



## BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE

"A GREAT HISTORIC COMMUNITY"

Winter/Spring  
Edition

Volume II, Issue I

# BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

On the Web: [www.greencastlepa.gov](http://www.greencastlepa.gov)



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### Borough Officials

#### Borough Council:

Charlie Eckstine, President  
 Frank Webster, Vice-President  
 Wade Burkholder  
 Larry Faight  
 Jim Farley  
 Craig Myers  
 Matt Smith

Mayor: Bob Eberly

Borough Manager: Susan Arm-

## 2015 General Fund Budget Adopted

**O**n December 1, 2014, Borough Council unanimously approved the 2015 General and Sewer Fund Budgets.

**GENERAL FUND:** The 2015 General Fund Budget was developed with no tax increase and is considered balanced. This was made possible by anticipating a revenue stream similar to 2014 and closely scrutinizing proposed expenditures.

As noted in the last newsletter, the Borough of Greencastle's General Fund revenue is mainly obtained through real estate and local taxes, which are likely to remain steady going into Fiscal Year 2015.

While the Borough does not foresee any dramatic fluctuations in revenue for 2015, the General Fund Operating Budget has been balanced through various reductions, eliminations and/or deferrals totaling \$217,669 and alternate funding means for two projects totaling \$427,000.

Outlined below are those items that were initially reduced, eliminated or deferred:

Vehicles/Equipment:	\$83,900
Bldg. Improvements:	\$13,880
Contracted Services:	\$21,750
Road Maintenance:	\$65,000
Labor:	\$30,559
Miscellaneous:	\$ 2,580

In addition, \$427,000 of Highway Aid (Liquid Fuels) Funds shall be used to accomplish the following 2015 objectives:

**Franklin Street/Carl Avenue Paving \$399,000.** Franklin Street reconstruction from the intersection of South Washington Street to Antrim Way along with South Carl Avenue is estimated to cost \$346,100 and \$52,900 respectively. Liquid Fuels funds will be used to meet this 2015

objective.

**Linden Avenue Storm Drain Improvement Project \$28,000.** Liquid Fuels funds will be used to pay a large portion of the costs associated with storm drain improvements in the vicinity of Linden Avenue. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$40,300. The outstanding balance of \$12,300 has been incorporated into the 2015 General Fund operating budget.

(Continued on page 2)

## "Name that Newsletter" Finalists Selected

**I**n the last newsletter, Borough residents were asked to help name this new publication. Twelve suggestions were received and the Top 3 selected by a committee comprised of several Council members and a staff person. Listed alphabetically below are the Top 3 selections, along with the entrants' rationale for each name submission.

**"The Borough Browser":** "Borough" has the traditional meaning of self-governing. The newer word "Browser" means seeking information.

**"The Castle Chant":** Since Greencastle's name came from a location in N. Ireland where there are lots of castles, and the news was told by word of mouth and minstrels.

**"The Town Talk":** When growing up in Greencastle years ago, you either lived "in town or in the country". It then changed to borough and township, but some of us still remember growing up "in town".

**It is now up to you to vote. Please circle only your top choice and submit to: Borough Admin. Office  
 60 North Washington Street, Greencastle PA 17225.**

**Submissions will be accepted by mail, in person, or feel free to enclose with your next water/sewer bill.**

## Civics 101: Pennsylvania Local Government Units

In the last publication, we focused on the structure of our particular form of borough government (Council/Manager). We now take a broader look at local government as we often find individuals who visit or transfer into Pennsylvania find our government operations to be different than what they are accustomed.

Following is a breakdown of the types/classifications of government found within Pennsylvania.

According to *The Pennsylvania Manual, Volume 121*, Pennsylvania local government has 5,089 units. These units are broken down by Counties, Cities, Boroughs, Townships, School Districts and Authorities; each of which have the ability to operate independently of one another.

As of 2013, the "Units" within Pennsylvania were composed of:

<i>Counties:</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>Cities:</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Boroughs:</i>	<i>958</i>
<i>Townships:</i>	<i>1,547</i>
<i>School Districts:</i>	<i>500</i>
<i>Authorities:</i>	<i>1,961</i>

**Counties:** Each Pennsylvania resident is part of a county. The largest city-county is Philadelphia with a population of 1.5 million and the smallest is Cameron at 5,085.

Counties are considered "agents of the state for law enforcement, judicial administration and the conduct of elections". Each county is also responsible for certain social services, property assessments, regional planning, local library and community college support, and may establish housing and redevelopment authorities, community development programs, etc.

