

LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!



Mother Nature surprised all of us when she brought a late October snow storm to Berks County! The Borough's Public Works crew did a fantastic job preparing our equipment prior to and keeping the streets clear during the storm.

Here are a few reminders for future snow events.

- In a declared Snow Emergency, all Snow Emergency Routes will restrict parking per Ordinance #433. Plowing is conducted curb to curb along the snow emergency routes.
- Vehicles will be allowed to return only after the Mayor lifts the Snow Emergency. The emergency routes are: **New Holland Road, South Kenhorst Boulevard, all Borough streets marked as "Snow Emergency Route" and Columbia Avenue.**
- It is best to make a plan as to where to park your vehicle if you will be away during the winter months or in advance of a predicted snow event.
- After snow stops, intersections will be cleared and storm drains opened provided there is room to get equipment in safely.
- Plowing begins at 3 inch snow depth.
- Residents who cast snow on the plowed road will be fined, "No Exceptions".
- All property owners must remove snow and ice from adjoining sidewalks within 12 hours after a storm and are asked to keep fire hydrants clear.
- Please be patient! The public works crew will clear all roads as soon as possible, but the first priority is to clear the roads for emergency vehicles.

!!!MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!



**FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS!
HOLIDAY PARADE AND
CHILDREN'S PARTY**

The Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Kenhorst Borough, and Kenhorst Merchants will once again sponsor the Annual Christmas Parade and Party. The Parade features Characters and the jolly old man himself, Santa, who will be driven around the Borough on fire trucks from several area fire departments.

The Christmas Parade will be held on **Saturday, December 17th, starting at 1:00 p.m.** The Parade will end at the Kenhorst Fire Company Social Quarters located at 411 S. Kenhorst Boulevard about 2:00 p.m., when the party will be held for the Borough's children. Save the date! Not to be missed!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Borough Hall will be closed on the following dates and times:

Friday, December 23, 2011 at noon

Monday, December 26, 2011

Friday, December 30, 2011 at noon

Monday, January 2, 2012

Reading Police Phone Numbers:

Emergency Services 9-1-1

Non-emergency service 610-655-6111

Information & minor reports 610-655-6116



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK –

By Jeri Diesinger

Tropical Storm Lee Disaster Recovery Efforts – The Borough of Kenhorst is working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to recover costs incurred during Tropical Storm Lee and its aftermath, as well as applying to obtain funds for projects to mitigate future flooding issues.

It would be appropriate at this time to thank our public works staff, Dwayne Hart and Dieter Stucke and the office staff, Eileen Becker and JoAnn Gottschall for their fine efforts during the September rains and unexpected October snow storm. In addition, thanks must be extended to the Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Company for assisting in pumping out flooded basements, as well as providing equipment and manpower to close flooded roads during the storms and assisting with the cleanup efforts afterwards.

Local Services Tax – Beginning January 1st 2012, the Local Services Tax (LST) will increase from \$10 to \$52 as assessed on a pro rata basis for each payroll period in which a person is engaged in an occupation within the Borough of Kenhorst. Individuals earning less than \$12,000/year are exempt from payment of the LST.

Ordinance #536 was adopted to generate revenue through this tax for each resident of Kenhorst to become full members of the Southern Berks Regional Emergency

Medical (ambulance) Services. Therefore, you will not receive future solicitations for membership. If you wish to read the full Ordinance, you can find it on our website.

In addition, you may still make a personal donation to the Southern Berks Regional Emergency Medical Service by contacting them through the SBREMS website at www.sbrems.com. However, you are not required to do so. Each person in Kenhorst will be automatically covered by emergency ambulance and non-emergency ambulance transport services in 2012.

Police Services Contract – Borough Council and the Reading Police Department are pleased to report that the police services agreement has been extended through December 31, 2015.

Zoning Hearing Board Activities – The Kenhorst Borough Zoning Hearing Board met twice this fall. An application was submitted to install an electric sign on the Dale Egan property located in the 900 block of New Holland Road and a Special Exception use was requested for Savage Used Cars on the site of the former Dunkin Donuts at 1500 Lancaster Avenue. Both applications were granted.

Borough Projects – Eight (8) ADA-compliant curb ramps were installed on Haig and Milford through a \$30,000 grant from Berks County. Portions of four (4) streets and intersections were milled and repaved on Commonwealth, Haig, High, and Hancock Boulevards at a cost of \$204,279.

Refuse/Recycling – The Mascaro contract was extended to December 31, 2012. The current 2011 costs will remain the same in 2012. The Bulk Pick-Up day on October 17th was a huge success!



December Lights Contest

We encourage you to get creative! All Kenhorst Borough residences are eligible to win a prize for best holiday decorations – Prizes include: \$75 first place, \$50 second place and \$25 honorable mention. Judging will take place during the week between Christmas and New Year's and winners will be announced at the January 3rd, 2012 Council meeting and in the next newsletter.

