

# The Borough of East McKeesport

## Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOL. 7 ISSUE 3 NEWSLETTER

### WE LOVE OUR EAST MCKEESPORT POLICE

With all the issues in the world today, I thought it would be nice to show the positive side of our small community policing. Around here we appreciate and respect what our police officers do. The police aren't just here to catch the bad guys. They do a lot of other things that go unnoticed and often don't get recognized for.

One of the most important things they do involves our children. They take time to talk to them and also to help them. Just by playing a little one-on-one game of basketball might change a child's whole view of a police officer. They just might feel like the police do care about what happens to them and that the police value them as part of our community.



They also help by making sure our children are safe, whether that means providing car seats for children who need them or patrolling the local parks to check on the children at play. Just stopping for a minute to interact with the kids can form a bond between the police and our children.



Our police officers even have a bike rodeo for our children. The rodeo helps teach them about bike safety and provides helmets to the kids who don't have them. They also give out helmets throughout the summer when they see a child who doesn't have one.

We want our children to feel safe around our police officers, not intimidated. We want our children to aspire to be like our police officers.... kind, caring, generous, self-sacrificing and our protectors, not our enemies.



We live in a community where we hope our children are not afraid of the police. We live in a community where our police don't just police. Our police work hard to be a part of our lives. They help improve our community. Our police are an important part of our community. We are so fortunate to have them here. So thank you to every East McKeesport police officer! Every one of you has helped make our community a better and safer place, and we just want you to know that we appreciate it! By, Carley Sciulli

### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

#### JESSE LACHIMIA

Please welcome Jesse Lachimia to East McKeesport as our new Code Enforcement Officer. A 2007 graduate of Yough High School, where he was involved in football, wrestling, track and skateboarding, Jesse then went on to an associate's degree in criminal justice. Afterward, he worked as a DC Fugitive Recovery Agent and as a private investigator up and down the east coast. He met his wife in 2007 and they were married last October. (Congratulations, Jess)



Jesse comes to us through the TCVCOG (Turtle Creek Valley Council of Government), which contracts out to smaller communities like ours to keep up the quality of code enforcement. He loves working with the extensive technology as well as being out in the field. He knows how important it is to "talk with members of the community" and he works hard to "focus on compliance rather than enforcement." Jesse says, "One of the things we are focused on is making the business district grow. I have a strong belief that if we are successful with the business district, it will set the bar for the rest of the community. I feel that East McKeesport is a beautiful borough and, with a bit of work, we can have it stunning." At this time he would like to remind the community that anytime a landlord has a new tenant or whenever a home sells, it is necessary to get an occupancy permit, AND all residents should throw away their trash in sealed containers.

Our new Code Enforcement Officer works in the Borough two days a week, Monday and Thursday; however, it is NOT a good idea to just drop by because he is often in the field. If you need him, call him at 412-824-6235 or 412-277-3532 to set up an appointment.

### EAST ALLEGHENY HOMECOMING 2016

Calling all East Allegheny Alumni and Residents to join the fun at the East Allegheny Homecoming Tailgate at party in front of the High School. Friday, September 30, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Football Game to Follow. Wear your Blue and Gold to show your Wildcat Pride!!!

## **CAMO KENNELS ANIMAL CONTROL**

Camo Kennels is the new animal control team in town. The owners are residents of East McKeesport and have set up a no kill shelter. They are certified in wildlife removal, which means that they are allowed to trap and remove wildlife safely from your property. All of this basically means that if you are having problems with domesticated or wild animals, you can call 412-660-2350 for assistance. There is a fee for trapping wildlife.

## **FREE SMOKE ALARMS**

In our last newsletter we talked about the American Red Cross teaming up with our local fire department to distribute free smoke alarms to anyone who needs one. Here's the deal – first, this is absolutely free with NO cost to the resident –second, this is not based on your income, they are accommodating everyone. Approximately 50 residents in East McKeesport and Wall have had fire alarms installed so far. Please call Connie at 412-824-2531 to sign up to get an appointment.

Amanda Rogowski and Devon Stone, two of our young firefighters brought the smoke alarms to my house last week and installed one on each floor. They couldn't have been nicer or more knowledgeable, and it was a pleasure to have them in our home.

AMANDA ROGOWSKI is a 2015 graduate of EAHS and has over 200 hours of training under her belt, most of it on what to do outside a building during a fire. She is looking forward to learning about working inside a building. Amanda is proud of the fact that her mom, dad and brother are all firefighters, as well.

DEVON STONE grew up on Helena St but now lives in North Versailles. He is a 2005 graduate of EAHS, and then he attended ITT Tech. He has been to fires but is still training. "We do what we have to do to try to help the community."

