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~Official Newsletter of The Borough of Mount Pocono~



97TH ANNUAL POCONO MOUNTAIN CARNIVAL July 17th - 22nd 2023 More information on Page 10



MOUNT POCONO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE invites you to join our monthly FIRST FRIDAY Community Gatherings

ALL ARE WELCOME - FREE EVENT FREE FOOD, MUSIC, FUN, & COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP!

The First Friday of each Month at the Community Pavilion

located behind the Borough Building, 1361 Pocono Blvd (Route 611), Mount Pocono

More information on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Borough Committees	8
Borough Officials	4
Community Calendar	12-13
Contacting the Borough	3
Council President's Letter	15
Fireman's Carnival	10
First Fridays	2

Important Contact Information	6
Mayor's Corner	3
Planning Commission Letter	7
Savvy Citizen	13
Tax Collector Information	14
Trash Talk	14
What's in a Name	5

www.mountpocono-pa.gov

MOUNT POCONO PARKS AND RECREATION

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June 2-Lawn Games July 7- Freedom Friday Aug 4- Touch a Truck Sept 1- Classic Cars

Mount Pocono Borough 1361 Pocono Blvd, Mount Pocono 570-839-8436

Keep in touch with us



mountpocono-pa.gov

(570) 839-8436

(570) 839-0981

office@mountpocono-pa.gov

Visit us

Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm Saturday-Sunday: Closed

Write us

1361 Pocono Blvd. Suite 100 Mount Pocono, PA 18344

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Content:

Mount Pocono Borough Newsletter Committee, Mayor Randy Altemose; Council Members Norman DeLano, Ann Marie Harris, and Claudette Williams.

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For Advertising Information or Delivery Problems:

 $tom @ourtown publications.com, \\ 570-589-0803$

For Content Suggestions or any other matters:

office@mountpocono-pa.gov

The Mayor's Corner

with Mayor Randy Altemose

We hope you enjoyed the first edition of the Forks Post and found it to be both enjoyable and informative, this edition promises to bring you more of the same.

In the last Forks Post I talked about the need for volunteers as there were various vacancies on many of the borough's Boards and Commissions. I am happy to



report that Mount Pocono responded to the call. Nearly all the vacancies were filled.

Our small town is not run by politicians making wheelbarrow loads of money like our big city neighbors. It's run by your average resident volunteering to take an active role in our town. For those of you who have already stepped up, we say thank you and congratulations – you are truly carrying on the American tradition of helping your community.

Government isn't the only place to help out. Many organizations, groups, and agencies rely on volunteers. There's the library, Habitat for Humanity, youth groups, food banks, and more. Somewhere there's a volunteer organization just waiting to meet you.

While they are each important and deserve your help, there's one that's been around longer than Mount Pocono itself. Its sole mission has always been to be there to help residents and businesses when they need it most.

The Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company was founded in 1925 – two years before the Borough was incorporated. For the last 98 years its volunteers have been there to meet your emergencies 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Being a volunteer firefighter isn't easy, you're on call day and night. Believe me, it's no fun fighting fire with water in the dead of winter. I should know, I've been a member since 1975. It is not for everyone, but if you'd like to help your fellow man I strongly recommend reaching out to the PM-VFC. The pay sucks – note the word "volunteer" – but the satisfaction you get when you stop a fire from destroying a neighbor's belongings, or freeing a person from a vehicle, is its own reward.

If firefighting is not for you, you can still contribute by helping in our fund-raising efforts. Buy a raffle ticket or two, attend or volunteer at the annual Carnival. The Fire Company receives only a small portion of its expenses from the borough – roughly \$40,000 a year. Not much when a new truck today costs upwards of a million dollars.

Please support the volunteers who stand ready to respond to any emergency you have, whenever you have it, and have since 1925. This year's Carnival is July 17th to the 22nd, please show your support by attending and\or volunteering to help. The fire company has been keeping taxes down by holding the Pocono Mountain Carnival since 1927, it's the Biggest, Oldest, and Best Carnival in the Poconos! Be a part of your community and show your appreciation for the men and women who volunteer as members of your Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company. As the old saying goes, "Help Us Help You".

