



# The Borough of East McKeesport

## Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

MARCH 2014

VOL. 3 ISSUE 4 NEWSLETTER

### EAST MCKEESPORT - A BANNER COMMUNITY

For the first time ever, East McKeesport has been named a Banner Community. "Banner Communities set a standard of how local government should function, and should be commended for the work that they do for their residents," said county Executive Rich Fitzgerald. To be named a Banner Community is a well-earned honor. It indicates that we have participated in education/training programs through ALOM and the LGA, had a representative attending county municipal association meetings and COG meetings, have a newsletter to communicate to our residents, and a myriad of other activities designed to improve our ability to serve our residents. We are proud to be a Banner Community.

### DOWN TOWN IMPROVEMENTS

Our Council and planning committee are in the process of taking positive steps to improve our downtown area. In an effort to preserve, enhance and develop our downtown corridor, we have applied for an \$8500 grant to get us started. The planning committee will be meeting on the third Tuesday of every month in Council Chambers. **If you have any ideas, or even if you would just like to listen/talk, please join us on March 18, April 15 and May 20 at 6:00 to help our community move forward!** Thanks!!!

### KICK BUTTS DAY

March 19 is Kick Butts Day, a national day of activism that empowers youth to stand out, speak up and seize control against Big Tobacco. While schools nationwide are organizing events to raise awareness of the tobacco problem in this country, any of us who are thinking about quitting smoking can take this opportunity to do so. In 1965 42% of the American population smoked. In 2012 this number had been cut to 18%. Are you a smoker?? You can quit on March 19 and reduce the number of 18% even further.

### EAST MCKEESPORT TRIVIA

1. Name the first pizza shop in East McKeesport. Where was it located?
2. Who built the ballfield and when?
3. Who cut the stone for the ballfield?
4. Who was the Chief of Police who used his own car as a police vehicle?
5. Where was the first post office in town?

### CPR FOR EVERYONE

Wow! Spring is right around the corner. Soon, with the idea of opening a pool for the season or going to a pool will be on people's minds. With that in mind, the Borough would like to sponsor a **CPR Saturday**. The course will be offered on Saturday, May 3, 2014 and will be held at the East McKeesport Senior Citizen's Center. The cost will be \$35 per person, and everyone will be taught adult, child and infant CPR, with instruction on the use of AEDs, also. For more information, or to sign up, call Connie at 412-824-2531.

### EAST MCKEESPORT POLICE TRAINING

We are very proud of the on-going classes/training our police participate in so that they can be the best officers possible. Currently, all officers are in the process of taking the required "Mandatory Updates" to keep their Police Certification. These four online courses include Legal Updates, Crimes Against the Elderly, Social Media and Brain Injuries. Officer Hess will be administering both Taser Training for the officers who have never been certified as well as the Taser Re-Certification to all of the officers who have already been certified to carry the Taser. This is being done the last week of February and the first week of March. Officer Hess was sent to the Instructor Course last year by the Borough. Officer Lowden is taking a 2 day Re-Certification for his Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector Class, which is required to continue to inspect commercial motor vehicles. Chief Stroschien will be attending an update class in May for his Accident Reconstruction Certification. Our officers will be doing firearms qualifications twice this year, once during daylight and once at night. They are also finalizing training at the Allegheny County Police Academy for a Firearms Training Simulator – this provides shoot/don't shoot scenarios without live ammunition and immediate feedback on the decisions made by the officer. Our officers will also be taking an in-house class on the correct/proper use of the computers (MDTs) inside their patrol cars. We are very proud of our police department and the extra work they put in to do their jobs with the greatest possible care for our community. Thanks, guys and girl – keep up the great work!!!!

### CLEAN UP DAY

Our last Clean Up Day, in October, was a booming success, and, once again, we thank everyone who attended. To celebrate that success, we are inviting everyone to gather at the East McKeesport Boro Building on April 26 to repeat the fun. **Saturday, April 26**, at 9 AM we are asking everyone to gather at the Boro Building and work from 9 until 11 to gather all the winter debris left all over the streets of our Boro. At 11 we will gather back at the Boro Building to enjoy lunch together. If you know of any areas we have missed during past clean ups, please call Connie at the Boro Building (412-824-2531) and let us know. Please plan to join us in enhancing the appearance of our Boro.

### GARBAGE PICK UP

We were so lucky when we switched garbage pick-up providers that we were able to keep Thursday as our pick-up day. Please remember, however, that there are some holidays that will make our garbage pick-up day one day later. Those holidays are: New Years, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. You might want to cut this out and tape it to your calendar to avoid confusion later. Thanks.

