



The Borough of East McKeesport

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2013

VOL. 3 ISSUE 3 NEWSLETTER

REAL ESTATE MILLAGE

Good news. Your Borough Council has worked hard to keep our millage at a reasonable rate. In 2011, East McKeesport paid 8.1 mills; in 2013 we dropped to 7.9. As we look forward to a new year, we also look forward to yet another reduction in our real estate millage, to 7.4 mills.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 14 will be a great day for the kids of East McKeesport, ages 10 and under. That's the day our annual Christmas Party will be held at the Senior Citizen's Center on Chicora Street at 11:00 am. Call Rose Mary at 412-310-4346

by Friday, 12/6 to register your child(ren), so we have enough food, crafts and gift bags for all kids in attendance as they spend several fun-filled hours with Santa. Looking forward to seeing you there.



SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN

December 22 is another big day in East McKeesport because our UVFD is once again driving Santa around town to visit our kids – so be on the alert Sunday night for the sirens that will let us know that Santa, indeed, is coming to town!

NEW GARBAGE HAULER

As of January 1, Waste Management will no longer be the garbage hauler for East McKeesport. Our contract with them expires at the end of 2013, and when bids were accepted last month, the lowest bidder was Tervita; LLC, Doing Business as County Hauling. How does this affect us? Well, our garbage pickup dates will remain the same, and there will be no increase in garbage rates for the next 5 years. Not bad, huh?

Tervita LLC; DBA County Hauling will provide an on-call, door to door, Household Hazardous Waste and E Waste Collection to our residents. Residents will need to contact County Hauling at 724-929-7694 between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm whenever they have HHW for disposal. By the way, the number 724-929-7694 is the only number you need to remember. Were you missed during collection? Do you need extra pick-up? No matter what questions you have regarding any kind of garbage, after January 1, call 724-929-7694. Thanks.

CRITTER CONTROL

Earlier this year we began to get complaints about (small) wild animals in the Borough, particularly skunks. To help with this problem, we hired a company named Critter Control to come into the Borough and set traps daily for two weeks to help reduce this skunk (raccoon, etc.) population. Unfortunately, this is not a long term solution unless our residents help. **Food waste must be set out in tightly closed garbage cans.** Not only

will this reduce wild pests in our neighborhood, but it is also the law.

EAST MCKEESPORT TRIVIA FROM DAYS PAST

1. There used to be a farm located from 5th Avenue up to 3rd Street where many EM residents went to get their milk. What kind of milk did they buy there?
2. The biggest fire EVER consumed 3 houses in East McKeesport. What street was the fire on?
3. The best hamburgers ever were sold on the 900 block of Fifth Avenue. What was the name of this fabulous establishment?
4. At one time Route 30 was only 2 lanes as it went through town. What lined both sides of the street at that time?
5. What church was moved up Route 30 in one piece on a flatbed truck?

2014 SEWAGE RATES

Both ALCOSAN and the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport (MACM) have announced rate increases which will cost East McKeesport Borough \$80,156 more in 2014 to have sewage treated.

If this increased cost was passed onto Borough residents, your sewage bill would be raised an additional \$1.72/1,000 gallons. Borough Council has reviewed all possible means of minimizing this increase to Borough residents and has been able to absorb \$1.22 of this increase. Therefore, the first billing in 2014 will reflect only a \$.50 per thousand increase. A family using 10,000 gallons will experience an increase of \$5.00/quarter or approximately \$.05/day. Council will continue to work on your behalf to keep sewage rates at a minimum. Submitted by Glenn Engineering

OFFICER HESS SAVES DOG AND OWNER IN EAST

MCKEESPORT HOUSE FIRE

On Saturday August 17th, 2013 at around 1:33am, Officer Hess responded to 640 Pittsburgh Street for a report of a residential structure fire. Upon his arrival at the house he found the homeowner on the roof of the house, holding his dog. The homeowner was not able to exit the house due to the severe smoke condition inside the house and was on the porch roof with his dog. Officer Hess was able to get both the man and his dog off the roof and to safety, where the owner was then evaluated by medical personnel who had arrived on scene. Officer Hess took the dog, placed it in his police vehicle and then continued his duties involving the fire investigation. To applaud his effort, Officer Hess was presented with a letter of commendation at the September Borough Council meeting.