More information on the Carnival is on Page 10 in this issue and on the fire company website at **www.pmvfc.com**.

MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH

Council President Don Struckle

dstruckle @mountpocono-pa.gov

Councilmember Lori Noonan, vice-president Inoonan@mountpocono-pa.gov Councilmember Claudette Williams, pro-tem cwilliams@mountpocono-pa.gov Councilmember Debra Fulton dfulton@mountpocono-pa.gov Councilmember Norman DeLano ndelano@mountpocono-pa.gov Councilmember Ann Marie Harris amharris@mountpocono-pa.gov Councilmember Ella Santiago

esantiago@mountpocono-pa.gov

Mayor Randy Altemose

raltemose@mountpocono-pa.gov



Borough Manager Joshua Walker office@mountpocono-pa.gov Admin Asst Diana Jackowski diana@mountpocono-pa.gov

Borough Council meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:30pm in the council meeting room on the second floor of the borough building, 1361 Pocono Blvd, Mount Pocono 18344. The first meeting of the month is a business meeting; the second is a work session. The public is invited to attend and participate. The meeting schedule, agenda, and minutes are posted on the borough website, **mountpocono-pa.gov**.



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The Pocono Mountain East Junior High School Glennwood Jazz Ensemble entertained at the Mount Pocono May *First Friday* community gathering sponsored by the Borough Parks & Recreation Committee. Join your neighbors at this FREE event for free food, fund, and fellowship on the first Friday of each month. More information on Page 2.

'The Forks Post' - What's in a Name?

Our newsletter's name hearkens back the to the 1830s when this area was known as "The Forks" - a reference to the intersection of several major roadways.

The railroad stop & post office here were also known as "Forks, Pa."

But by about 1880, local merchants adopted "Mount Pocono." That was thought to be a more attractive moniker to the growing New York & Philadelphia tourist trade.

So, that was the name selected for the new borough when it was officially incorporated in July, 1927.

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tate Farm Florida Insurance Comp

STATE/FEDERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

US Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.: (202) 224-6324, casey.senate.gov/contact US Senator John Fetterman: (202) 224-4254, fetterman.senate.gov/contact US Representative Matt Cartwright (PA 8th): (570) 355-1818, cartwright.house.gov/contact PA State Senator Rosemary M. Brown (40th PA Sen Dist): (570) 620-4326, rbrown@pasen.gov PA State Representative Maureen E. Madden (115th Dist): (570) 894-7905, pahouse.com/115/Contact

EMERGENCY NUMBERS - Police, Fire, Rescue, Ambulance: 9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY & AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department: (570) 895-2400, pmrpd.com Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company: pmvfc@ptd.net, pmvfc.com Pocono Mountain Regional EMS: (570) 839-8485, pmrems.org Mount Pocono Municipal Authority (Sewer): (570) 839-8963, mpma.authoritypay.com Pennsylvania American Water: 800-565-7292, amwater.com/paaw MONROE COUNTY monroecountypa.gov/departments Commissioners: (570) 517-3102 Area Agency on Aging: (570) 420-3735, monroeaging@ monroecountypa.gov Children and Youth: (570) 420-3590 District Attorney: (570) 517-3052 Prothonotary: (570) 517-3370 Recorder of Deeds: (570) 517-3969 Register of Wills: (570) 517-3359 Sheriff: (570) 517-3312 Veterans Affairs: (570) 517-3187



Planning Commissioner Letter

from Planning Commission Chair Ann Marie Harris

Hi, and welcome to the second edition of the "The Forks Post" Borough newsletter. I am Ann Marie Harris, councilwoman, and the new chair of the Planning Commission. I'd like to take this opportunity to describe what the Planning Commission is all about.

The planning commission is governed by the Municipalities Planning code. The Borough Council has created a planning commission to review economic development projects and other matters, before they are brought to the Council for final decision.

The planning commission assists in defining how the community grows, based on current zoning regulations. They review subdivision and land development plans and review of conditional use applications. The borough engineer, the solicitor, the zoning officer, and the sewer authority are all integral to the process to guide us.