**Municipalities** within Pennsylvania altogether total 2,561. Each Pennsylvania resident lives within a municipality (i.e. city, borough or township). This type of governance provides services such as police and fire protection, road and street maintenance, parking/traffic control, planning and zoning, parks and recreation, garbage collection, code enforcement, water distribution, sewage collection, etc.

**Cities:** Philadelphia is the oldest and largest of Pennsylvania cities and is known as a "First Class City". The city has 17 council members and a mayor. The council members are the policy makers and the mayor is the administrator overseeing a managing director who is responsible for managing the majority of city departments.

"Second Class Cities" are Pittsburgh and Scranton, the latter of which is known as a "Second Class City A." These cities also

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 2015 General/Sewer Fund Budget Adoptions (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Several capital items that have been included in this year's budget include:

**New Main Computer File System Server & Associated Microsoft Upgrade \$25,100.** The 2008 server was deferred in 2014 due to budgetary constraints for funding in 2015.

**Main Copier/Fax/Scanning Unit \$12,000.** The 2004 unit is the main copier/fax/scanner for the Administration office.

**Town Hall Phase II Improvements \$9,100.** Police Department paint/flooring project. This is the second of a two phase project, which began in 2014 with same improvements made to Council Chambers and Administration offices.

**Police Body Video \$7,100.** This item was proposed in 2014, but deferred until 2015 due to budgetary constraints.

**Local Street Upgrades & Repairs \$150,000.** In addition to the Franklin Street/Carl Ave-

nue Paving projects mentioned earlier, funds have been earmarked to once again address miscellaneous milling and overlay paving projects within Borough limits.

**SEWER FUND:** The 2015 Sewer Budget did not require significant cuts to balance other than the deferral of a 1997 GMC Dump Truck. This particular expenditure will eventually impact the Sewer Fund approximately \$43,400.

The 2015 Sewer Budget currently includes several key items:

**Credit and Debit Card Software/Equipment \$6,210/2.** The Sewer Fund will pay one half the cost of the equipment and software purchases necessary to provide water and sewer customers the ability to pay their utility bills via debit/credit cards.

**Replacement of the second of two Return Activated Sludge Pumps \$40,000.** The pumps were originally installed in 1989, with one replaced in 2014 and the other now budgeted/planned for 2015.

**Holding Tank Diffusers/Piping \$15,000.** Instal-

lation of diffusers is necessary to aid in mixing and to prevent the solids from turning septic.

The Sewer Fund will continue to focus its efforts on point repairs and manhole rehabilitations, and possible relining. With an aging sewer infrastructure we will want to ensure that adequate funds are set aside to keep the system operating well.

The Borough's 2009 BNR Report stated that a second upgrade to the sewer plant is estimated to be needed in Year 2025 and at a cost of \$2.5 million. This will require a debt service of approximately \$200,000 annually. Thus, it is necessary to continue to be mindful of this upcoming cost, among other capital item needs, and build the reserves necessary to finance at least a portion of these costs.

The Greencastle Area, Franklin County Water Authority developed and passed its budget in December 2014 as well. Information regarding this budget can be found on page 3 of this publication.



## Greencastle Area, Franklin County Water Authority Budget Adopted

**O**n December 15, the Greencastle Area, Franklin County Water Authority (GAFCWA) formally adopted its 2015 Budget. The budget was adopted with zero metered rate increase for this year. This was made possible due to several factors:

- ☑ Continued cost savings realized from a water employee vacancy.
- ☑ Continued cost savings realized from new electricity contract.
- ☑ Anticipated obtainment of an Irrevocable Letter of Credit in July 2015.
- ☑ No major water main infrastructure projects planned for 2015.

**S**ome of the items that have been incorporated into the 2015 Water Budget include:

- ☑ Placing future tap fees into a Capital Reserve Fund instead of utilizing those tap fees for operational needs.
- ☑ Implementation of a debit/credit, electronic payment program and equipment.
- ☑ Replacement of (2) clarifier turbidity meters.
- ☑ Replacement of (1) brine pump.
- ☑ Repair/replacement of VFD transfer pump.
- ☑ Ebbert's Spring telemetry work.
- ☑ SCADA upgrade analysis.
- ☑ Design/Inspection services for the Food Lion Tank.
- ☑ Miscellaneous Building

- ☑ Repair Work (Moss Spring Roof, Ebbert's Pump House, Tractor Shed, Water Plant floor).
- ☑ Relocation of select interior water meters to the exterior of properties.
- ☑ Food Lion Tank mixer/cleaning.
- ☑ Replacement of 1994 Chevy Truck & plow.