It is uplifting that these young people are so involved in our community. They are not the only ones doing smoke alarms, though. They wanted to be sure we mentioned the other smoke alarm volunteers: Andrew Rogowski, Marty Holden, Tim Mayernik and Nick Bernhardt. And let us not forget Deputy Fire Chief Shane Spielvogle, who organizes and directs the committee. Thanks to you all – AND RESIDENTS, IF YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR NEW SMOKE ALARM(S), CALL CONNIE NOW!!!

## **CHRISTOPHER MEYER EAST MCKEESPORT POLICEMAN**

Christopher Meyer, from Munhall, is one of our newest, very eager policemen in East McKeesport. He was a 2010 graduate of Serra Catholic, where he played golf and basketball and was a good student. He knew all along that he wanted to be involved with the law, so he went to Pitt Greensburg and earned a BA in Criminal Justice, graduating in 2014. At that point, he narrowed his selection, certain he wanted to be a policeman, rather than "sitting behind a desk." So he entered the Allegheny County Police Training Academy. East McKeesport was his first job as a policeman (he also works in West Homestead). When asked about his opinion of East McKeesport, he responded, "I love it! The residents are wonderful and the kids are a joy to be around. I wouldn't trade it for anywhere else." And guess what, Chris. We are delighted to have you, too.



## **CLUB ROCK**

Hey Kids! Come and join us for Club R.O.C.K. on Sundays from 6:00-7:30 PM, starting September 11, for a fun evening with your friends at Broadway Alliance Church. We are located at 1000 Broadway Avenue. We have games, snacks, crafts and music each week. If you are in grades K thru 5, we would love to have you join us for a time of fun, food and friendship.

If you are in grades 6 and up, you can be part of our Youth Group scrapbooking class. If you have any questions, call the church office at 412-824-3198. See you there!

## **CHILDREN'S GARDEN**

Our initial year of the East McKeesport Children's Garden this summer ended as quite a success. A small group of children and their parents attended the weekly summer event (on Chicora Street) and everyone learned and had a wonderful time. Lea's Floral Shop joined the event to teach the children about flowers and to have them do garden centered crafts. The last meeting was a celebratory pizza party at the community center. This was a fun-filled learning experience for the youth of East McKeesport, and we plan to continue the process next summer and build from it. Maybe we can include a pollination and rain garden, or build some benches, a walkway and/or a checker/chess table. Do you have any ideas??? Would you like to help next year? Then call Linda Nolan at 412-508-7906.

## **MYSTERIES AND MORE**

Hey, everyone, looking for a fun-filled night out with a bunch of grown-ups??? This is your opportunity, right here in East McKeesport!!! Our very own Recreation Committee is sponsoring MUSIC MYSTERIES AND MORE, dinner and a show, at the East McKeesport Senior Citizens Center on Friday, October 21, at 6:30 p.m. (BYOB). Doors open at 5:45. This is a great opportunity for getting together with neighbors and friends, and it will be right in our own back yards. At just \$25/person, which includes both dinner and entertainment, it sounds like the perfect choice for all of us. Please call Linda Nolan at 412-508-7906 for reservations by 9/21/2016.

## **HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Do you have a child or children 12 or under??? Well, grab your calendar right now and mark down October 23 from 1-3 as an important event for your youngsters!! That's the date for our yearly Halloween party, and they are so much fun. This year's will be a little different, however. The last several years our parade had been visited by cold, wind and rain and it has 'dampened' our spirits just a little bit. As a result, we have decided to shelve the parade and do a party instead. Weather permitting there may be a hayride and/or a maze before we move indoors, but count on having a lot of fun. Of course, this isn't until the end of next month, so please cut this article out and tape it to your fridge so you remember and your kids don't miss out. And please call Connie at 412-824-2531 to sign up – signing up is important because it ensures that we have enough food, treats and gifts for all the kids. Thanks. P.S. – The Christmas party will be on December 17 from 1-3, so you might want to mark it on your calendar, as well.

## **COMMUNITY PICNIC**

Remember how fabulous our community picnic was in 2015??? Well, you have spoken and we have listened. Our East McKeesport Community Picnic for next summer will be on July 16, 2017, from 2-6, and we are anticipating another wonderful event. Of course, all events take planning, and the first planning meeting for next summer's picnic will be on November 3 at 6:30 at the Borough Building at 907 Florence Avenue. Many of you have been in touch to help with the picnic, and now is your chance. Just show up at the Boro Building at 6:30 on November 3, and let the project begin!!!

## **OPEN STREETS DAY COMING IN THE SUMMER OF 2017**

The Borough of East McKeesport has been awarded a grant to host an Open Streets day in the summer of 2017. The main events for the open streets day will be a PopUp! Business District, bike rodeo, and community activities.

The Borough has been working steadily to bring about revitalization to our business district to create a thriving and walkable community. A PopUp! Business District will showcase the walkability of the district and be an opportunity for new business and budding entrepreneurs to test their sales in our community. It will also be a time for current business owners to sell some of their products. If you are interested in becoming a vendor for the event please talk to Connie at 412-824-2531.

