation.
- The manager makes it all happen, operationally.

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FROM THE POLICE CHIEF - *Christian Meehan*

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.

THEFTS FROM VEHICLES

The Wilson Police routinely respond to reports of items stolen from cars or cars being rummaged through. The vast majority of these cars were left unlocked by the owners. Please lock your cars and call the Northampton County Dispatch Center at 610.759.2200 to report any suspicious behavior.

SEWER & GARBAGE BILLS

Sewer/Garbage Bills are mailed 4 times a year; **March, June, September, and December** and due on the **30th of the month**. The bills are mailed the first week of the month. *If you do not receive a bill this doesn't mean the Borough has stopped charging you or that you don't owe anything, you MUST pay the bill by the due date to avoid late fees.* Please call the Borough Office 610-258-6142.

Trash Contract is with Casella and can be reached at 908-454-4550

The contract allows for five (5) kitchen-size bags, or two (2) thirty-two (32) gallon containers for each collection of trash. Bulk items are restricted to one item per month, which shall be placed out on your collection day the first FULL week of each month.

BULK TRASH: One large item per month and is picked up on your regular trash day the first FULL week of each month, please see dates below:

Monday, September 7 – Friday, September 11

Monday, October 5 – Friday, October 9

Monday, November 2 – Friday, November 6

Monday, December 7 – Friday, December 11

Casella will remove and dispose of your extra (over the contract limits) trash for an additional modest per bag fee.

- Kitchen size bag \$2.00
- Contractor size bag \$5.00
- Additional 32-gal trash can \$10.00

Casella can be contacted at 908-454-4550

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION BEGINS WITH YOU!

Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals and any other pollutant as it flows over roads and lawns. This water generally re-enters the water cycle without being treated. Because the City of Bethlehem receives an average of 50 inches of rainfall a year, stormwater quality is a serious concern. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. The practice of healthy household habits by homeowners can keep common pollutants off the ground and out of our stormwater.

In the City of Bethlehem, stormwater runoff does not go to a water treatment plant before entering our recreational or drinking waters. It is transported by drains, streets, gutters, curbs and open channels directly into retention/infiltration basins, parks, washes and canals.

Common stormwater pollutants include sediments (dirt); motor oil, fuel, grease and other fluids; pesticides and herbicides; heavy metals; yard waste (leaves and grass); pet waste; paints and solvents; and litter.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

■ Your Yard

- Select native plants that are drought tolerant and pest resistant.
- Don't over water.
- Use lawn products sparingly and follow the manufacturer's application instructions.
- Never apply fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides just

before, during or immediately after a storm.

- Sweep up landscape waste with a broom instead of using a hose or blower.
- Control loose dirt to prevent soils from washing into the storm drain.
- Properly dispose of pool water. Do not backwash or drain your pool into the street.

■ Your Vehicle

- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash to prevent dirty, soapy water from entering the storm drain.
- Keep your vehicle "leak free." Clean up any leaks with absorbent and dispose of it properly.
- Recycle used motor oil and antifreeze at participating auto parts stores or service facilities.

■ Your Home or Business

- Purchase non-toxic products.
- Store home maintenance products inside or under cover.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste.

■ Your Pets

- Pet waste can be a source of pollution in water bodies and retention basins.
- Collect waste when walking your pet.

LEARN MORE

For more information, visit:

<https://www.wilsonborough.org/sewage-garbage/stormwater-quality/>

HOW CODE COMPLAINTS ARE HANDLED IN WILSON BOROUGH

Wilson Borough is committed to maintaining safe, clean, and attractive neighborhoods for all residents. One of the ways the Borough accomplishes this is through the enforcement of property maintenance, zoning, and other local ordinances.

When a code complaint is received, it is reviewed by the Borough's Code Enforcement Department. Complaints may involve issues such as high grass and weeds, exterior property maintenance, trash accumulation, abandoned vehicles, noise violations, unsafe structures, rental property concerns, or other ordinance violations. Code Enforcement is responsible for investigating complaints and enforcing the Borough's ordinances and the International Property Maintenance Code adopted by the Borough.

What Happens After a Complaint Is Received?