The things I have most experienced on this committee are new development, change in zoning district, short term rentals, and conditional use variances.

If you ever wonder if you can build something in one place and not another this is the place to find out. Do you wonder if you are allowed to have a short term rental? Do you wonder why you can't have your property changed from one zoning district to another? For example – Short Term Rentals (STR) are not allowed in Residential 1(R1) zones in Mt. Pocono. People have come to the planning commission asking if they can change their property in an R1 zone to an R2 zone in order to use their home as a STR. To do so is called "spot zoning" and spot zoning is illegal and therefore the borough cannot allow this.

Two examples of huge concern is the clearing of the property along Rte.940. Why was that allowed to happen? In a nutshell, because that is in a commercially zoned property and we do not have the right to pick and choose what business comes in. We can put restrictions on them. Something most people do not know is that we are requiring them to put in a sidewalk from the 5 points intersection all the way up to the end of the property on 940. That was a stipulation that the planning commission recommended to borough council. The safety of our residents was foremost. The same goes for restaurants. People on social media comment on how they would like some upgraded style restaurant to come in versus one that is coming. We cannot choose which restaurants or stores choose to come to our borough. They choose us! Businesses use marketing tools and demographics to decide where they think their business would do best. Much of this is based on how our town fits into their social economic profile.

Check out the link below to find a full description of property zones in Mt. Pocono. https://ecode360.com/attachment/MO2008/MO2008-215a%20Schedule%20of%20Uses.pdf

I encourage you to come to the meetings so that you can see firsthand when homeowners and developers start the process for applications. It can be over a year from initial application to the point where it goes to council to approve and then a bit longer when you will actually see any groundbreaking. We need residents to come to meetings. Most people do not know what is going on until they see a property being cleared. They turn to social media and start making assumptions. That is not the place to find the facts!

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 7pm at the Borough building. Meetings always have a public comment portion as part of the agenda. We really would love to see and hear from you !!!

MOUNT POCONO'S ABC'S

Borough Government Authorities, Boards, Commissions, & Committees

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee is tasked with overseeing the improvements and maintenance of the Borough parks. The Parks and Recreation Committee consists of five (5) members of the public who must be residents of the Borough for at least one (1) year. The members are appointed to staggering terms as listed below. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7pm at the Borough building. The public is encouraged to attend.

- Chair: Debra Fulton* (term expires 12/31/25)
- Vice Chair: Stacey Turrell (12/31/24)
- Secretary: Erin Melbert (12/31/23)
- Member: Peter Reichert (12/31/24)
- Member: Joe Simeone (12/31/23)

SAFETY COMMISSION

The Safety Commission was established by ordinance in 2021 in response to numerous traffic accidents and pedestrian safety concerns. The Safety Commission consists of five (5) members of the public who must be taxpayers of the Borough for at least one (1) year. The members are appointed to staggering terms as listed below. Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the Month at 7pm, as needed, at the Borough building. The public is encouraged to attend.

- Chair: Kyong Kim (12/31/24)
- Vice Chair: Jodi Bohdal (12/31/23)
- Secretary: Lori Noonan* (12/31/23)
- Member: Debra Fulton* (12/31/23)
- Member: Vacant (12/31/24)

BOROUGH COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

(first listed is chair)

Budget and Finance: Lori Noonan, Donald Struckle, Debra Fulton Economic Devel: Ann Marie Harris, Norman DeLano, Claudette Williams COG: Don Struckle, Joshua Walker

EMS: Norman DeLano, Ella Santiago

Grants: Joshua Walker, Don Struckle, Lori Noonan

Newsletter: Norman DeLano, Claudette Williams, Ann Marie Harris, Randy Altemose

Parks and Recreation: Debra Fulton, Norman DeLano

Personnel: Claudette Williams, Ann Marie Harris, Don Struckle

Public Infrastructure & Utilities: Randy Altemose, Don Struckle, Lori Noonan

Regional Police: Randy Altemose, Don Struckle

Safety Commission: Ella Santiago, Debra Fulton

Sanitation: Lori Noonan, Claudette Williams, Ann Marie Harris

PLANNING COMMISSION

The planning commission is governed by the Municipalities Planning Code and reviews land development projects and other matters before they are brought to the Council for final decision. The planning commission exists of five (5) members of the public who must be residents of the Borough for at least one (1) year. The members are appointed to staggering terms as listed below. Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 7pm

