

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 48 – Summer 2022

The Council & Citizens of Delaware Water Gap are grateful to the **Moyer Foundation** for their generous donation of an AED unit and climate controlled cabinet that have been installed outside at the Fire Department.



Have a
safe
&
enjoyable
Summer!


Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority
183 Commercial Blvd. Blakeslee, PA 18610
(570) 643-6100

HHW EVENT
Household Hazardous Waste

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15

WE ACCEPT:
Gasoline, Anti-Freeze, Motor Oil, Oil Based Paint, Insecticides,
Pool Chemicals, Fire Extinguishers, and more!

UPCOMING DATES:
July 13, July 20, July 23, August 10, August 24, September 21

DROP-OFF LOCATION:
Military Road Recycling Site
1114 Military Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

REGISTRATION & ADDITIONAL INFO.
You MUST register and pay before arriving!
Only items paid for will be accepted!

Click the button below or head over to our website!

Special thanks to Brian Ogg for repairing the borough truck!

Borough Office

49 Main Street
PO Box 218
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327
Phone: 570-476-0331 Fax: 570-476-0380
boro@dwgpa.gov
www.dwgpa.gov

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
After 1:00 p.m., by appointment.

Office Secretary/Treasurer – Allisen Trotter
Municipal Authority Secretary – Lauren Hogle
Borough Superintendent - Harry Kent Darlington

Delaware Water Gap Police Department
570-476-4674
police@dwgpa.gov
Chief of Police, Michael J. Ceccato
Officer Jim Fisher
State Police – 570-619-6800

Dial 911 for emergencies only

Borough Council

Jamie Levy, President
Zack Booth, Vice President
Derek Anspach
William Buzzard
Lauren Chamberlain
Lisa Paulette
Jack Shoemaker

Larry Freshcorn, Mayor

Council meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Council work sessions are held on Tuesday, the following week, at 7:00 p.m.

Municipal Authority

James Reynolds, Chair
Harry Darlington, Vice Chair
Martin W. Wilson, Secretary
James Holbrook
Steve Simister

Municipal Authority meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

Derek Anspach, Chair
Ann Biffen
Valerie Higbee
Gary Schubert

Planning Commission meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. as needed.

Zoning Hearing Board

Frank Davis
Carol Penna
Dmitri Snytkine
Harry Kent Darlington, Alternate
Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held as needed.

Building Code Board of Appeals

James Holbrook
Bob Mancuso

Zoning Officer

Michael Manter

Building Inspector

Dave Manter

Emergency Management Coordinator

Howard Ike

Floodplain Administrator

Walter Conway

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

Mayor's Corner

Happy Summer, Neighbors!

Our summer activities have begun and we just completed our annual Founder's Day with the first train, full of visitors, to our town since the pandemic started. It was another great day filled with lots of activities in the town. A big thank you to Tammy Cornelius and the Friends of Delaware Water Gap Committee for continually planning our Borough events! The free Summer Concert Series has also started at the Church of the Mountain Gazebo. Every Sunday, night until the end of summer, you can hear great music from all genres while relaxing with your neighbors. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy!

You will begin to see a new face on the Police Dept. Please welcome newly hired officer, James Fisher. Officer Fisher is a seasoned officer, works for ESU campus police and will be filling our weekend hours. Along with newly retired Chief Andy, Officer Louis has retired from our Department. Both were integral members of our force, were well known and appreciated by our residents. Our own Sergeant Mike Ceccato has been promoted to Chief of Police from within. Chief Ceccato is also a full time Lieutenant Fire Fighter and EMT for the state of New Jersey and conducts all of our investigations.

The borough was best served when we had four officers handling all of the days, evening and weekend shifts while splitting the allotted part-time hours between all of them. I am hopeful that Council will honor my requests to continue to interview and hire potential officers to serve our residents and bring us back to a 4-man department again.

As always, I am available to you with any questions and concerns. I appreciate the many residents that continually reach out to me for assistance and clarification. It's what I'm here for. Have a wonderful Summer!