## HILLTOPPERS WANT YOU

Hey, Pensioners – would you like to expand your social networking?? Well, the Hilltoppers may be just the group for you. Every Monday at noon the group plays Bingo up at our Senior Citizens Center, and the first Wednesday of every month a monthly meeting is held (coffee, tea, snacks are free). Dues is \$20 a YEAR. Helen Gross tells me, “You don’t know what you’re missing!” The organization is not limited to East McKeesport residents, so invite your friends from neighboring municipalities to join with you.

Started as a men’s club by the original Sam Pack and Gerald Shaner, (the dues were \$1, and each man got a hot dog) so long ago that no one remembers (If you know that bit of trivia, give me a call please (Kathi-412-823-8831). It was finally opened to women in 1994. Priscilla Bars, from Turtle Creek, has been president since 2005, but after 8 years of labor, she has turned the reins over to Betty Kukla. Betty’s goal is to increase membership, so that this long standing institution does not fade away. You can call Betty at 412-824-7093 to join or to ask questions before you join. She explains that “This is not just a day out for pensioners, but a way of helping the Boro,” as the Hilltoppers make yearly donations to local charities, like Meals on Wheels, Ma’s Pantry and the fire hall. Remember – the Hilltoppers is a social organization open to both men and women – stop over on a Monday and give it a try.

## UNITED VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



From L to R Marty Holden, Tony Mascilli, Mayor Butch Howard, Shane Spielvogle, Andrew McWhinney, John Rogowski

On February 8 the Annual Installation of Officers Dinner was held by our UVFD at Shelley Pie Restaurant in Turtle Creek. Mayor Howard swore in the officers: Shane Spielvogle, Chief; Andy McWhinney, Deputy Chief; John Rogowski, Captain; Marty Holden, Lieutenant; Tony Mascilli, Lieutenant. Special awards were given to the

Firefighters of the Year, Shane Spielvogle and Andy McWhinney, and to the Member of the Year, Mary Ann Leichter. Congratulations to the award winners and a special thank you to everyone who serves our community as a member of the UVFD in East McKeesport!



Gift from Cheryl Rogowski (firefighter)

## VACANT HOME CHECKS

We hear on the news all the time about vacant home problems in other communities. Vacant homes cannot be avoided, and it is often very difficult to track down who is actually responsible for their upkeep. We can be proactive, however, and with that in mind, Councilwoman Brown has suggested and the police have initiated a check of the vacant housing in East McKeesport. Public Works head, Joe Clemenic, has moved forward to make these houses inaccessible to vagrants and other people who do not be-

long there. If any houses were missed on our check and there are still accessible openings, please call the police number at 412-824-0324 and our officers will be glad to re-check. Thanks to the men and woman who make our Borough safer every day.

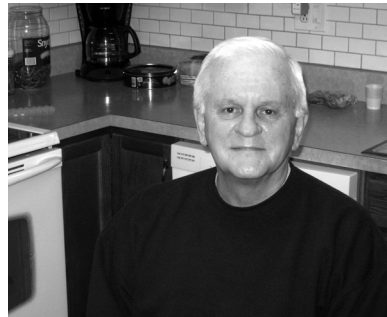
## DEAN’S LIST

Congratulations to **Cameron Gantt**, who achieved Dean’s list at Slippery Rock University this past fall. He is the son of Connie Rosenbayger, Borough Secretary/Administrator. We are all proud of your success, Cameron!

Do you know an East McKeesport resident who achieved Dean’s list, honor roll, or some other milestone worthy of recognition. Call Kathi at 412-823-8831 or write to [kathi722@aol.com](mailto:kathi722@aol.com)

## EAST MCKEESPORT TIPS

If you see something going on in your neighborhood that you think is suspicious you can send an anonymous email to [tips@eastmckeesportboro.com](mailto:tips@eastmckeesportboro.com). You can be sure that anything you send will be kept completely confidential and the police will not contact you for more information unless you tell them they can. **This is never to be used in place of calling 911 for emergencies**, this is for things that you want to make the police aware of anonymously like abandoned vehicles or other suspicious activities happening in your neighborhood.