- Chair: Ann Marie Harris* (12/31/26)
- Vice-Chair: Erin Melbert (12/31/23)
- Member: Michael Penn (term expires 12/31/24)
- Member: Rich Dorkoski (12/31/23)
- Member: Steve Speno (12/31/24)
- Alternate: Dennis Noonan (12/31/26)

ZONING HEARING BOARD

The Zoning Hearing Board is governed by the Municipalities Planning code. The Zoning Hearing Board hears and renders adjudications pertaining to land use ordinance and other zoning matters. The zoning hearing board consists of five (5) members of the public who must be residents of the Borough for at least one (1) year. The members are appointed to staggering terms as listed below. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 7pm, as needed.

- Chair: Raissa Simchak (12/31/25)
- Vice Chair: Shirley Lansdowne (12/31/26)
- Member: Robert McMahon (12/31/24)
- Member: Leanon Trawick (12/31/24)
- Member: Francis O'Boyle (12/31/23)
- Alternate: John Repetti (12/31/25)
- Alternate: Vacant

MOUNT POCONO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

The Mount Pocono Municipal Authority is a quasi-independent agency responsible for the operations of the borough sewer and wastewater systems. The MPMA operates autonomously and has it's own budget. It sets sewer rates and rules independent of the borough government. The Borough Council appoints members of the MPMA. The agency meets at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the borough building. The public is invited to attend and participate.

- Chair: Matt Hensel (12/31/26)
- Vice Chair: Jeff Woehrle (12/31/25)
- Member: Karl Davis (12/31/24)
- **Member:** Christine Ferrugia(12/31/23)
- Member: Vacant (12/31/27)

*-indicates Borough Council member



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97TH ANNUAL POCONO MOUNTAIN CARNIVAL

Live music every night! No cover charge!

RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets - \$20 Donation Drawing will take place during the week of the Carnival *Need not be present to win

Prizes for 2023

• GRAND PRIZE: \$20,000 Cash • 2nd Place - 11th Place: \$1,000 Cash

> HOURS Daily 6 - 11 pm Saturday July 22, Opens 3 pm!

RIDES & GAMES

• Featuring over 20 adult, kiddie and family rides - there's something for everyone!

• Games for people of all ages with favorites such as The Merchandise Stand, Toilet Toss, the Rope Ladder and Candy Wheel.

• More games to enjoy under the Big Top! There's also cash bingo every night in the Main Bingo Hall and nightly jackpot drawings.

• Great food, including funnel cake, roasted corn, and a new favorite, CLAMS & BEER!



CARNIVAL LOCATION 20 Murray Street, Mount Pocono, PA 18344



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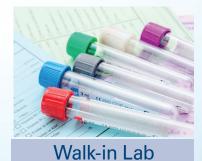
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Care Now



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www.mountpocono-pa.gov

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Sunday	Monady	TUESQUY	wednesduy	morsady	maay	
28	29	30	31	1 TRASH/BULK P/U	2 FIRST FRIDAY 6:00 PM	
4	5	6 PH 5:30 & 6:30 BC REG MTG 6:30 PM	7 TRASH/BULK P/U PH 6:30 PM	8 MPMA W/S 6:30 PM REG MTG 7:00 PM	9	
11	12	13	14 TRASH/BULK P/U	15 PARK & REC REG MTG 7:00 PM	16	
18	19	20 BC W/S 6:30 PM	21 PC REG MTG 7:00 PM TRASH/BULK P/U	22	23 COMMUNITY YARD SALE	24 COMMUNITY YARD SALE
25 COMMUNITY YARD SALE	26 SAFETY COMM REG MTG 7:00 PM	27 ZHB 7:00 PM	28 TRASH/BULK P/U	29	30	
2	3	6/7 - PH 6:30 PM (C	6:00 PM 6/6 - PH CANNABIS DISPENSRY MUNITY YARD SALE (N	- COND USE)		5 - STR)

