

BOROUGH OF KENHORST SPRING/SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

610-777-7327, 339 S. Kenhorst Blvd., Kenhorst, PA 19607

kenhorstborohall@comcast.net, www.co.berks.pa.us/kenhorst

CHANGES WITHIN THE BOROUGH

The first quarter of 2010 has been one of many changes within the Borough of Kenhorst. There are several new faces, including four new Council members, a new Tax Collector, Borough Secretary/Treasurer and Manager. In addition, the Reading Police Department began providing service as of January 1st and the Borough has received very positive feedback regarding this change.

Returning Councilmen, Frank Quattroch (President), Richard Lerch (Vice-President) and Ed Mohn welcomed newly elected Councilmen, Al Correnti, Richard Fritz, Jay Ibach, and David Roche.



Front Row (L-R): R. Lerch, F. Quattroch, Back Row (L-R): J. Ibach, N. Hatzas, D. Roche, A. Correnti, R. Fritz, E. Mohn

2010 Borough Council Members

President - *Frank S. Quattroch (Chair of Personnel Committee)*

Vice President – *Richard Lerch (Chair of Streets/Sewers Committee)*

Member – *Al Correnti (Chair of Property and Supplies Committee)*

Member – *Richard Fritz (Chair of Finance Committee)*

Member – *Jay Ibach (Chair of Playground, Recreation and Parks Committee)*

Member – *Ed Mohn (Chair of Sanitation Committee)*

Member – *Dave Roche (Chair of Codes and Emergency Services Committee)*

Mayor – *Nick Hatzas (Police Services)*

MEET THE NEW TAX COLLECTOR

Joanna Roche took over as Tax Collector in January when Richard Fritz retired from that position. Joanna has been a resident of the Borough since 1985. Her current Tax Collection office hours are Mondays from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. July and August hours will be listed on the School Real Estate tax bills.

MEET THE BOROUGH SECRETARY

TREASURER - While she has been working for the Borough since August 2009 and many of you know her already, in January Council officially appointed Eileen Becker as a full-time employee to serve as the Borough's Secretary/Treasurer. Eileen has a 15-year corporate background working primarily as a Human Resources professional. Her duties include all sewer and trash billing, payroll, open records requests, secretary to Council and administrative support to the manager, as well as office management, accounts payable/receivable and customer service.

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(L-R): J. Roche, E. Becker, J. Diesinger

MEET THE KENHORST BOROUGH MANAGER

On March 29, 2010 Council members welcomed Jeri L. Diesinger, P.G. as the new Borough Manager. Jeri is a professional geologist who has an extensive technical background and experience in local municipal management. She spent over 13 years in the environmental consulting industry managing multi-million dollar Superfund investigations for private and public-sector clients, including the U.S. Navy. She also brings over 11 years of municipal experience. Prior to moving to Berks County, Jeri worked for the Moon Township Municipal Authority in suburban Pittsburgh. She served as Director of Engineering Services for the Township of Spring in Berks County and was West Pikeland Township Manager/Road Master in Chester County. She will be working for the Borough full-time.

MEET YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Two veteran Reading police officers have accepted the assignment to be Kenhorst's community police officers. Officer Greg Harwell, a patrol officer and evidence technician who has worked for the Reading Police department for 19 years, now patrols the borough full time during the day. Officer Brian Thumm, a 13-year veteran police officer, takes over during the night shift. Both officers have been well received by the many residents they have worked with thus far.

These officers have begun the process of getting to know the Borough and are committed to making improvements in police services whenever they can. They have recommended the adoption of new ordinances to support the enhancement of traffic and parking regulations in Kenhorst. One of these changes prohibits the parking of vehicles on a Borough street without a current state inspection or registration; or if the vehicle is inoperable. The police officers recommended this to give them a tool to prevent abandoned or unsightly vehicles from remaining on Borough streets for a prolonged period of time.

Reading Police Phone Numbers:

Emergency Services 9-1-1

Non-emergency service 610-655-6111

Information & minor reports 610-655-6116

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Officers Harwell and Thumm are supported by other Reading Police officers who respond to the Borough to handle crimes, accidents, and calls for service from citizens. As summer draws near, the officers will be patrolling the streets with an eye toward insuring the quality of life for all residents, paying particular attention to excessive noise, traffic violations, and vandalism. Borough officials encourage residents to get to know their new police officers.