Mayor Larry Freshcorn
L.Freshcorn@dwgpa.gov

The Dutot Museum & Fine Art Gallery Open Saturdays & Sundays, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Two Generations of Painting
John & Leslie McAllister
July 8-July 24

Women in Nature
Featuring the works of 10 artists
July 29-August 14

Four Score & Seven
Peter Salmon
August 19- September 4

Jazz Interpretations
Jonathan Broady & Jonathan Glass
September 9-September 25

*7th Annual Plein Air Exhibit &
Silent Auction*
September 30-October 16

Opening receptions for the artists are held the Friday of the beginning of each exhibit from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE MOUNTAIN

2022 GAZEBO CONCERTS

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

• June 5thVinny Bianchi & La Cucina	• July 17thLost Ramblers
• June 12thRenegade Ramblers featuring Doc Pappalardo	• July 24thSheilaMark Band
• June 19Julian Rogai & Friends	• July 31stLen Mooney's Lunar Eclipse
• June 26thGary Dillon	• August 7thNancy & Spencer Reed
• July 3rdBill Stine & Friends	• August 14thRiverside Rhythm Swing Band
• July 10thErin McClelland Band	• August 21stDenny Carrig & Friends
	• August 28thMarty Wilson & Friends

Enjoy another wonderful summer of music.

6-7:30pm • Sunday Evenings

Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and will be required to operate in accordance with PA Department of Health and CDC guidelines.
(In case of rain, the concerts will be moved indoors.) Refreshments available.
Gazebo concerts are made possible by The Weightman Family, Church Members and by supporters like you.
For information contact Jim Dellaria at (570) 350-3404 or Dellaria@gmail.com

Presbyterian Church of the Mountain • Main Street • Delaware Water Gap

Council News!!!

Dear Borough Neighbors,

Welcome Summer!!! I hope everyone had an enjoyable spring. Our borough is in bloom and looks incredible. The weather is wonderful. Our borough businesses are engaged in our tourism. Route 611 is open and operational. Music on the mountain is back. The joys of our community are all around us. The Gap Life is good.

In terms of Council News, this past spring was productive for your borough council.

We started receiving responses to our borough survey and are processing them. These surveys will be used to enhance services and features our residents enjoy, and to address issues and concerns that were relayed. I would like to personally thank all those that took the time to respond. Your voices are heard, your thoughts matter and know that your responses will be taken into consideration as council takes action to better our community.

In an effort to revitalize our borough and make it even more beautiful we started our Adopt a Fire Hydrant Program. This program allows residents to sponsor the rejuvenation of our borough fire hydrants. For \$200, you get to pick a hydrant to be sanded and given a fresh coat of paint. The hydrant will then be stenciled to acknowledge the borough resident, family, or business that sponsored its new coat. Pretty soon beautiful, shiny, newly painted fire hydrants will be visible all over the borough. More details are contained in the Sponsorship Application attached to this newsletter.

Council has hired a new Delaware Water Gap Police Officer. Please join me in welcoming Officer Jim Fisher to our borough. Officer Fisher has an extensive background in law enforcement and a strong sense of community policing. He has expressed to me that he is very excited to start patrolling and getting to meet all of us. Our personnel committee is currently in the process of looking for more officers. When you see our officers, please stop and offer a few words of encouragement, gratitude and appreciation, or simply say hi. They work hard to keep us safe.

I am happy to report that our Birthday Club is now up and running. Some of our new members have already received their Club Perks. Enrollment is still open to all residents – to sign up call Allisen at the borough office.

Council has contracted with a company to revamp and update our website. We are hopeful that the transition from our old website to our new one will be wrapped up by the end of summer. Be on the look-out for more user-friendly content, searchable ordinances, a calendar of events, and much more.

With regard to upcoming summer events, I am proud to announce that the borough is hosting the first (of hopefully many) borough barbecues. The borough barbecue will be held on July 23 and will be open to all residents. An invitation to the event is attached to this newsletter. This first borough barbeque will be to honor the first responders of our community. Please come out to meet and greet your Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians. There will be food, beverages and activities for the kids. This event has been graciously sponsored by one of our residents and is absolutely free to all that join us.