1. Complaint Review – The complaint is logged and reviewed to determine whether it falls under the Borough's jurisdiction.
2. Property Inspection – A Code Enforcement Officer inspects the property to determine whether a violation exists.
3. Notice of Violation – If a violation is found, the property owner or responsible party is typically issued a written notice explaining the violation and providing a timeframe for compliance. The correction period varies depending on the nature and severity of the violation.
4. Follow-Up Inspection – After the compliance deadline has passed, the property is reinspected.
5. Enforcement Action – If the violation has not been

corrected, additional enforcement actions may be taken, including citations, fines, court proceedings, or other remedies authorized by Borough ordinances and state law.

Residents may report potential violations to the Borough. However, in order for the Borough to take enforcement action, Code Enforcement Officers must independently verify that a violation exists. Enforcement decisions are based on observed conditions and applicable ordinances—not solely on the complaint itself.

What Residents Can Do

Residents can help keep Wilson Borough a great place to live by:

- Maintaining lawns and landscaping.
- Properly storing and disposing of trash.
- Keeping properties free of hazardous or unsafe conditions.
- Obtaining required permits before beginning construction or improvement projects.
- Following Borough ordinances regarding noise, property maintenance, rentals, and zoning.

Questions regarding code enforcement, permits, or Borough ordinances may be directed to the Wilson Borough Office at 610-258-6142. Information regarding Borough ordinances can also be found through the Borough's Code Enforcement Department and online code resources. You may also file a complaint on the Wilson Borough website www.wilsonborough.org

FARM ANIMALS PROHIBITED IN WILSON BOROUGH RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Wilson Borough would like to remind residents that the breeding and keeping of farm animals is prohibited within the Borough under the Zoning Ordinance.

Section 170-94(E) of the Wilson Borough Code identifies "the breeding and keeping of farm animals" as a prohibited use in any zoning district within the Borough. This means that farm animals such as chickens, roosters, ducks, goats, pigs, sheep, and similar livestock are not permitted on residential or commercial properties within Borough limits.

These regulations are in place to help protect public health, safety, and neighborhood quality of life by preventing issues related to noise, odors, waste disposal, and other nuisances.

Residents who may have questions regarding permitted and prohibited property.

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.



A mass of flushable and disinfectant wipes clogs a pipe.

E-BIKE SAFETY TIPS FOR RIDERS

Age limit: You **MUST** be at least 16 years of age to operate an e-bike in Pennsylvania.

Electric bicycles (E-bikes) are becoming increasingly popular for commuting, recreation, and exercise. While E-bikes offer convenience and fun, riders should always practice safe riding habits to help protect themselves and others on the road.

Wear a Helmet

Always wear a properly fitted helmet when operating an E-bike. Helmets significantly reduce the risk of serious head injuries in the event of an accident.

Follow Traffic Laws

E-bike riders must obey all traffic signs, signals, and roadway rules just like any other vehicle. Ride in the same direction as traffic and use hand signals when turning.

Be Visible

Use front and rear lights, especially during early morning, evening, or low-light conditions. Wear bright or reflective clothing to make yourself more visible to motorists and pedestrians.

Ride at a Safe Speed

E-bikes can travel faster than traditional bicycles. Always ride at a speed that is safe for roadway and trail conditions and remain alert for pedestrians, vehicles, and obstacles.

Stay Alert and Avoid Distractions

Do not use phones or headphones while riding. Staying focused helps riders react quickly to changing traffic conditions and hazards.

Check Your Equipment

Before each ride, inspect your brakes, tires, battery, and lights to ensure everything is functioning properly. Proper maintenance helps prevent accidents and equipment failure.

Battery Charging Safety

Only use manufacturer-approved chargers and batteries. Charge batteries in a dry, well-ventilated area and avoid leaving batteries charging unattended overnight. Damaged batteries should never be used or disposed of in household trash.

Motorized Scooter

Cannot be operated on sidewalks or roadways

Share the Road Respectfully

Be courteous to pedestrians, motorists, and other cyclists. Slow down when approaching crowded areas and announce yourself when passing others on trails or sidewalks where permitted.

Practicing safe riding habits helps keep Wilson Borough roads and neighborhoods safe for everyone. Ride responsibly and enjoy the benefits of E-bike transportation safely.