~ IMPORTANT NOTICE ~

BOROUGH CHANGES THE CODES AND ZONING PERMITTING PROCESS

Beginning on May 10th, all permit applications will be received and permits will be issued from the Borough Hall located at 339 S. Kenhorst Boulevard. This system will allow the Borough more control in the scheduling of inspections, coordination with our consultants and timely completion of the permit application process.

All permit fees will be payable to the *Borough of Kenhorst*. You may pick up applications/permits during regular business hours – Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Permit applications and 2010 Fee Schedule are available from the Borough Website - WWW.CO.BERKS.PA.US/KENHORST.

Remember that permits are required for: building alterations, new building construction, additions, decks, demolition, driveways, electrical work, fences, grading, heating, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC), fire protection systems (other than sprinklers), plumbing, pools, patios/pavers, sanitary sewers, sheds, sidewalks, signs, sprinkler systems, storm water systems, all

property transfers, roofing and yard sales. Dumpsters/storage PODS placed on streets must be equipped with PennDOT approved reflectors and blinking lights. Citations will be issued for dumpsters not meeting these standards.

~REMINDERS~

Large Trash Items for Pick Up – Please remember to purchase a “large item sticker” for \$10 at Borough Hall to affix to your item on trash day. Couches, loveseats, dressers, etc. can be disposed of along with your regular household trash. The trash hauler will not pick up the item unless it has an official sticker attached.

Sewer Bill Payments – Please pay your sewer bill in a timely manner. Note that sewer bills are sent to property owners of record who are responsible for payment. Any delinquent bill that is not paid within two quarters will be turned over to a collection agency. **Please be advised that an additional charge of up to 25% will be added to delinquent sewer balances by the collection agency.**

Remember curb repairs and sidewalks are the property owner’s responsibility. Uneven & crumbling sidewalks and curbs can cause injuries, which help raise insurance premiums and also lower not only your property value but also the property value of your neighbors and the borough as a whole.

Complete the 2010 Census – If you have not done so, please make sure to complete the ten census questions and return the form today. Kenhorst could lose out on future funding opportunities without an accurate count.

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BOROUGH of KENHORST PLAYGROUND

2010 SUMMER PROGRAM

Get ready for SUMMER FUN!!

June 21, 2010 through August 7, 2010

9AM – 2 PM, Monday - Friday

Registration will take place opening day - children wishing to sign up for the playground should arrive opening day by 9AM. The Playground Committee has established that children ages 6 through 13 years of age may participate. Younger children that wish to participate can attend the playground only if accompanied by a parent or guardian. *Please note there is a fee of \$20/child for non-residents.*

**NO SMOKING PERMITTED IN
PLAYGROUND AREA!**

PUBLIC NOTICE – STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

It is the responsibility of each resident of the Borough to be committed to protect our natural resources for future generations. You may also become involved in organizing a clean-up crew within the Borough to clean the areas around the stream, tributary or just pick-up any debris or trash around your immediate area. With your help and commitment the Borough can be made a better place to live, work and play.



When it rains, it drains! Your whole family can help keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, and lawn care products out of our waterways! Rainwater that has picked up contaminants from lawns, sidewalks, driveways, and roads can flow directly into a storm drain and affect areas used for swimming, boating, and drinking water reservoirs.

Lawn and Garden - Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly! Avoid applying if the weather forecast calls for rain; otherwise chemicals could be washed into your local stream.

Sweep up yard debris instead of hosing down dirty areas. Blowing grass clippings in the street can also block storm drains or add pollutants to water.

Pet Care - Remember to be a good neighbor and pick up your pet's waste! Leaving waste on the ground can be a health risk by the bacteria that can be washed into a storm drain with rainwater.

Vehicle Maintenance - Wash your vehicle on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty water flowing into a storm drain. Or take your vehicle to a wash facility because they recycle the water used! Check your vehicle for leaks and drips...these small drips on the road can be picked up with rainwater. Be sure to clean up spilled fluids to avoid contamination of water into storm drains. Recycle used motor oil or other fluids at a participating service station. **NEVER** pour these wastes down a drain!