Lastly, I am very pleased to report that Council has taken steps to honor the service and volunteerism of one of our residents and council members. Council has created a park on Delaware Avenue and has decided to name that park "The William M. Buzzard Celebration Park." Bill has generously volunteered his time and efforts for the benefit of our borough as an elected council member for over 50 years. We now honor that service and dedication. Please be on the look-out for information regarding the dedication ceremony. Thank you Bill. Your commitment and dedication to this borough and all its residents is truly an inspiration to all of us and very much appreciated.

Cheers!!!

Jamie B. Levy

Borough Council President

Local History Spot
By Marty Wilson

Haitian Reparations

Thanks to the Antoine Dutot School and Museum and local history buffs, especially Luke Broadhead who published *Delaware Water Gap: Its Scenery, Its Legends, and Its Early History* in 1867, we Water Gapians are familiar with the founding history of our village. Its basic outline is that what is now the borough of Delaware Water Gap was founded as Dutotsburg in 1793 by a Frenchman named Antoine Dutot, who had been a plantation owner in the French colony of Saint Dominique in the Caribbean. When a slave insurrection broke out there he fled to Philadelphia and from there up the Delaware River until he settled on the site of his future town. He built some houses, established a Post Office, a saw mill, a toll road, and designated land to be used for a public square. When the railroad came through the town in 1856 (after Dutot's death in 1841) town fathers changed the name of the village to Delaware Water Gap in order to capitalize on the name of the famous nearby geological formation hoping, thereby, to induce city folk to travel to the village and patronize its hotels.

This is an interesting story, but, as does any historical narrative, it raises questions. For example, why did Dutot, born in France, come to Philadelphia and then to this remote area when he fled the island? Why did he not go back to France, or to New York or Boston? Once in Philadelphia, the largest, most dynamic city in the country at the time, why didn't he stay there? That France was experiencing its own revolution then, that Philadelphia merchants had extensive trading relationships with the Caribbean island, and that Yellow Fever broke out in Philadelphia in 1793 offer plausible answers to these questions. But there is no way of knowing for sure because Dutot never tells us. After all, he was the only person who knew the answers.

A more intriguing question is this: how much of the story is true? The problem for historians is that primary evidence, the very essence of history, is lacking when it comes to this story. When primary evidence is lacking, historians do their best to make sense of the evidence that does exist, offering "plausible" explanations like the ones in the previous paragraph. What about Luke Broadhead's 1867 book? Was that a primary source? How about the even earlier account by Maximilian, Prince of Weids, who visited Dutotsburg in 1832, and who, after meeting Dutot wrote in his journal that Dutot "was formerly a wealthy planter in St. Domingo, and possessed 150 slaves"?

While both sources seem to confirm the basic narrative of Dutot's life, the discerning reader will recognize that, in this context, neither source is primary. The ultimate source for both Broadhead and Maximilian was Dutot himself. Chances are that Dutot would not have lied about his background, but "chances" are not good enough for historians. Historians want to see primary sources such as marriage and death records, ship manifests, tax records, letters, and other evidence to confirm their understanding of the past.

Recently, evidence that corroborates the generally-accepted account of Dutot's life has come to light. The evidence involves reparation payments made to former plantation owners by the French government. In 1825, a fleet of French warships entered the harbor of Haiti's capital city and demanded a huge sum be paid to France as compensation for lost property. Failure to pay would mean war between the fledgling country and France. Thus began a century-long pillaging of the Haitian treasury by foreign powers. On November 26, 1832, the Royal Indemnity Commission approved payment to Antoine Dutot the former owner of a coffee plantation in Haiti. Payment was made on January 1, 1833. Interestingly, the Commission was not sure who the last owner of the plantation was as the widow of a previous owner also claimed the payment. To resolve the issue, both the widow and Antoine Dutot were awarded a payment.

Maximilian's 1832 account of Dutot suggests that the former plantation owner had fallen into hard financial times: ". . . he is reduced to a state of great poverty, and his situation excites the compassion of travellers [*sic*] who pass that way." Did Dutot ever get his money from the Commission? Did reparations paid to France by Haiti help fund the founding of Dutotsburg? These and other questions await further revelations.