STAYING SAFE ON TWO WHEELS: BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS FOR ALL AGES

As the weather warms up and more residents take to the roads and trails on their bicycles, it's the perfect time to revisit some essential bike safety guidelines. Whether you're commuting, exercising, or just enjoying a weekend ride, staying safe is key—for you, your family, and others on the road.

Know the Rules of the Road

Bicycles are legally considered vehicles in Wilson Borough and cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists:

- Obey all traffic signs and signals
- Ride in the same direction as traffic
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping
- Yield to pedestrians at crosswalks

Wear a Helmet—Every Time

A helmet is your first defense in an accident. Make sure your helmet:

- Fits snugly and level on your head
- Is certified by the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission)
- Has straps adjusted to form a "V" under your ears

Be Visible and Predictable

Many accidents happen simply because cyclists aren't seen.

- Wear bright or reflective clothing
- Use front and rear lights, even during the day
- Avoid weaving between cars or making sudden movements

Keep Your Bike in Good Shape

Before every ride, take a minute for the "ABC" check:

- Air: Are your tires fully inflated?

- Brakes: Do they work and stop the bike quickly?
- Chain: Is it clean and moving smoothly?

Teach Kids to Ride Safe

If your children are riding, make sure they know basic safety rules and are supervised, especially near traffic. Consider practicing in parks or on designated bike paths before hitting busier roads.

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DO I NEED A PERMIT?

The following guidelines apply to single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, townhouses and structures that are considered to be an accessory to these types of residential structures.

*****Please note there may be other residential uses/structures/scenarios that are not specifically listed on this document that may require Zoning Permits or Building Permits. This list is to provide general guidance but may not be all encompassing. Please call the Borough Office with any questions.**

REQUIRED RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

Decks, Porches and Patio

Requires Zoning and Building permit applications.

Porches or Decks with a Roof

- Requires Zoning and Building permit applications.

Enclosing a Porch or Patio

- Requires Zoning and Building permit applications.

Sheds & Garages

- Under 1,000 square feet of total floor area and accessory to a single family dwelling, requires a Zoning Permit Application
- 1,000 square feet of total floor area or larger, requires Zoning and Building permit applications.

Fences

- Fences 3 feet to 6 feet high require a Zoning Permit.

Swimming Pools

- ALL swimming pools that are capable of holding 24 inches or more of water require Zoning and Building permit applications.

Hot Tub or Spa

- Indoor requires building permit application.
- Outdoor requires Zoning and Building permit applications.

Additions

- Any size requires Zoning and Building permit applications.
- Garage attached to the house requires a Zoning and Building permit applications.
- Carport attached to the house requires Zoning and Building permit applications.
- Alterations
 - Alterations that involve structural changes require a Building permit application.
 - o A Zoning permit may be required, depending upon the scope of work. Please do not proceed with a project of this type without first contacting the Borough Office for guidance.

Changes to an Existing Mean of Egress

- Removal or change requires a Building permit application.
 - o A Zoning permit may be required, depending upon the scope of work. Please do not proceed with a project of this type without first contacting the Borough Office for guidance.
- Ramp requires Zoning and Building permit applications.
- Exit Door requires a Building permit application.
- Stairs requires Zoning and Building permit applications.
- Handrails require a Building permit application.
- Guard System requires a Building permit application.

New Homes

- Traditional requires Zoning and Building permit applications.

- Manufactured (New or used) requires Zoning and Building permit applications.
- Modular requires a Zoning and Building permit application.
- Demolition
- Residential Structure requires a Building permit application.
- Sidewalk/Curb
- Sidewalk and Curb construction requires a Zoning permit application.

If a project involves:

- a. Removal replacement, re-enforcement or cutting of any structural beam or header or any load-bearing support wall requires a Building permit application.
- b. Work or service to the electrical service to the dwelling or an accessory structure that will require an inspection by the power company requires a Building permit application.
- c. Cutting away of any wall, partition, or portion thereof requires a Building permit application.
- d. Addition to, alteration of, replacement or relocation of any electrical wiring requires a Building permit application.
- e. Addition to, alteration of, replacement or relocation of any mechanical equipment requires a Building permit application.
 - a. For example HVAC, furnace and hot water heaters.

Any portion of a dwelling or residential accessory structure that will be used for Commercial purposes (open to employees or the public) Require a Zoning permit application.

Examples:

Most (if not all) of these examples will require variances.