Home Improvement Projects - Sweep up debris before it can be washed away with storm water and obstruct the storm drain or

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contaminate a waterway. Increase the vegetated yard area to help with water filtration. Use paints or solvents in small amounts, and be sure to clean up spills and properly dispose of rags and brushes. Purchase non-toxic or biodegradable products whenever possible. *Source: Berks County Conservation District*

What Happens When It Rains? Rain is an important part of nature's water cycle, but there are times it can do more damage than good. Problems may occur related to storm water runoff that can include flooding caused by storm water, which flows over hardened surfaces such as roads and parking lots, instead of soaking into the ground. Increases in spending on maintaining storm drains and the storm sewer system that become clogged with excessive amounts of dirt and debris cause a burden for municipalities and taxpayers. Sport fish populations decrease because storm water carries sediment and pollutants that degrade important fish habitat. More expensive treatment technologies are needed to remove harmful pollutants carried by storm water into our drinking water supplies. Beaches close due to high levels of bacteria carried by storm water that makes swimming unsafe. We can help rain restore its good reputation while protecting our health and environment while saving money for our community and ourselves. Keep reading to find out how.....

Restoring Rain's Reputation: What can we do to help? Here are some of the most important ways to prevent storm water pollution:

1. Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies, paint—

never pour them down any part of the storm sewer and report anyone who does.

2. Use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides properly to prevent excess runoff.

3. Look for signs of soil and other pollutants, such as debris and chemicals, leaving construction sites in storm water runoff or tracked into roads by construction vehicles. Report poorly managed construction sites that could impact storm water runoff to your community.

4. Install innovative storm water practices on residential property, such as rain barrels or rain gardens that capture storm water and keep it on site instead of letting it drain away into the storm sewer system.

5. Report any discharges from storm water outfalls during times of dry weather—a sign that there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.

6. Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess storm water runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system to a stream.

Where to go to continue the information flow?

Your community's storm water management program addresses storm water pollution from construction, new development, and illegal dumping to the storm sewer system, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices in municipal operations. It will also continue to educate the community and get everyone involved in making sure the only thing that storm water contributes to our water is....water! Contact your Storm Water Management Program Coordinator or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for more information about storm water management. *Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection.* www.dep.state.pa.us

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS!

The Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank everyone for supporting our 2010 Easter Flower Sale. A profit of \$835 will be turned back to the community in the form of fire suppression and training purposes.

The KVFC is always in need of volunteers. If you are at least 14 years of age and would like to learn the skills of Fire Fighting and give back to your community, we need you. If you are interested, please contact the Fire Chief, Roger Weidenheimer. We drill every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station. Hope to see you there!

Save the Date – On Sunday, August 1st

The Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Company will host the 42nd Annual Chicken Barbeque from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinners consist of ½ Kaufman's barbeque chicken, an ear of corn, a baked potato, pepper cabbage or applesauce and a roll w/butter. Door to door ticket sales will begin in mid July and will be available at Borough Hall, the Fire Company Social Quarters or from any fireman.

PART-TIME BORO JOB OPENING – ADMIN ASSISTANT

The Borough of Kenhorst is seeking a Part-Time Administrative Assistant to perform data entry, answer phones, issue permits, process sewer/refuse payments and filing. Requirements include experience with MS Office and accounts payable systems. A background in customer service is a must. Flexible hours – 2 to 3 half days (average of 8-12 hours/week). Vacation fill in for full-time Boro Secretary would require working occasional 8-hour days. Please send letter of interest and resume with references to the attention of Boro Secretary. M/F/V/EOE

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Election Day – Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Don't forget to vote!! The Borough Office will be closed for training Tuesday 5/18/2010 from 10 AM to 2 PM. As usual, residents should access the voting area via the Liberty Avenue entrance.

Friday, May 21, 2010

1st Quarter Sewer/Refuse Bills Due

Monday, May 31, 2010 – Memorial Day

Borough Offices closed

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Last day to pay 2010 Real Estate Tax Bill at Flat Rate – 10% Penalty period begins on 7/1/2010

Monday, July 5, 2010 - July 4th Holiday

Borough Offices closed

Fire Company Chicken BBQ

Sunday, August 1, 2010

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