***DID YOU KNOW...***

*The GAFCWA's annual operating budget is: \$1.5 million*

*The Water Plant currently pumps an average of 450,000 gallons of water per day to residences and businesses within its service area.*

*The Water Plant is a 24/7/365 operation having 5 full time employees charged with the delivery of potable water to 2,370 metered locations.*

## GAFCWA Bids Farewell to Miller and Welcomes New Member Divelbiss

After approximately 12 years serving the Greencastle Area, Franklin County Water Authority and its customers as a volunteer, long term board member Bob Miller decided to not seek reappointment and to allow another member of the community to fill the new term/seat. Consequently, on January 5, 2015, Mark Divelbiss of Greencastle was appointed as the newest member of the GAFCWA.

Mark retired from chiropractic medicine in March 2014 after 31 years. He expressed an interest in community involvement as his father also served Greencastle in the 1970s as a Borough Council member.

As with all new board/commission appointments, Mark was provided an orientation prior to taking his seat on January 19, 2015. He shall serve a four year term expiring December 31, 2019.

### Looking to Volunteer?

Each year, thousands of Americans make resolutions affecting their health, happiness, family, friends, and community.

If you are a Borough resident or a Greencastle Area, Franklin County Water Authority [GAFCWA] customer, and would like to fulfill a commitment to community, why not volunteer? There are many organizations that would welcome your efforts, talent and interest...including the Borough of Greencastle and the GAFCWA!

One method of volunteering is serving as a board or commission member. These boards and commissions play a vital role in the effectiveness and efficiency of local governmental operations including:

Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, Shade Tree Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, and Greencastle Area, Franklin County Water Authority.

Resumes and letters of interest may be submitted to:  
 Borough Manager's Office  
 Borough of Greencastle  
 60 North Washington Street  
 Greencastle, PA 17225

*Please include relevant background and the board/commission you wish to participate.*

### PERMIT REMINDER

The Borough often hears from property owners that they were not aware of the need to get a permit prior to doing work around their property. Amended in 1995, the Borough's Ordinance explains that *no building within the Borough can be erected, reconstructed, restored, structurally altered, without first applying and being issued a permit.*

Known as "Land Use Permits", these documents are user friendly and often easy to complete. The value of work is used to determine the total cost of the permit. Up to \$1,000 of work has an assigned fee of \$25.00. Every 1,000 dollars over the first \$1,000 will cost an additional \$1.00.

Following the issuance of a "Land Use Permit", most work will also involve obtaining a "Building Permit" through one of the Borough's third party inspection agencies. These agencies will not issue a building permit without the land use permit. So, *make sure to visit the Borough Office FIRST, before attempting to get your building permit.*

Feel free to contact the Borough Secretary and/or Zoning Officer with questions regarding the Land Use permitting process. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Phone: 717.597.7143 Extension 103.

### LAND USE PERMIT

### WORK EXAMPLES

- New building construction
- Existing building alterations
- Accessory buildings (new or altered) such as sheds, playhouses, garages, garden sheds, animal shelters, etc.
- Demolition
- Fences
- Walls
- Patios
- Swimming pools over 3 1/2 feet deep (in ground or above ground)
- Fascia, roof sheathing, flashing replacement
- Business signs

**THIS LIST IS ONLY A SAMPLE OF WORK REQUIRING PERMITTING**

#### STOP & CALL

**717.597.7143 EXTENSION 103 BEFORE YOU DO WORK TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING AND PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS**

### STREET/SHADE TREE PERMIT REMINDER:

*Contact the Borough at 597-7143 x103 prior to removing & trimming trees within the Borough right of way as it may be necessary to obtain permission and/or a permit in advance of the work.*

### YARD SALES REMINDER:

#### BOROUGH YARD SALES REQUIRE A PERMIT AT NO COST

- No more than three yard sales in one calendar year
- Yard sales cannot exceed three consecutive days nor exceed a period of more than seven days in any one calendar year
- Permits are good for 15 days from the issuance
- Yard sale signs must be removed immediately after the yard sale event

*Note: Sales are limited in order to keep individuals from having ongoing sales throughout the year, which can be considered a nuisance.*



### A MESSAGE FROM THE BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION:

According to an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) 2007 publication, “topping is perhaps the most harmful tree pruning practice known”. Topping of a tree is sometimes referred to as “heading”, “tipping”, “hat-racking” and “rounding over” and is often done to reduce the size of the tree. Homeowners often feel that their trees have become too large and opt for topping, thinking it will reduce the height of the tree. However, the ISA states this “is not a viable method of height reduction...and in fact will make a tree more hazardous in the long term”.