July 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	١
2	3	4 BORO BUILDING CLOSED- 4TH OF JULY	5 BC REG MTG 6:30 PM TRASH ONE DAY DELAY	6 TRASH/BULK P/U	7 FIRST FRIDAY 6:00 PM	8
9	10	1 1 ZHB 7:00 PM (IF NEEDED)	12 TRASH/BULK P/U	13 MPMA W/S 6:30 PM REG MTG 7:00 PM	14	15
16	17 ANNUAL POCONO MT FIRE CO CARNIVAL 6:00- 11:00 PM	18 bc W/s 6:30 pm annual pocono mt fire co carnival 6:00-11:00 pm	19 PC REG MTG 7:00 PM TRASH/BULK P/U ANNUAL POCONO MT FIRE CO CARNIVAL 6:00-11:00 PM	20 PARK & REC REG MTG 7:00 PM ANNUAL POCONO MT FIRE CO CARNIVAL 6:00-11:00 PM	21 ANNUAL POCONO MT FIRE CO CARNIVAL 6:00- 11:00 PM	22 ANNUAL POCONO MT FIRE CO CARNIVAL 3:00- 11:00 PM
23	24 SAFETY COMM REG MTG 7:00 PM	25	26 TRASH/BULK P/U	27	28 COMMUNITY YARD SALE	29 COMMUNITY YARD SALE
30 COMMUNITY YARD SALE	31	Notes 7/4 - BORO BUILDING CLOSED - INDEPENDENCE DAY BC REG MTG 6:30 PM TRASH ONE DAY DELAY 7/6 - TRASH/BULK P/U 7/7 - FIRST FRIDAY 6:00 PM 7/17-7/21 - ANNUAL POCONO MT FIRE CO CARNIVAL 6:00-11:00 PM & SATURDAY 7/22 - 3:00-11:00 PM 7/28-7/30 - COMMUNITY YARD SALE (NO PERMITS REQUIRED)				



August 2023

SUMMER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 BC REG MTG 6:30 PM	2 TRASH/BULK P/U	З	4 FIRST FRIDAY 6:00 PM	5
6	7	8 ZHB 7:00 PM (IF NEEDED)	9 TRASH/BULK P/U	10 MPMA W/S 6:30 PM REG MTG 7:00 PM	11	12
13	14	15 bc w/s 6:30 pm	16 PC REG MTG 7:00 PM TRASH/BULK P/U	17 PARK & REC REG MTG 7:00 PM	18	19
20	21	22	23 TRASH/BULK P/U	24	25 COMMUNITY YARD SALE	26 COMMUNITY YARD SALE
27 COMMUNITY YARD SALE	28 SAFETY COMM REG MTG 7:00 PM	29	30 trash/bulk p/u	31	1	2
3	4	Notes 8/4 - FIRST FRIDAY 6:00 PM 8/25-8/27 - COMMUNITY YARD SALE (NO PERMITS REQUIRED)				



We are open Wed. thru Sun. 3- 9PM Hoping to open back up for lunch soon !!!!

Banquets • Large Parties Full Bar • Dessert Menu Kids Menu

We have Certified Angus Steaks, prime rib, seafood, pasta dishes, chicken dishes, baby back Ribs, dinner salads.

Summer Outdoor Dining We take reservations! v.baileyssteakhouse.com 1224 Pocono Blvd Mt. Pocono

13



Get real time updates of what's happening in Mount Pocono by simply downloading the free SavvyCitizen app today. It's available wherever you get apps for your electronic devices.

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- Find out about local events
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Trash Talk

Borough Trash Contractor: GFL Environmental, (570) 382-3304, gflenv.com

Trash Collection Days: Wednesdays (subject to delay due to holiday or weather)

Monthly Cost per Residence: \$32.93 for standard residential service (starting March 2023) (one 96-gal trash and one 64-gal recyle per week; excess cans may be returned without charge)

Remittance Address: GFL Environmental, PO Box 555193, Detroit, MI 48255-5193

Bulk items permitted: 2 per week placed out with the trash. (bulk items may not include tires, electronic, refrigerators with freon or hazardous materials)

For disposal of household electronics, contact the borough for pick-up: (570) 839-8436, extension 302 Place trash & recycling cans at curb by 6am on collection days.