## SPOTLIGHT ON EAST MCKEESPORT RESIDENTS PAUL MARCOZ

Paul Marcoz grew up in Wilmerding (1959 graduate of WMHS), but in 1965 when he married Elizabeth (Betty) Secko from Wall, they moved to East McKeesport, raising two sons, Paul, Jr., (PJ) and James. In 1978, Paul joined East McKeesport VFD #1 and in 1981 he moved over to East McKeesport VFD #2. He and his son, PJ, took paramedic classes together and both became EMTs for the Boro. When our ambulance service was eliminated, he went to work for Eastern Area ambulance service, where he was the financial officer for 4 years. Paul worked for Westinghouse Electric for 31½ years (and was Local 601 Secretary/Treasurer), but when his job was eliminated in 1995, he became a bus driver for the East Allegheny School District for 10 years. While he did all this, he was also a member of our Zoning Board for 3 years. Together with Joe Clemenic Sr and Joe Hondal, he worked the Bingo every Thursday night at #2 Fire Hall – remember that?? Serving in the Army from 1959-1962 (Rank E5), he is now a member of VFW Post 8430 and goes to the cemetery to cut the grass before Memorial Day. Paul has always been a great neighbor, cutting the lawn for elderly residents and taking neighbors to the doctors; checking blood pressure when his neighbors ask or going to check on someone’s parent. He loves that we are a “quiet neighborhood” with “easy access by walking to the bank, Getgo or the Post Office.” Thank you to Paul Marcoz for his service and commitment to our community. If you know of an East McKeesport resident who deserves to be recognized, please call Kathi at 412-823-8831 or mail it to [kathi722@aol.com](mailto:kathi722@aol.com).

## HIGHLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESS LEA'S FLORAL

In 1959 Wilmerding resident Leo Lucarelli moved to East McKeesport, opened a floral shop and asked his daughter, Anna Marie, to work with him, "Just until we get on our feet," - 54 years later she was still there. They got on their feet pretty fast, however, selling quality flowers and merchandise at a reasonable price and forever with a friendly attitude. But even as the business grew



and they hired from the outside, they have always remained a family business. Anna Marie married Frank McClain in 1964 and he immediately joined the business; their children Mary and Frank added a third generation and

Mary's children John and Mark added a fourth generation to Lea's Floral. Through the years, as the business grew, so did the building. They added a beautiful display room on the side, replaced the rickety stone slabs outside with a beautiful, smooth, green front walk trim, and, just recently, added a magnificent floral sign out front. But step in the door for a real taste of the beauty of Lea's. In addition to flowers, they have wind chimes, blanket throws, angels and garden stepping stones. And, recently, they have added prom bracelets (wedding bracelets, etc) that turn a regular wrist corsage into a real work of art. John and Mark joined the shop when they were 16, and John and Mary are always taking classes on both the artsy and business side of the floral business. As members of Teleflora, they have attended classes at the headquarters in Oklahoma and will be attending a conference in Florida. Such is their dedication that John is on the board of the local Teleflora. Lea's is available for prom shows and wedding shows and their delivery area is as distant as you need it to be. Mary says that their main focus is to take your event and "Make it special - something you can't get anywhere else." So stop into Lea's soon to see their prom designs - and designs for any occasion that would be enhanced by flowers. Thanks to Lea's for being a marvelous asset to our Boro.

## TRASH COLLECTION/RECYCLING

As of January 1, we have contracted County Hauling to collect trash and recyclables in our Boro - and, as always when there is a transition, there have been a few glitches. First, the recycle bin was overflowing, so they added a second bin - and when that also overflowed, they began picking up more frequently (which was actually a great thing because it meant more of us were recycling more items!!). Recently, we have had some complaints regarding trash cans rolling in the streets. We have contacted them to remind their collectors to replace cans correctly, so they will not end up in the streets. We hope this has solved any issues; nonetheless, if there are any more problems, please contact County Hauling at 724-929-7694 or Connie at the Boro Building (412-824-2531). Thanks.

## USPS SURVEY



I can't remember many moments that I was as proud of us as when we all pulled together as a community for our letter writing campaign to save our post office - and save it we did, as well as keeping our hours nice and long. Well, an interesting situation is occurring yet again. Councilwoman Lynn Brown went to the post office today and, along with her purchase, was given a very short survey on her receipt to complete on her computer. She called me, and I went and made a purchase and got my very own receipt/survey to complete. It's short - takes 2 minutes at best to complete. But it seems to me that at this point in time we can take no chances. Let us take the opportunity to once again support our East McKeesport Post Office by buying something (a stamp or book of stamps) and completing our survey - and if you know any out of towners who use our post office, let them know that they should stop over, too. As always, thanks for your wonderful support!!!

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY

My last official service to our community as a Councilmember was planning the 2013 Annual Christmas Celebration for our resident children. With Peter McGinty assisting in the planning, Kathi Lipesky and Butch Howard helping us during the party and with clean up, it was a pleasure. The party was attended by 37 extremely enthusiastic children. Every child went home with a Christmas stocking full of toys and treats and a wooden tool box which they crafted themselves. Home Depot supplied the wood, hardware, paint, stickers and instructions and were there to help along with dozens of our District School Teachers; all volunteering their time. Please remember to let Home Depot and our teachers know how much we appreciate their support in helping to make this event a success. Lunch was provided by Merlinos Pizza and was enjoyed by everyone; we are very grateful for their contribution to our celebration. All were surprised by a visit from Santa who stayed and listened to the wishes of every eager, smiling child. Lastly, we were entertained by a very funny clown, Glitter Dot. She made animal and flower balloons, put on a comical magic show and then engaged us all in a sing-a-long with puppets. I can't remember when I've seen our kids (and parents) that captivated and amused. I hope to assist Linda Nolan as she plans our 2014 events and that we'll see you all there. *Rose Mary Badstibner*

## EASTER PARTY

And, of course, with the Christmas season past, we are now looking forward to our annual Easter party for kids 12 and under. The party will be held from 2 pm until 4 pm on Saturday, April 19. Events of the day will include pizza, an Easter egg hunt and a kids' raffle with some really neat prizes. It is important to call Connie at 412-824-2531 to register your child(ren) or grandchild(ren) to make certain there is enough food, etc. for all the kids. Thanks.