#### **Topping can/does:**

- ☑ Remove about 50-100 percent of the leaf-bearing crown of a tree.
- ☑ Starve a tree temporarily as trees rely on leaves for food/energy.
- ☑ Cause a tree to become vulnerable and weak allowing infestations of insects and disease to take over.
- ☑ Impose severe wounds on a tree essentially causing decay.
- ☑ Lead to sunburn as a tree’s crown produce thousands of leaves to absorb sunlight. When the leaves are removed the branches and trunk are suddenly exposed to high levels of light and heat causing cankers, bark splitting and death to some branches.
- ☑ Mutilate and disfigure a tree. A tree that has been topped can never fully regain its natural form.
- ☑ Be a high-maintenance pruning practice with hidden costs. The ISA suggests that a “healthy, well-maintained tree can add 10 to 20 percent to the value of a property. Disfigured, topped trees are considered an impending expense”.

#### **Good Alternatives to Topping:**

- ☑ Provide clearance for utility lines. Cut back to a lateral that is large enough to assume the terminal role. A rule of thumb is to cut back to a lateral that is at least one-third the diameter of the limb being removed.
- ☑ Remove or replace a tree with a species that is more appropriate for the site.
- ☑ Hire an arborist as a professional arborist can provide the services of a trained crew, with all the required safety equipment, insurance and expertise.

*Refer to Street/Shade Tree Permit Reminder on Page 4*

## **Civics 101 (cont’d)**

*(Continued from page 2)*

have a strong mayor form of government similar to Philadelphia.

“Third Class Cities” such as York, Reading, Lebanon, Altoona, Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre can have various forms of government. The “commission” form is found in cities such as Butler; the “mayor-council” form is found in Harrisburg and Lancaster; and the “council-manager” form found in Altoona.

**Boroughs:** In Pennsylvania Boroughs such as Greencastle, there is a mayor who is elected for a four-year term and council members elected for four-year overlapping terms. In more than 200 boroughs, the chief administrative officer is a manager appointed by council. This individual is responsible for carrying out the policies of council with the mayor responsible for the oversight of the police department.

**Townships:** There are two types of townships within Pennsylvania-first class townships have elected commissioners who have four-year overlapping terms. Second class townships, such as Antrim Township, are composed of supervisors who are

elected at large for six-year terms. Officers such as secretary and township manager are appointed by the elected body.

**Authorities:** This type of “unit” provides a specific type of service and is normally organized by either a county, municipality, or school district. It’s established by ordinance with the elected body appointing the members of the authority board. The Board is then responsible for carrying out the Authority’s objectives such as projects, establishing rates and regulations, collecting revenues for the services provided, appointing officers and employees, etc. An example of a local authority is the Greencastle Area, Franklin County Water Authority.

**School Districts:** Enrollment sizes can range from large urban sized districts with Philadelphia being the largest at 187,000 (approx) to very small suburban/rural areas like Midland Borough being one of the smallest at 328. Greencastle-Antrim School District sees an enrollment of approximately 2,787.

***DID YOU KNOW...According to the 2010 Census, Greencastle Borough’s population is 3,996:***

## FOG ALERT-Fats, Oils and Grease

### *What are FOGs?*

Fats, oils and greases (FOG) are defined as a material either liquid or solid, composed primarily of fat, oil and grease from animal or vegetable sources. Fats are mixtures of various triglycerides with a small percentage of monoglycerides and diglycerides. Oil is often defined as triglycerides that are liquid at room temperature. Grease is a general classification for fats, oils, waxes and soaps that have a negative effect on the wastewater treatment system. Examples of FOG include kitchen cooking grease, vegetable oil, bacon grease, etc.

### *Where to FOGs come from?*

FOGs are generated by everyone who prepares and cooks food. Some of the industries who generate FOG include meat processors, food packagers, restaurants, food preparation businesses, cafeterias in schools, churches, prisons and hospitals, and residential homeowners. Whenever food is cooked in oils there is a need to get rid of the cooking oils and greases. The most common place to get rid of these wastes is by pouring them down the drain. This method of disposal can create significant problems.

### *Why are FOGs a problem?*

Some of the FOGs are the same chemicals that clog arteries in people. In a wastewater system, the water flows from the sinks and toilets through pipelines to the wastewater treatment facility. These pipelines operate just like the arteries of our body, which transport blood and wastes. They too will become clogged. When pipes become clogged, the water can no longer flow through them and it will back up into sinks, toilets, and other areas. They can also create sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) at pump stations and other areas. These SSOs can result in serious pollution of our waterways and yards. The best way to prevent these overflows is to keep the FOG out of the sewer system.

