



Schwenksville Borough Newsletter

Vol. II No. 1

www.schwenksville-pa.org

Summer 2010

Mayor's Message

On September 23th, 2009, approximately 30 people attended a Town Meeting at Schwenksville Borough Hall to discuss an ongoing problem with vandalism and drug use within the Borough limits.

As a follow up to that meeting, I have been tracking the various incidents in the Borough as reported to me by the Pennsylvania State Police on a monthly basis. In an effort to improve security and prevent vandalism, the Borough and I are working with our two local Banks to install a camera system around the Pavilion area in Meadow park. We are also very concerned about the lack of places for our young people to "hang out" in a safe and supervised environment. We continue to look into this challenge and hope to find some suitable options.

I'd like to publicly thank Lt. Buckley and his troopers out of the Skippack Barracks. They have been most responsive to our inquiries and requests for their help. I know we all appreciate their guidance and attentiveness to our traffic and domestic problems that fall under their jurisdiction. They are professional, prompt, courteous and dedicated to assisting the citizens of Schwenksville.

With that being said, they still need our help in preventing crime by reporting crimes that occur in our town. Summer is now upon us bringing out the best of times, and also the worst of criminal activity.

The State Police and all members of Borough Council ask that citizens report any incidents they observe of people deliberately breaking the law. We ask that your reports be as accurate as possible, describing the date, time, place and description of the perpetrator. We ask that you do not put yourself in harms way by trying to be a hero. Reporting the crime is the best way of preventing crime.

Help prevent the problems we have experienced in the past by being vigilant, responsive and determined to put the bad guys and gals behind bars.

Thank you,

Mayor Joe Giunta

A Historical Perspective

We thought you might enjoy the following tongue-in-cheek recipe for killing a village that was originally printed in "The Weekly Item" (later known as the "Schwenksville Item" and currently the "Valley Item"), on October 5, 1877, its founding year.

1. Put up no more buildings than you can occupy your selves.
2. If you should have an empty building to rent, demand three times its value.
3. Look sorry at every newcomer; give the cold shoulder to every mechanic who desires to come among you.
4. Go abroad for your goods and wares. By no means purchase from your own merchants and manufacturers, even at the same price or less.
5. Don't contribute one cent to the cause of religion or education.
6. Finally, put a thorough finish to your work by killing your local paper, refusing to subscribe for or advertise in it, so that persons at a distance will not know that any business is being done in your village, or they may want to come and settle among you, or buy something from you, and that would put you to extra trouble.




At that time, the Item cost 75 cents per year and was touted as a good "companion for the long winter evenings." To further put things in perspective, other issues around that time reported the theft of some "fine peaches" from the yard of the Bank cashier, and also that "some idle and mischievous persons" painted two of S.B. Rosenberger's hogs black. Some things change, and others do not.

Source: A History of Schwenksville, by Mary Beltz Kehs, 1976. The full document will shortly be available on the Borough's website.



THANKS TO



-  **GJS Landscaping** for maintaining the planter at Borough Hall
-  **Patriotic Order Sons of America** for new flags on our streets
-  **Women's Civic Club of Schwenksville** for maintaining the plants in the Gateway garden at Route 73

Music in the Meadow

Summer Concerts at Meadow Park!

The Schwenksville Borough Activity Committee is hosting two popular area bands at Meadow Park, behind the Schwenksville Fire Company. Ice cream and water ice will be available at both events, which will run from 6:30-8:30 pm.

On Thursday, July 22nd, Rocket 88 will bring its vintage classic rock sound as it performs many of your old favorites. This accomplished teen band from Oaks has received a lot of attention for its mature sound and will also share some of its original tunes. Honoring the roots of rock 'n roll, the band will appeal to all ages.

On Thursday, September 2nd, escape to the Islands with The Mango Men, where "everyday's a Saturday." This will be an end-of-summer blow out party with fun for the whole family. Do the limbo, play a little volleyball, or just sit in your chair and relax. A rain date of September 9th has been set.

So grab your blanket, chairs and cooler and enjoy a summer night with us! For further information call Borough Hall at 610-287-7442, or check out www.schwenksville-pa.org.

Revitalization!

"We are in the midst of what the media has dubbed the Great Recession, and there is no denying that it is changing the way downtown revitalization is done. So what is a downtown to do? Innovate. Be flexible. RE-vision your community to be ready when the rebound occurs." (Chris Brown, "Re-Visioning in the Great Recession," *Pennsylvania Borough News*, p.25) It is indeed unfortunate that grant money, which has funded so many revitalization projects in municipalities in recent years, has all but dried up and revenues have gone down--just as Schwenksville Borough makes vigorous strides toward improvements. But there are steps that can be taken, and both Borough Council and the Revitalization Task Force are committed to doing whatever can be done in the short-term, and being ready when funding for larger projects is available again.

About 60 interested area residents participated in the Town Hall Meeting on Revitalization in January—a wonderful acknowledgement of the importance of this subject to all. Feedback at the meeting, as well as from a survey that was offered until March, greatly assisted the Task Force in identifying areas of concern in the town, especially those related to parking, traffic and Trail access. Residents were given ample time at the meeting to express their views and one concern was heard loud and clear: the physical appearance, safety and function of Main Street needs to improve.