CHANGES IN COUNCIL

It is our pleasure to welcome John Eckiart and Linda Nolan as

the newest members of East McKeesport Council. We look forward to welcoming them to our Council table in January. They will both be attending classes from November through March to prepare for the rigorous work they will be accomplishing after they are sworn in.

Of course, as we welcome in our 2 new council people, at the same time we must bid adieu to 2 long-standing members of our council, Rosemary Badstibner and Ross Cianflone. After 14 years of working diligently for our community, Rosemary chose not to run again in this election. She writes, "Friends and Neighbors, I sincerely appreciate having had the opportunity to serve you these past years and thank you for the votes of confidence at election time. I have worked alongside some excellent colleagues, and am confident in the direction our Council is taking our Borough. Please know that I will continue to be available for any reason you may have to contact me." Also, Ross thanks everyone who has supported him through the years.

FIRST RESPONDERS' DINNER

For the last 7 years, the Hilltop Ministerium of East McKeesport and North Versailles has hosted a First Responders' Dinner to honor Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel of the 2 municipalities.



Thank you to All Souls' Episcopal, Broadway Alliance, East Suburban Community, First United Methodist, Just Right Ministries, Linway UP, Mt. Carmel Baptist, New Life Fellowship, Praise Assembly of God, St. John's Lutheran and St. Robert Bellarmine RC Churches for this wonderful – and well earned – recognition of the men and women who work so conscientiously for our neighborhoods, keeping us safe and giving us peace of mind.

HIGHLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESS – THE BARBER ZONE



In June of 2012, Harold Barry (football coach for EA) opened the Barber Zone, a family friendly hair shop in the middle of East McKeesport. Besides Harold, three other members of the team (Corey, Joy Kelly and Parker) are available to cut, color and style your hair. The shop features

weekly specials: Tuesdays feature \$5 Even Steven cuts all day, Wednesdays offer \$7 haircuts for all children 12 and under, and senior citizens are offered \$10 cuts any day, any time. Joy explained that Barber Zone "uses the best products and takes care of our clients, tender care." She advises that this barber shop is more than a barber shop - they also have a stylist who handles designer cuts and special colorings for men, women

and children. The Barber Zone encourages anyone to stop in anytime just to meet them, or, if you want, bring in a copy of this article and get your first man's haircut for free. Need more information; just call Barber Zone, 412-646-1264.

SPOTLIGHT ON EAST MCKEESPORT RESIDENT

BILL CORRELL



Born here, raised here, still here and loving every minute of it. Serving two terms on council, followed by a term as mayor, Bill and Dolores Correll, his lovely wife of 65 years, know more about East McKeesport than

anyone I've ever met. He was born in the second floor apartment (his aunt lived on the first floor) of what they called the "old red house," on the 900 block facing 5th. When they got married, he and Dolores moved into an apartment above the old Ken and Jean studio on the 500 block of Lincoln Way. In 1958, they moved into their present home, two doors down from their apartment, and since it was winter and snow was everywhere, they just carried everything to their new home on sleds. Changes were all around them. Linway Church was a big white building that used to stand where GetGo is now, but they loaded it on a flatbed and moved it to the present site (and eventually tore it down to build the new church). Route 30 had to be enlarged from 2 to 4 lanes, so all the big, beautiful front yards people had were taken away, and the fronts of the houses were reduced to front porches and a stoop. It didn't matter; Bill and Dolores still had a wonderful time raising their 5 children (2 boys and 3 girls) – and they now have 13 delightful grandchildren.

Winters were fun for Bill and his friends. Both Broadway and 4th Street were blocked off when it snowed for sledriding. "The residents didn't mind the inconvenience. We all had fun." There was, however, and even more adventurous way to ride the snow, thanks to the street cars that passed through on their way from McKeesport to Wilmerding along 5th Avenue. One kid would wait for the streetcar and when it stopped to pick him up, the other(s) would tie the sled to the cowcatcher in the back and get a thrilling ride down 5th. When it stopped at the bottom, the street car rider would get off, and when the streetcar turned around, everyone would get a ride back up the hill – "really a lot of fun – and you didn't get arrested like you would now."

As a teenager, Bill had a job at the gravity fill gas station at the corner of Rte 30 and Broadway. "It was way different than it is now. Each car had two guys work on it, one to pump the gas, and the other cleaned the windows and checked the gauges. The best part was when they had a gas war. The gas would go as low as 9 cents a gallon, and we were really busy then."