### *What does Greencastle do about FOGs?*

Approximately eight years ago, Greencastle developed a Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Program. This program attempts to educate commercial FOG producers about the need to install and maintain grease traps. Borough Council adopted ordinances including one that provides for issuance of a yearly commercial permit.

Educational material, such as this publication, are used to get the message out to our residents on the need to be mindful of the proper disposal of fats, oils and cooking grease.

### **CEASE THE GREASE!**

- ☑ **Pour FOGs in a disposable container and place in the garbage.**
- ☑ **Use a paper towel to soak up grease prior to placing the pots/pans into the sink or dishwasher.**
- ☑ **Never dispose of meat scraps down the drain.**
- ☑ **Put food scraps and vegetables in garbage or opt to compost your vegetables**

## Think Twice Before Flushing Those Paper Towels & Wipes

**Y**ou might think you're doing everything right when purchasing those wipes that are often promoted as "flushable". However, a number of backups and clogs in sewer lines from these types of cloths as well as other misuse of the sewer system has been problematic.

"Flushable" cloths and wipes are growing in consumer popularity and plumbers are starting to see an increase in the number of sewer clogs from these materials as well as paper towels and feminine products. When flushed, these insoluble materials do not break down and can become lodged in sewer laterals and mains, especially when they meet up with grease, another substance that should not be flushed down the drain or toilet. [See related article to the left]



The result can be costly to the homeowner as a plumber is needed to unclog laterals or to the municipality when a sewer main backs up. For those items that make it to the sewer plant, the issue can cause havoc on pumps and filtering equipment.

***The best rule of thumb is to keep it simple-Only flush toilet paper and bathroom waste down the toilet***

All other items including, but not limited to: baby wipes, bathroom wipes, hand wipes, cleaning wipes, towelettes, diapers, feminine napkins and tampons, paper towels, etc. should be discarded in the trash, not flushed down the toilet.

It is better to discard these materials in the trash than to face plumbing problems, associated costs and embarrassing situations.



## Animal and Property Maintenance Reminders

### FEEDING OF FERAL ANIMALS

**G**ood intentions, like the feeding of stray animals, can lead to nuisances such as over population, running at large, destruction of neighboring properties and rabies issues.

The Borough of Greencastle’s Code (Article II, Section 71) defines an animal owner among other things as: “...*any person who harbors or permits a dog or cat to remain on or around his or her property.*”

For those property owners who feed and allow stray animals to harbor on their property, the individual can be deemed by Borough Code the “pet owner” and as such, responsible for the animals’ well being including vaccinations, control, licensing, disposal of animal waste, etc.

**Unless you are in a position to assume all the responsibilities associated with a stray, please refrain from feeding.**

### Put a Lid on Fido’s Barking

As the weather becomes warmer, we frequently find ourselves leaving our dogs outside for longer periods of time unattended. Unfortunately, the Borough sees an increase in calls during the spring and summer from neighbors complaining of excessive barking by dogs left often unattended. The Borough Code states that by owning an animal or bird that “barks, cries, bays, squawks, or makes noise continuously” for a period of 10 minutes or more, or makes noise intermittently for one half hour or more, can be deemed a disturbance no matter the time of day or night. The Greencastle Police are responsible for taking these types of calls and determining whether the complaint is reasonable and/or whether the animal had legitimate cause for such noise. *Be a good neighbor and “pet parent”- Make sure your pet receives the proper care and attention to ensure that barking does not become problematic!*



**REMINDER**

***ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE & FECES***

**Did you know that it is unlawful for the owner of any dog and/or cat to allow or permit the animal to run at large in the Borough?**

**&**

**Owners of a dog or cat are also responsible for immediately collecting the dog/cat feces or droppings in a container and disposing of it in a safe and sanitary manner.**

### APRIL SHOWERS BRING MORE THAN MAY

#### FLOWERS...Weeds and Grass Issues...

It’s hard to believe that winter will be wrapping up soon and spring will be gracing us once again with warmer weather and the growing season. While most of us welcome springtime and watching our yards come to life with flowers and trees in bloom, we also realize that those yards will once again require maintenance and attention.

**REMINDER: Keep grass, weeds, brush and any other vegetation that is not edible to a height of 10 inches or less. Properties that exceed the 10 inch limit can be declared a nuisance, detrimental to the health, safety and comfort of Borough citizens.**

Violations are a minimum of \$50, but not more than \$300 for each offense.