Keep Recycling Successful - Single Stream Recycling Acceptable Items:

Magazines & Catalogs Chipboard/ Box Board Newspaper Paper Egg Cartons Telephone & Paperback Books Aluminum Cans Tin & Bi-Metallic Containers (including Aerosol Cans) Aluminum Foil (pie plates, eg.) Plastic Containers

Unacceptable Items:

NO Trash, NO Diapers, NO Clothing, NO Styrofoam, NO Caps or Lids, NO Food, NO Compost, NO Yard Waste NO BAGS

> Please Place Items in Cart Loose All Cardboard Must be Flattened NO Shredded Paper (Place in Trash) NO Bags of Shredded Paper (Place in Trash)

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Our advertisers make it possible for us to bring this newsletter to you at absolutely no cost to the Borough. Let them know you appreciate their support and patronize their businesses!





Council President's Letter

I can't believe it's already summer!

It feels like I just wrote my first column for the Forks Post last week when we still had snow on the ground. Now, as I look out my window, I see green grass and the flowers are starting to bud.

The first quarter of the year has been a busy one. We said that your council was rowing in the same direction and that was an understatement. They hit the ground running on January 1st and have not stopped since. I thought we accomplished a lot for 2022, but that was just the tip of the iceberg. Here are a few items that council has already implemented so far this year.

We applied for a grant from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau and were awarded \$15,000 to install an LED messaging board in front of the borough building. There is a lot of good going on in our Borough and this grant will help get the word out to our residents on a timely basis.

Council passed the 2023 road paving schedule. The roads that are slated to be paved this year are the following: Stonegate from Edgewood to the cul-de-sac, and Winona from Edgewood to Pinehill.

The council also voted to work with the Pocono Mountain Public Library to set up a *Little Free Library* at the borough building. An all weather bookcase will be set up outside of the borough building where residents will be able to access books to read. It is called *Take a Book-Share a Book*.

If you haven't had a chance to drive over to the Knob lately, you are missing an incredible view. I highly recommend that on a sunny day you take a ride over. Ike Olsen, owner of *Keystone Tree Services*, approached council to donate his time to clear the brush at the Knob overlook. The council voted unanimously to have him perform the work. His crew spent the entire day clearing out the brush. The borough thanks him for his services.

The council voted to have the annual Joseph Battisto Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 22nd. It was great to see approximately 25 residents volunteer to help clean up the Borough. We focused on two areas that needed our attention. They were Knox Street and Oak Street. Twenty-five bags of trash were picked up in those two areas. I also want to thank Bill's Shoprite for donating coffee and donuts for our event to help our volunteers keep motivated on a lovely, sunny day.

On Friday, May 5th, we had our 1st *Coffee with a Cop*, which was held at the Fork's Street Bistro and Bakery. It was an opportunity to stop by and meet our Regional Police who work 24/7 to protect our Borough. I want to thank Pam and Jim for letting us host this event at their establishment and for donating the coffee and bake goods. We plan on having this event on a regular basis and hosting it at different business within the Borough.

Finally, we had our First Friday of the year on May 5th. Parks and Rec did a fantastic job! It was great to see the wonderful turnout we had. Pocono Mountain East Jr High School Glennwood Jazz Ensemble was there to entertain us and some of our residents brought their classic cars to the event for show. It is a nice time to meet our fellow residents. First Fridays will be held each month throughout the summer. Set aside some time to attend, you will not be disappointed. Parks and Rec also supplies hamburgers and hot dogs for our residents.

Please join our meetings - every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, at 6:30pm, at the borough building. Note that our first July meeting will be on Wednesday, the 5th.

Advertising Information: 570-589-0803, tom@ourtownpublications.com

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WEATHER PERMITTING