- a. Professional offices
- b. Business office
- c. Notaries
- d. Beauty shops, nail salons, barber shops
- e. Car or equipment repair

Change of use requires Zoning and Building permit applications.

Driveways require Zoning permit application.

Temporary structures require a Zoning permit application.

In-Law Suites requires Zoning and Building permit application.

Home base Business and No Impact Home Based Business require Zoning permit application.

Residential Change of Use/Conversions requires Zoning and Building permit applications.

Please keep in mind that doing work regulated by the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) without a permit WILL result in an enforcement action being taken against you by the municipality, and upon conviction, you may be subject to fines and penalties up to and including \$1,000 per day of each violation.

Occupying any structure without a Certificate of Occupancy issued by the Code Officer is a serious violation and will also result in enforcement action. Please do not occupy or begin using any structure without a Certificate of Occupancy.

If you fail to obtain permits, inspections and Certificates of Occupancy, it is very likely that you will have serious difficulties when you eventually try to sell your house or property, as all structures built since April 9, 2004, must have a legal Certificate of Occupancy.

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 \$150 rental fee and \$150 CASH ONLY** refundable cleanup deposit.
- Park only for Non-Residents **\$300 rental fee and \$150 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 \$1,000,000 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 - 100 plus a \$150 CASH ONLY** refundable deposit.
- **Non-Resident - \$150 plus a \$150 CASH ONLY** refundable deposit.

LARGE PAVILION

- **Resident - \$150 plus a \$150 CASH ONLY** refundable deposit.
- **Non-Resident - \$200 plus a \$150 CASH ONLY** refundable deposit.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE FOR CANCELLATIONS.

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 \$125 rental fee and \$150 CASH ONLY** refundable cleanup deposit.
- Band shell only for **Non-Residents \$150 rental fee and \$150 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.



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.
- Use of band shell and park are charged separately.

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

STRAUSSER COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL

Rental fee is \$425 plus a cleanup deposit of \$150.00 cash ONLY. The Community Center is for residents ONLY. Payment must be made IN FULL no later than 30 days prior to your event!

Any returned checks will be charged a \$35 fee

***If you are making a reservation within 30 days of the date you must pay in all CASH! ***

Cancellations or Changes within 14 days of your reservation will result in forfeiture of your \$150 deposit.

PROVISIONS

1. The kitchen is available. However, the use of the kitchen equipment, i.e. stove, fryer, etc. is restricted to qualified people only, i.e. caterer, professional chef, etc.
2. The community center holds a maximum of 200 people and has tables and seating for 160 persons. There are 140 chairs and 15 (8ft) tables.

3. Police protection must be paid for by the Applicant.
4. No smoking inside the building.
5. **NO ALCOHOL OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED**
6. All areas must be cleaned, refuse cans must be emptied and refuse must be put in the dumpster located in the parking lot.
7. 7. Person applying for the rental **MUST** be a Wilson School District resident and will be asked to provide a current driver's license when renting. The renter is also responsible for any loss or damage that may occur to the building or its contents.
8. Decorating will not be permitted on the walls or on the ceiling.



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BOROUGH OF WILSON

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www.wilsonborough.org

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mayor@wilsonborough.org

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boroughsecretary@wilsonborough.org

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boroughclerk@wilsonborough.org

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rwamsley@wilsonborough.org

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tveresink@gmail.com

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

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

BOROUGH GARAGE

1415 Iron St
Easton PA 18042
610-258-6143

POLICE

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Richard Yetter
1901 Hay Terrace | 610-258-4640

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EASTON SUBURBAN WATER AUTHORITY

610-258-7181 | eswater.net

WILSON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

484-373-6000 | wilsonareasd.org

EASTON AREA JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY

610-250-6707 | eajsa.com

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

610-829-6500
northamptoncounty.org

SUBURBAN EMS

610-923-7500 | suburbanems.com

LANTA BUS SERVICE

888-253-8333 | lantabus.com

MEALS ON WHEELS OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY

610-691-1030 | mowglv.org

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

610-264-4544 | lvpc.org

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Stay Safe This Summer: Heat Safety & Emergency Contacts

With temperatures rising, remember to stay hydrated, check on elderly neighbors, and never leave pets in cars. In emergency situations call **9-1-1**.

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Google

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