### PROPERTY NUISANCES

Following is a snapshot of property maintenance nuisances that are prohibited for the keeping or depositing on a premise:

- Dangerous buildings
- Non-roadworthy vehicles
- Weeds, brush or grass (see article to the left)
- Junk, trash, or debris
- Abandoned, discarded or unused objects such as appliances, furniture, barrels or containers
- Furniture or appliances that are meant for inside use stored on a porch or balcony
- Trash and garbage containers on a porch or balcony facing the roadway or in the front yard (unless placed there 24 hrs prior to regularly scheduled trash day)
- Drainage of roofs and paved areas, premises, which cause soil erosion, stagnant water accumulation, or damage.



## Water Bill Woes and Troubleshooting Steps

**W**hat's up with my water bill? The GAF CWA often receives calls from customers questioning their water bill charges when higher than normal. Customers often initially believe the problem has to be a faulty meter or reading when in fact, water meters slow down with age; they don't speed up, which is typically in the customer's favor. If you get a high bill, a hidden leak in your home or private service line is usually to blame. A few easy troubleshooting steps can be taken before calling a plumber, or the GAF CWA.

### TOILETS

Leaky toilets can waste hundreds of gallons a day and should be repaired immediately. Take these steps toward pinpointing a toilet leak.

- ☑ Tank water level/float adjustment: Remove tank cover. Flush the toilet and observe the water level. The water should shut off when the tank level is about 1/2 inch to 1 inch below the overflow. If the water does not shut off and/or spills over into the overflow tube, the fill valve/float valve (ballcock) is either broken or needs adjusted.
- ☑ Flush valve/flapper ball replacement: Remove the tank cover. Flush the toilet and wait for it to fully refill. Put a few drops of food coloring, or a leak detector tablet in the toilet tank. Wait at least 30 minutes. If the colored water appears in the bowl, you have a leak.

### WATER SOFTENERS

Many Greencastle homes are outfitted with water softeners due to the hardness of water found in this location. Customers with water softeners will have higher water bills than those homes without this equipment due to the regeneration and backwash cycles necessary to soften the water. There are times when these systems will get "stuck" cycling, causing larger amounts of water use and lower water pressure within the home.

- ☑ After the softener has regenerated, check to see if water continues to run down the drain. If so, a repair is needed and the softener should be shut off at least temporarily so that additional water charges are not incurred. You may opt to repair or bypass the system.

### FURNACE HUMIDIFIERS

- ☑ Inspect the humidifier float to ensure that it is shutting off at the water level recommended by the manufacturer.

### FAUCETS

- ☑ Inspect and repair/replace dripping faucets as soon as possible. A dripping faucet can waste 15-20 gallons of water or more a day.

### SERVICE LINES

Service line leaks can go undetected for quite sometime. Some signs that you might have one include:

- ☑ Sound of running water or a hissing sound coming from your main shut off valve when water is not being used.
- ☑ Water leaking in your basement or crawl space near the location of the water service line.
- ☑ Low water pressure in your home.
- ☑ Wet spots in your yard between the meter or curb stop into the home.

*Continued on Page 9*



## That small leak can be costly over time.....

**Water costs money...  
don't waste it!**

	U.S. Equivalent	Metric Equivalent
Fluid oz.	8 fl. drams (1.804 cu. inches)	29.573 milliliters
Pint	16 fl. oz. (28.875 cu. inches)	0.473 liter
Quart	2 pints (57.75 cu. inches)	0.946 liter
Gallon	4 quarts (231 cu. inches)	3.785 liters

Waste per quarter at 60 psi water pressure

Diameter of stream	Gallons	Cubic Feet	Cubic Meters
1/4"	1,181,500	158,000	4,475
3/16"	666,000	89,031	2,521
1/8"	296,000	39,400	1,115
1/16"	74,000	9,850	280

↑ A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown above.

### Overnight Leak Detection

In addition to the troubleshooting steps on Page 8, you can perform an easy overnight leak check:

- Locate your water meter inside or outside of your home
- Read and record the meter reading. Make sure to conduct this reading on a night when your water softener is not scheduled to regenerate.
- Do not draw any water throughout the night, including flushing the toilet.
- Read the water meter first thing in the morning before drawing any water. If your meter reading changed overnight and there was no water used during the nighttime hours, you have a leak.

*Note: If all else fails, you should plan to contact the GAFCWA at 717.597.7143 extension 104 and/or your local plumber.*

## Are You Ready for Spring Cleaning?

**Bulk Item Drop-Off** is an annual springtime event that provides Borough residents the opportunity to discard those unwanted items that may have accumulated and would otherwise be difficult to dispose.

**What:** furniture, appliances, electronic devices, and household equipment will be accepted without charge. Tires greater than 17 inches will be accepted for a fee of \$3.00 each.