Neighborhood Watch Committee

A message from the Neighborhood Watch Committee

To All Kenhorst Residents:

After a recent article in the Reading Eagle concerning an increase in crime in Shillington and the formation of a Shillington Crime Watch, the Kenhorst Neighborhood Watch Committee reached out to Shillington for partnering in fighting crime. The partnership has worked well with Shillington attending the November 23rd Kenhorst meeting and Kenhorst attending the November 29th Shillington meeting. Every resident of Kenhorst should know that in a mere two months the Shillington watch has attracted over 30 residents to each of their meetings while Kenhorst struggles to have 10 people attend a meeting after being organized for one year. The difference is that “the Shillington residents” have been victims. At our most recent Kenhorst

meeting, we heard two Shillington residents who reported that they were burglarized as they slept.

The Shillington Crime Watch focus is **reactionary** due to many of the residents being victimized, while the Kenhorst Committee is focused on being more **proactive and committed to preventing residents from being victims**. However, we need your help. The same six to 10 people that are concerned enough to find time to attend a one hour meeting in Kenhorst cannot do it alone. *We need your participation.* By attending meetings you will:

- Be informed of recent trends in Kenhorst and neighboring communities.
- Have direct communication with our police force
- Be educated on how to protect yourself and your property
- Meet neighbors

The Kenhorst Neighborhood Watch Committee encourages all interested residents to attend the monthly meetings at 7:00 pm on the last Thursday of each month at Kenhorst Borough Hall. If you are interested in joining, please contact Bill Lange (Chairman) at 610-568-0025 or email Bill at teebill320@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Sincerely,

Kenhorst Neighborhood Watch Committee

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*WE WISH YOU PEACE, HEALTH
AND GOOD FORTUNE IN THE
NEW YEAR!*

*FROM THE KENHORST BOROUGH
COUNCIL AND STAFF*

Notes from the Codes Department

Snow Removal

Borough Ordinance # 308

During the winter season remember that it is the responsibility of each owner, tenant, or occupant of a property to clear snow and ice from sidewalks or walkways which abut the property within 12 hours after the storm ends. Placing objects such as chairs, buckets, trash cans, etc. in the street or alleyways after snow has been cleared is prohibited. Shoveling snow or ice back into the roadway is prohibited and punishable by fines for violations.

Rental Inspection Notification

Borough Ordinance # 534

Notification letters regarding fees and inspections were mailed in November to all owners of rental properties. Rental license fees will be due on January 1, 2012, rental inspections will be scheduled based on the zone in which the unit is located, and the owners will be contacted by our office 30 days prior to the rental inspection date. Rental owners that have not received notification letters should contact Larry Andes at (610) 777- 4253 so that he can update our records.

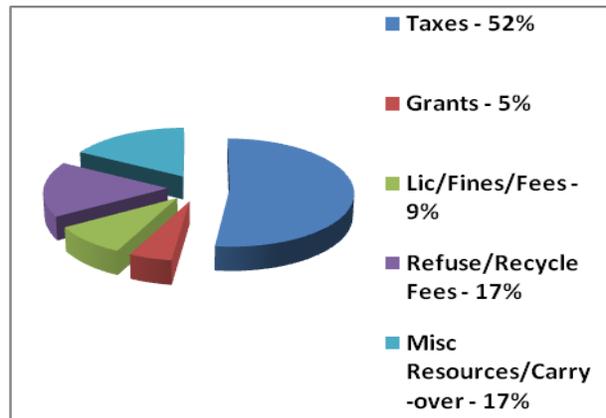
**2012 Budget
Approved**

At their December 1st meeting, Borough Council approved the 2012 Budget of \$1,973,200 (\$1,352,700 general fund and \$620,500 sewer fund). Through careful streamlining and planning this budget will not require an increase in taxes. Following is a breakdown of anticipated 2012 revenues and expenditures.

2012 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

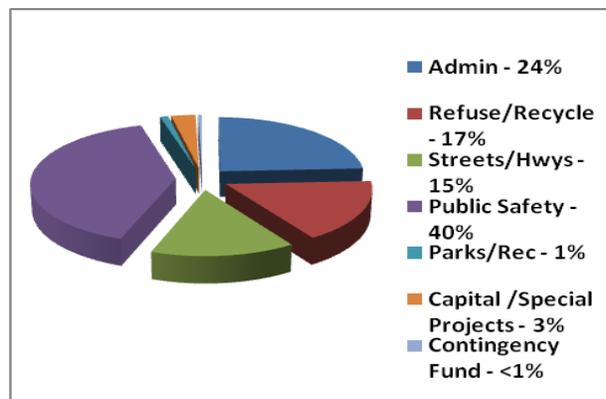
2012 Revenue Budget - \$1,352,700

- Taxes - 52% - \$704,050
- Grants - 5% - \$ 70,000
- Licenses/Fines/Fees - 9% - \$124,500
- Refuse/Recycle Fees - 17% - \$224,550
- Misc Resources/Carry-over - 17% - \$229,600



2012 Expenses Budget - \$1,352,700

- Administration - 24% - \$327,600
- Refuse/Recycle - 17% - \$224,000
- Streets/Highways - 15% - \$199,650
- Public Safety/Codes - 40% - \$542,250
- Parks/Recreation - 1% - \$13,500
- Capital /Special Projects - 3% - \$39,700
- Contingency Fund - <1% - \$6,000



2012 SEWER ACCOUNT BUDGET \$620,500