## EASTERN AREA PREHOSPITAL SERVICES

Eastern Area Prehospital Service (EAPS), our ambulance service, has been rewarded by the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Service Council (PEHSC) with the **Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program at the Master Level**. EAPS is one of only four ambulance services in Allegheny and five ambulance service in the Emergency Medical Service Institute (EMSI) region, which serves 10 counties in SW Pennsylvania, to receive the Master Level of recognition. To obtain this recognition at the Master Level, EAPS must carry specialized equipment to deal with pediatric patients, have Child-line Clearances from the PA State Police, attend pediatric based continuing education yearly, and host CPR/First Aid and Injury Prevention Programs to children in the community. We are proud to be a Boro served by EAPS, an organization that has taken this additional step to provide this additional level of service in caring for the pediatric patients in our community. Congratulations and thanks, EAPS!!!!

## NORTH VERSAILLES LIBRARY

The North Versailles Public Library has an exciting schedule of events planned for spring. Some of our programs are highlighted below. For more information regarding all library programs and services, visit the website at [www.northversailleslibrary.org](http://www.northversailleslibrary.org). All programs are free. Registration is required.

**NERD CLUB** - Tuesday, March 4; Thursday, April 10; Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.

Are you into science fiction, fantasy, anime or manga? What about gaming, cartoons or comic books? Come join us for a discussion group on all things fandom. Open to all teens and adults.

**LEGO CLUB** - Thursdays, March 6 and 20, April 17, May 8 and 22, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Lego Club will begin with a challenge to participants...build a playground, a car or a city scape. The possibilities are endless. Participants will then work together or alone to create the challenge. Final projects will be placed on display in the Library until the next Lego Club. Please do not bring Legos from home. The Library will provide all Legos.

**We Can! Ways to Improve Children's Activity and Nutrition** - Thursday, March 6, 6:30-8:30p.m.

Dorothy Martin, RN of the Community Education Department of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC will present "We Can! Ways to Improve Children's Activity and Nutrition." The presentation is based on a national movement designed to give parents, caregivers and entire communities a way to help children 8-13-year-olds stay at a healthy weight.

**Preschool Storytime** - Tuesdays, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22  
Preschool children (ages 3-5) and a parent or guardian are encouraged to attend the winter and spring storytime. Preschool participants will enjoy a themed session of stories, crafts and songs!

**Basic Computer Class** - Thursdays, March 27 and April 24, 6:30 p.m.  
Computer questions? Confused with simple Internet tools? Register for one of these interactive computer classes and learn how to use the mouse, familiarize yourself with basic Microsoft appli-

cations and conduct Google searches. Space is limited, so that everyone has a computer. Register now.

## Other Upcoming Programs:

St. Patrick's Day Party, Thursday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.

Aprise Healthcare Seminar, Tuesday, March 18, 11 a.m.

Teen Book Club Featuring *Cinder*, Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

Zinio Magazine Computer Class, Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.

Teen Angry Birds Party, Saturday, March 29, 1 p.m.

Adult Book Club Featuring *Transatlantic*, April 8, 6:30 p.m.

Teen Minute to Win It, Saturday, April 12, 1 p.m.

Family Easter Egg Hunt, Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

**Summer reading is right around the corner! Continue to watch the library website for updates!**

## ANSWERS – EAST MCKEESPORT TRIVIA

1. Irene's Pizza, located on Fifth Avenue across Route 30 from the business district
2. The WPA in 1936
3. Mr. Pesci
4. Chief Cliff Miller
5. On Broadway in a brick building

Thank you to Bill Correll for the trivia in this month's edition of our newsletter – what would we do without you, Bill???

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

There is an important change to the Council meetings this year. ALL meetings will be held at 6:00 pm, an hour earlier than in the past. The formal meeting is always held on the second Thursday of the month, and the agenda meeting is held on the Tuesday of the same week. The next 3 Council meetings will be held on March 13, April 10 and May 8 – please remember they are held at **SIX O'CLOCK**.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We are always looking for new items for our newsletter. If you have any suggestions, information, comments, trivia or other news, please call Kathi at 412-823-8831 or write to [kathi722@aol.com](mailto:kathi722@aol.com).