**Where:** Borough of Greencastle's Public Works Garage at 40 Mifflin Lane, Greencastle

**When:** Friday, May 1, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. & Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Who:** Borough residents with a valid photo ID are the only individuals permitted to bring bulk items to the drop-off site.

*Note: Hazardous materials, chemicals, batteries, liquids, yard waste, construction materials, bagged items, and household trash will not be accepted.*



**Looking for a place to dispose of brush, grass, leaves, appliances, electronics and tires throughout the year? For a small fee, the Washington Township Transfer Station will take these items off your hands. Call: 717-762-4413**

## Public Safety Announcements

### Community Service Officer/ Zoning Inspector Hired

As part of the 2014 budget, Borough Council approved the hiring of a part-time community service/zoning inspector.

The position reports to the Borough Manager and Police Chief and performs duties such as property inspections, investigations, interviews, evidence collection, managing case loads such as sanitation and nuisance violations; snow removal enforcement; parking meter enforcement; and, other duties as assigned by either the Borough Manager or Police Chief.

Going forward into 2015, the 15-20 hour flexible schedule should provide the Borough a more active and enhanced presence in downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods.

### Online Awareness:

Today's technology of personal computers, Ipads, Smartphones, etc. are a necessary part of society providing entertainment and education to families and improving the efficiency of operations within business and government. Their importance cannot be debated; however, we need to understand online dangers and how best to protect ourselves and others from those wishing to do harm.

Law enforcement agencies are increasingly faced with a wide range of online criminal and immoral behavior.

Whether identity thieves stealing financial and personal information or online predators waiting in chat rooms, we are now challenged to address these types of issues. We must be mindful of the sites we visit and the information both we and our children might share online.

Simply moving the computer to a room where the family normally gathers, such as a kitchen or living room can be a good step in the right direction.

Using parental controls and security safe-

guards to control access to potentially dangerous sites and online situations are also suggested for PC, Ipad and Smartphone users.

Parents are encouraged to openly discuss the potential dangers of the virtual world.

*Take steps to educate yourself and your children on what information is appropriate to share, read, and access online.*

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics,

☑ "16.6 million people experienced identity theft in 2012"

According to a 2011 article by The Federal Bureau of Investigation,

☑ "70 percent of youngsters will accept 'friend' requests regardless of whether they know the requester."

☑ "It is believed that more than half a million pedophiles are online every day."

<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=42>

[http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/may/predators\\_051711/predators\\_051711](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/may/predators_051711/predators_051711)

### Operation Safe Summer Considered a Success

Greencastle Borough youth saw a first during the 2014 summer as the Greencastle Police Department initiated "Operation Safe Summer", a program designed to have police officers interact with individuals and build a positive rapport that has the potential to last a lifetime.

Thanks to sponsorship, officers handed out over 300 free ice cream coupons to kids who were caught "doing the right thing".

The program initially started out as officers issuing "tickets" to children riding their bikes with their helmets on and morphed into much more.

Officer Keith Russel, who spearheaded the 2014 campaign stated, "To be able to get that officer out of the car to talk with a group of kids where he might have not given it a second thought is wonderful and I am so proud of our team."

Officers not only "ticketed" helmet wearing children, but also those children found to be throwing trash in receptacles instead of littering; listening to a parent while on the playground; and, sometimes for no other reason than to start a conversation with the youth.

Operation Safe Summer's first season was definitely considered a success and could be expanded upon going forward. One

vision is to have helmets available to children who do not, or cannot, acquire them.

The Borough of Greencastle and its Police Department thank those who stepped up and supported the 2014 campaign, the parents, and the children who participated!



Here's to 2015 Operation Safe Summer!

#### DID YOU KNOW...

*The Greencastle Police Department is a 24/7/365 operation comprised of a Full-time Police Chief and 3 Full-time & 5 Part-time Uniformed Officers*



## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

### HOME HEATING FACTS & PREVENTION TIPS FROM YOUR LOCAL FIRE CHIEF:

#### FACTS

Nearly half of American families use alternate heating sources to help stay warm including space heaters, fireplaces, wood or coal stoves. Heating fires are the second leading cause of home fires.

Fixed and portable space heaters- including wood stoves- are involved in 74 percent of fire-related deaths.

More than 200 people die from carbon monoxide produced by fuel burning appliances in their home annually.

Only 26 percent of families have developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

A working smoke alarm cuts your chance of dying almost in half!

#### TIPS

Keep paper, clothing, bedding and other combustibles at least three feet away from space heaters, stoves and fireplaces.

**NEVER** leave portable heaters or fireplaces unattended.

When buying a space heater, look for a model that has been listed by a testing agency and shuts off automatically if tipped over.