The Task Force completed a revision of the Borough's Revitalization Plan, which has subsequently been approved by Council. The Task Force will now continue to advocate for implementation of the Plan, as required by Montgomery County's Revitalization Program guidelines. At a recent meeting, the Task Force reviewed current progress in the Borough and agreed on a suggested plan of action to develop a Master Plan of improvements to Main Street, which could be implemented in phases over time. A Traffic Planner would

be consulted regarding parking and pedestrian safety issues. Proposed changes will be presented at public meetings for comment. The Task Force is an advisory body only, and any steps taken must be approved by Council. The Borough has already begun to address maintenance issues such as curb painting, street sign replacement, and sidewalk repair. *Please refer to **Street Improvements** in this Newsletter for more detail on maintenance and Revitalization Grants the Borough has applied for.*

A Glimpse of Community Day 2010

Photos courtesy of www.scottmabryphotography.com



The Rain Gutter Regatta, sponsored by Cub Pack #105 was one of many activities for kids at Community Day



The Community Music School of Trappe was one of many performers at Community Day



Dog Pull Demos at Community Day, May 15th

Street Improvements

Schwenksville Borough is dedicated to the improvement of streets and roads, which is also a significant goal stated in the Borough's newly adopted Community Revitalization Plan. It should be noted that although the Borough has applied for numerous grants this year, and will continue to do so, grant funding is generally at a low point and competition stiff. Early this Spring, a complete survey was made of all Borough roadways, and with needed work noted and prioritized for the next few years. The following list will update residents on current projects.

Second Street from Centennial to Church, Church Street and Summit Avenue from Woodland to Hillcrest The Borough has awarded a bid to resurface these roadways, and repaint crosswalks as applicable. The cost of this work, \$41,520, will be paid for out of the Liquid Fuels Fund.

Forrest Lane At the request of residents of Spring Mount Summit and Highpoint, the Borough recently completed the dedication process for this road and has filled some potholes. However, the road needs to be reconstructed and the Borough has submitted a Community Development Block Grant to offset the costs, but funding is uncertain.

4th Street The Borough recently completed the dedication process for this street also, which is relatively new and is not in need of repair.

Trail Corridor Parking Initiative For the past two years, the Borough has been working on the installation of an alleyway between the State Store and the former Lumber Yard, with the goal of providing legal access to parking behind the relevant properties, which includes Borough Hall itself. When complete, this project will provide much needed shared parking in that area, as well as improving the appearance of the area from the Trail. This is a Revitalization project, in that it will encourage productive use of the relevant properties, which are in the heart of our business district. A Revitalization Grant from Montgomery County, which would fund the physical improvements, was applied for in April of this year, but funding is uncertain. Preliminary approval has been received from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for \$13,500 towards engineering costs for this project.

Misc. Improvements As part of the Borough's commitment to improving the safety and appearance of streets and roads, numerous signage and repair items are ongoing. "Yield to Pedestrian" signs have been obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and placed on Main Street and Perkiomen Avenue to aid pedestrians in crossing. Faded "Stop" and "No Parking" signs are being progressively replaced, and some new signs were installed on Summit Ave. due to increased traffic there. This month property owners received notices encouraging compliance with the Borough's sidewalk maintenance and weed control ordinances and the Borough will be addressing problem areas in coming months.

Where's that money coming from?

- Community Development Block Grant—Administered by Montgomery County, but the funds are actually your Federal tax dollars coming back to Schwenksville.
- Liquid Fuels Fund—Monies received from the Commonwealth for use on local road improvements. This is a portion of the gasoline tax you pay at the pump, coming back to Schwenksville.

Schwenksville Officials

Borough Council 2010

Arthur Fairclough, President

Parks Committee and Sewer Authority Board

Rudolph Micsko, Vice-President

Finance Committee

Maureen Giacomucci

Activity Committee

Ray Yeanish

*Streets and Roads Committee,
CPV Regional Planning Commission, Rep.*

Lee Ann Miller

*Activity Committee, Historic Committee,
Revitalization Task Force*

Mayor

Joe Giunta

Borough Manager

Michael Galla

Administrative Assistant/Treasurer

Gail Phillips

Planning Commission 2009

H. Gilbert Williams, Chairman

CPV Regional Planning Commission, Rep.

Larry Keown, Vice-Chairman

Ellen Brinton

Roy Miller

Gary Schneider

Schwenksville Borough Hall

140 Main Street
Schwenksville, PA 19473



Address Label Here

Community Calendar

- July 22** Rocket 88--Outdoor Concert
Meadow Park 6:30-8:30 pm
- July 25** Chicken Barbecue at the Firehouse
12-5, Take-out only, 610-287-9370
- September 2** The Mango Men--Outdoor Concert
Meadow Park 6:30-8:30 pm

The Perkiomen Valley Library on Second St.
has many great programs for kids, teens and
adults. Learn more at www.pvlibrary.net

Residents and Business Owners are
welcome to attend our meetings, which are
generally held as follows:

Borough Council
Second Thursday 7:30pm

Planning Commission
First Thursday 7:30pm

Borough Hall Hours
Monday thru Thursday 9am-5pm
Closed 12-1
Friday 9am-2pm
Phone: 610-287-7442

Newsletter Editor Lee Ann Miller
Layout generously provided by Bill Ewer
Visit our website: www.schwenksville-pa.org