Before that he worked at the Flower Farm up on Leuhm Avenue and made \$1 per day. At the end of the week, he would get paid \$6, which he turned over to his mother and she would give him \$1 back so he had spending money. He would start

at one end of a row of plants, and his co-worker would start at the other, and when they met in the middle, they would just sit and talk. But their boss, Henry Eckiert, “walked on air” and they knew this because as they sat and talked, Mr. Eckiert would suddenly clear his throat from 3 rows away and they would jump up and get back to work.

As a councilman, Mr. Correll and Mr. Hubacher pushed hard to build our Senior Citizen Center. By taking a part off the playground and buying the property on the side of the church, they were able to work hard to get the money to build the original SCC. Mr. Linhart was later responsible for enlarging it out the back, and we now have the wonderfully useful building everyone enjoys. Currently in his 90’s and retired, Mr. Correll has taken over the task of writing our trivia in this newsletter – which we greatly appreciate! (He told me a lot more stories, but I’ll save them for him to develop into trivia.) Thanks again, Mr. Correll, for being an important part of our past --- and present!



**FACES OF EAST
MCKEESPORT
PHILIP HATHAWAY
III
POLICE OFFICER**

October of 2006 was a good month for East McKeesport, as it was the month we were

fortunate enough to hire Officer Philip Hathaway, a 2005 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, with a degree in Administration of Justice and a minor in Legal Studies. After college he got a job in private security at UPMC, but when cutbacks caused him to be laid off, he entered the police academy. His first job as a policeman was in Rankin, but while he was on his way to take his state test, he got a call from East McKeesport, and since 2008 he has shared his police time between East McKeesport and Pitcairn. Officer Hathaway loves police work because “every day is different,” there is definitely no tedium. He enjoys gaining new knowledge and has attended the Intern Law Enforcement Educational Institute for DUI. Recently, while on patrol, he saw, on his laptop, a visual of a man breaking into a house on Chicora Street (from the security cameras). Interestingly, the car the man was driving had been reported stolen in Penn Hills, so our Officer Hathaway not only solved a burglary in East McKeesport but several crimes in Penn Hills (burglary and car theft) at the same time. His fiancé, Chelsie Cohen, who works at the 911 Center, must be very proud of him. I know we are!

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

MATT DZIAK

Matt Dziak, A 2010 East Allegheny High School Graduate has been named Defensive Player of the Year by the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. As a senior at Point Park, Matt, along with 2 other Point Park players, was also named to the KIAC All-Conference Team. Matt is a four-year starter for the Point Park Pioneers, and with him starting all 19 games this year, Point Park ranks first in the KIAC with 27 goals against



(1.42 per game). Point Park is 43-22-2 (.656) during his time as a starter. Point Park has won the KIAC regular season and tournament titles for 2 years in a row now, and the team is 11-0 all-time versus KIAC competition, including playoffs. Matt is in his senior year studying Criminal Justice and has worked part-time with our Borough Public Works Department since May

of 2011. Congratulations, Matt, on a fabulous performance!!!

ACTIVITIES AT NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

Several events are going on at New Life Fellowship of Pittsburgh on Chicora Street that may help keep us busy through the winter:

Kids ages 12-18 are invited to attend a **Youth Group** at the church. Contact Jenn Lucas at 412-806-6764 for information.

Wellness Walks inside the church rec hall will begin on January 11. Contact Kim Toney at 412-965-3589 for details.

CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, October 26, was quite an eventful day in East McKeesport. Our residents, together with 42 Pitt students (participating in the 6th annual Pitt Make a Difference Day), worked diligently to enhance the appearance of the Borough. One group of participants picked up all the trash along our 5th Avenue corridor, another group gathered up trash and leaves in and around our field, playground and the Senior Citizen building



along Chicora Street and the third group cleaned, trimmed and replanted our floral garden at the intersection of Josephine and 5th. Thanks so much to our Borough Administrator Connie Rosenbayger, Councilwoman Lynn Brown, Policeman Lowden and his two wonderful daughters and our dedicated and enthusiastic residents Pauline Kralej; Kim, John and Briana Toney; Ed and Jeanne Farrell; Tim Mayernik; Mike Greaves; Steve Goykovich; Todd Washkovich; Mac Walsh; Chris Randall; Carson Denow; Christopher Zaroni and Chris Randall. Also, much thanks to the Pitt students who all came out in the cold to beautify our town – you are so very much appreciated!