Space heaters should be placed on a hard and level non-flammable surface, not on carpets or rugs and away from curtains or bedding.

Fireplaces, wood and coal stoves, furnaces and chimneys should be professionally cleaned and inspected once a year.

#### AMBULANCE CLUB INFORMATION

According to Rescue Hose, there is still time to renew your annual Ambulance Club Membership Subscription or to become a new member. Open to any resident, business or organization in Greencastle and Antrim Township, this is added insurance that your emergency medical transportation costs will be covered. Your insurance company will be invoiced by the Ambulance billing service, with any amount not covered becoming your responsibility. With your Ambulance Club Membership, any remaining amount is waived.

The income from Club Membership provides not only the medical transportation benefit, but also assists in funding equipment, continuing education for EMS volunteers, and provides this critical service to our community.

**Single memberships are \$35.00; households of two-six people, \$50.00; and, over six individuals, \$65.00 for 2015.**

Businesses and organizations can also enjoy the benefit. While employees are at work, or if organization members require emergency medical service while at the club, they are covered through a business or organization membership. Costs are based on the number of employees or members, starting at \$100.00. Please contact Rescue Hose for details or with questions.

### Rescue Hose - Calling for Volunteers: Join...Volunteer...Give Back to Your Community!

Rescue Hose Company No. 1 saves residents hundreds of thousands of dollars each year and as a volunteer company receives most of its funding through donations, not tax dollars. It is neighbor helping neighbor when assistance is needed for fire, rescue and emergency medical response.

The number of volunteers- including emergency service organization members- has fallen dramatically across the United States. Recruits are needed for Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Fire Police and administrative personnel. Maybe the Fire Department is something you've thought about, wondered how to get involved in, or wanted to try. If so, do not hesitate to reach out to our fire department family. We welcome your interest and call!

*Call 717-597-8489 to speak to Administrator Brian Barkdoll, President Cheryl Mowen, EMS Chief Dave Lutz or Fire Chief Kevin Barnes*

### A Glimpse of 2014

**R**olling into a new year, allow us to provide a glimpse back on 2014.

Rescue Hose Company reported that it responded to 2,024 calls for assistance, with 1,359 emergency medical and 655 fire and rescue incidents.



*This was an increase of 213 responses from the previous year with the trend likely to continue.*

## RETAIL SHOPPING STATS

The *Pennsylvania Borough News*, recently provided a snapshot of Pennsylvania retailers and the decline that a large majority of our state has seen.

Specifically, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry found that between 2003 and 2013, the number of retail establishments dropped by 6% in our state. The number of retail workers also dropped by 5% and it was found that their average weekly wages dipped by approximately \$53.00 per week or 10%. In fact, the data showed that retail workers under the age of 25 dropped by 9%, but those over the age of 55 increased by 25%.

The greatest decline in retail establishments was found to be book stores, music stores, sporting goods, pet stores, florists, garden and building material supply stores, furniture stores, etc. Some types of retail saw significant growth though including personal and health care stores, Internet and mail order, and general merchandise stores.

Out of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, 56 saw a decline in retail shops. Forest, Cameron and Somerset Counties saw the largest drop while Pike, Northampton and Wyoming saw the greatest increases. Franklin County was one of the counties to show a slight increase having experienced a retail growth of 0.4%.

**LOCAL RETAILERS ARE VESTED IN THE  
GREENCASTLE COMMUNITY.  
PLEASE SUPPORT THEM WHEN POSSIBLE!**

### *DID YOU KNOW...*

*According to Small Business Vital Statistics, Trends & Facts for 2014,  
Small businesses are responsible for 65% of new jobs created since 1996*

*&*

*50% of working Americans work in a small business setting*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS & SPREAD THE WORD!

### **3rd Annual Pub Run and 5K Race Event**

**April 18, 2015 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

*Fundraiser with proceeds going to improve athletic facilities for Greencastle Antrim & Tuscarora School Districts.*

### **2nd Annual Craft BrewFest**

**April 18, 2015 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

*In conjunction with the Pub Run and 5K Race Event, the GA Chamber will host its second craft brewfest at the John Allison Public House Parking Lot.*

### **First Fridays in Downtown Greencastle**

**May through October**

**5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

*Make First Friday your "Family Date Night"- a night of downtown music, shopping, eating !*

### **48th Annual Sidewalk Sales Days**

**July 10 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**July 11 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

*Come downtown and shop for bargains!*

### **3rd Annual Mother Earth Festival**

**September 12 & 13**

**10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

*Jerome King Playground will once again host the Mother Earth Festival-approximately 100 regional artisans are expected with a focus on organic, natural and green themes.*



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