The bike rodeo will be an opportunity for school-aged children in the Borough to become educated on bike and rider safety, and bike maintenance. The Borough will be giving away 200 bike helmets donated by the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Bike racks will be installed throughout the borough to create pedestrian connections to the fields, parks and the business district.

This event is made possible through the Active Allegheny grant program. We are very grateful to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, the Allegheny County Health Department and the Richard King Mellon Foundation for supporting this day of fun and community revitalization. By, Liz Kozub

## **PLAYGROUND DONATIONS**

We are excited to tell you that East Allegheny School District is the recipient of a KaBOOM! Playground Grant, which, in partnership with KaBOOM! and Duquesne Light Company, will build a playground at Logan Elementary School. While the grant will cover the majority of the total cost, the School District is responsible for raising \$8,500 for the playground.

Donations may be submitted in two ways – through the GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/Playground-Logan> or checks from individuals, fund raising or businesses made out to the East Allegheny School District and sent to the attention of Toni Valicenti, Director of Fiscal Affairs, East Allegheny School District, 1150 Jacks Run Road, North Versailles, PA 15137.

Any amount is welcome and we appreciate your continued support for our children, who will benefit most from this playground.

Thank you for your consideration.

## JACKSON HEWITT TAX COURSE

Consider joining the Jackson Hewitt Tax Pro Team. When you enroll in the Jackson Hewitt Tuition-Free Basic Income Tax Preparation Course, you'll get a course that's designed to make it easy for you to learn. Our materials teach individual tax preparation using a conversational tone with plenty of examples and illustrations, and practice opportunities. You'll not only learn the tax information, you'll also learn how to apply that information to the various tax forms and schedules. Our knowledgeable instructors have extensive tax preparation experience and will guide you throughout the learning process. Classes at our location at 408 Lysle Boulevard in McKeesport for two 3 hour sessions a week for 10 weeks, beginning the week of October 3rd. Call 412-563-9000 for enrollment information.

## VICTORY HOTEL

Did you know that in 1903, the Victory Hotel stood on the corner of Route 30 and Broadway where the long red apartment building with the insurance office, barber shop and Curves stands now??? I had no clue, but our old friend, Ed Mandich, sent me an old newspaper article referencing a dispute within the old hotel that ended in murder. If you'd like to read the article, go to <http://www.findagrave.com>, look up Timothy Dalton, born 1869 and died 1903. It is really interesting information about our home town.

## NOTES

East McKeesport Boro Council meets the Thursday after the second Tuesday of every month at 6 PM. Residents are invited. The next dates are September 8th, October 13th and November 10th.

Please vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8th.

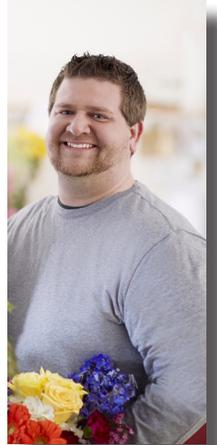
In our last newsletter we mentioned the hardware store in East McKeesport, but we didn't know who the owner was. Ruthie Smith and Roy Thorpe tell us that one of the owners was Mr. Lee Beal, who lived upstairs of the store. He even sold guns there, and his son graduated from East McKeesport High School in 1961. When he went to the service, his wife took over for him. Thanks to both of you for your fabulous memories!

If you think of a topic or person you would like to see in our newsletter, please get in touch with Kathi Lipesky at 412-823-8831 or [kathi722@aol.com](mailto:kathi722@aol.com). Thanks.

## FACES OF EAST MCKEESPORT

### JOHN LECHLITER

The highest level one can achieve in the floral industry is the AIFD (American Institute of Floral Design). In fact, this elite group has only 1400 members world-wide, and, last year on the 50th anniversary of the AIFD, our very own John Lechliter was inducted as a member. It took him 5 years of training just to take the test, which lasted 4 hours. There are only 2 members in Pittsburgh, and the next closest is in Butler.



If you are not familiar with John, just stop in Lea's Floral Shop. Eldest son of Mary, he is the fourth generation of the family to work at the shop. Anna Marie, his grandmother (2nd generation), was his inspiration to go in to the floral design.



In fact, he associated her with the shop – they were one and the same. She treated everyone who came in like family. She took him to all kinds of designer shows with her. On Sundays they would go to church together and come directly to the shop.

People often associate floral shops with funerals or weddings, but arrangements can bring delight to any occasion – birthdays, get well, thank you, congratulations, or just to make someone smile. Anna Marie never focused on just one thing, and neither does John, "I want to be just like her."

John reached out to our Children's Garden Club this year. His grandma always told him, "The more you can be involved with the community, the better life is." Both the kids and adults enjoyed learning from him and making the very creative crafts involved. Additionally, John teaches floral education classes at the Community College. His next goal is PFCI (Professional Floral Commentators International). With his enthusiasm for his work, I'm sure it won't be long in coming.