OLD MUMS

Colorful flowers make the world a brighter place, so this fall we asked for donations of your old perennials to use in the Borough to brighten our neighborhood. We didn’t get any *old* mums, but Paulette Slonska, who actually lives in Monroeville but takes care of her folks’ house in East McKeesport, went out and bought us 8 new, huge, colorful mums that we were able to put

in planters at the Borough Building, the Senior Citizen Building and every entrance to the Borough. Thank you so very much, Paulette, for your caring consideration for the residents of East McKeesport. We really appreciate your support!

DOG POOP

Residents are complaining again about irresponsible dog owners who walk their dogs, stop while the dogs poop and then nonchalantly walk away, leaving an unwanted gift of stink for the Borough or the private property owner. This is not only rude and ignorant, but it is also illegal. If any dog owner in the Borough thinks it is lawful to leave his/her dog's poop wherever it falls, please check Ord. 689, 4/11/1985, SIV or go on to the website under ordinances Chapter 2 Animals at Large – 2-104 item #4. If caught, you will be cited.

PARKING METERS

Be aware that in the spirit of the holiday, East McKeesport **does not** enforce the parking meters during the month of December. Enjoy!!!

NORTH VERSAILLES LIBRARY EVENTS

The North Versailles Public Library has lots of exciting programming going on in December to celebrate the holiday season.

The following are just a few of those events:

Holiday Taste of the Season

Thursday, December 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Looking for a new holiday dessert recipe? Bring your favorite holiday dessert (cookies, cake, jellos or pudding) with copies of the recipe to distribute and enjoy a sampling of favorites and maybe find a new holiday delicacy! Register by Tuesday, December 3 by calling 412-823-2222. Tea and coffee provided.

Santa's Workshop - Children's Craft Fair

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Stop by the Library to make various Christmas crafts to decorate the house or give away, including a popsicle stick tree and a tea light snowman. There will be four stations for children to make crafts. Register by calling 412-823-2222.

Self Defense/Crime Prevention Program

Thursday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Sheriff Jason Tarip from the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office will be at the Library to teach children techniques for staying safe. Tang See Do Karate College will also be coming to do a demonstration. All ages are invited to attend. Register by calling 412-823-2222.

Stop by in the New Year to get a 2014 spring program schedule. There will be opportunities to learn how to use eBooks, attend preschool storytime and much, much more. Visit the Library website at www.northversailleslibrary.org for more information. Submitted by Carrie Nurnberger Lane, Library Director, North Versailles Public Library.

HALLOWEEN PARADE



Even though less than 50 children attended our Halloween parade, those who attended had a wonderful time. Prizes were given in various categories of costumes and candy bags were distributed to the kids. For those who were here, thanks for coming!

EAST MCKEESPORT TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Goat's milk, which was much tastier than cow's milk.
2. Edna Street had this enormous fire, and Butch Howard's folks' was the middle house to burn down. The other two houses were never rebuilt so the Howards bought the two lots on either side and had a magnificent garden and a wonderful yard.
3. Kram's Inn sold the best burgers, and, even though the establishment no longer exists, people living at that time still call great burgers "Kramburgers."
4. Trees originally lined both sides, but the smoke from the many vehicles were killing them, and the road needed widened to 4 lanes, so they were removed.
5. First Presbyterian Church.

Thanks to Bill Correll for these great trivia questions – and also for his correction to the question regarding the gravity fill gas stations in town. They were definitely the first in the country, but they did NOT have any brand name.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Please remember, everyone, council meetings are always held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, and you are ALWAYS invited to attend

NOTICE TO ALL

Thanks to everyone for your support of our newsletter. If you know someone in town whom we could do a story about, or you have something you would like to address, please let us know so we can add your ideas. It is my understanding that there is a website complaining about council/East McKeesport, but the site is not open to everyone, so I cannot address the issues. Please call Kathi at 412-823-8831 or write to kathi722@aol.com with any ideas, articles or complaints. Nothing stays the same; it either gets better or it gets worse. Please let's pull together to continue making our town better.