

# Borough of BRIDGEPORT

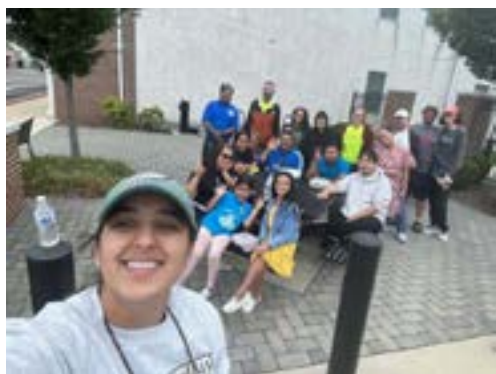
Fall/Winter 2023



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

## Around Town

### OCTOBER 7 FALL CLEANUP DAY WAS A BIG HIT!



October 7 marked the annual Fall Cleanup Day coordinated by the Bridgeport Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC). Every year, the SAC hosts two cleanup days – one in the spring and one in the fall. The Fall Cleanup Day was well attended, with about 20 volunteers coming out to help clean up the borough streets. Our fall volunteers collected over 25 bags of trash from the streets this time around, and once they returned to borough hall after a busy morning, were treated to lunch courtesy of Bridgeport Rib House and Nonna Rosa Pizza! The SAC thanks all the cleanup day volunteers, including the representatives from both Bridgeport Rib House and the Fountain of Living Water Church that came out in full force!

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63 West 4th Street, Bridgeport, PA 19405 • 610.272.1811

*BridgeportBorough.org*

## Bacchi Funeral Home & Crematory, Ltd.

805 DeKalb Street • Bridgeport, PA 19405

610-272-1941 • Fax 610-278-6683

www.bacchifh.com • info@bacchifh.com

Heather M. Hughes, Supervisor

Julia Meyers Lownes, F.D.



## Szpindor-Meyers Funeral Home, P.C.

101 North Park Avenue • Trooper, PA 19403

610-539-8010 • Fax 610-635-0284

www.meyersfh.com • info@smfhpc.com

James T. Meyers, Supervisor

## Bella Capelli SALON

54 W Fourth Street, Suite 36  
Bridgeport, Pa 19405

(484) 684-7789 • www.bcapelli.com

**20% OFF First Time Guests**

## THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES



Bridgeport Borough would like to thank the businesses and organizations that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community.

It is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.

## DEMETRIS UPTOWN MARKET

Fresh Meats • Steaks • Pork Chops  
Kielbassa • Lottery Tickets and More

**610-275-3780**

2 W. 4th St. • Bridgeport, PA 19405

*Celebrating Our 90th Anniversary! 1932 - 2022*



**Phoenix** Physical Therapy Convenient Hours • Morning/Evening Hours • Same Day Appointments

**Don't let pain get you down!**

**Your trusted neighborhood PT is here to help get you back to feeling your best.**

**We provide hands on-manual therapy!**



**Meet your local PT!**

Lauren Brennan PT, DPT, CMPT  
bridgeport@phx-pt.com



**Bridgeport**  
207 W Fourth Street,  
Suite A  
Bridgeport, PA, 19405  
Phone: 610-228-4641

phoenixphysicaltherapy.com/bridgeport



## Bridgeport Beer Company

Cold Beer • Soda • Kegs • ICE

Lottery • Cigarettes

6 Packs and 12 Packs Available

We're on Facebook



18 East 4th Street  
Bridgeport, PA 19405  
610-279-5210

Mon-Thurs. 11am - 8pm  
Friday- Saturday 11am - 9pm  
Sunday 12pm - 5pm

## THE BEST VETERINARY CARE FOR YOUR PET



**BRIDGEPORT**  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

204 W. 4TH STREET, BRIDGEPORT, PA 19405  
PHONE: 610-277-8387

WWW.BRIDGEPORTVETERINARY.COM  
RECEPTION@BRIDGEPORTVETERINARY.COM





### BOROUGH COUNCIL RECOGNIZES PRINCIPAL TIM BICKHART OF BRIDGEPORT ELEMENTARY

At the October 10 meeting of Bridgeport Borough Council, Council adopted a resolution acknowledging the contributions and dedication to the Bridgeport Community and its students by Principal Tim Bickhart. A massive crowd turned out in appreciation of Principal Bickhart, who has been at the helm of Bridgeport Elementary since 2018. In addition to the resolution, Principal Bickhart was presented with a commemorative plaque, as well as some "Bear Bucks" - the currency awarded to students at Bridgeport Elementary for a job well done. Please join us in congratulating Principal Tim Bickhart!

### LAURA HOUCK APPOINTED AS NEWEST MEMBER OF BRIDGEPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At the September 26 meeting of Bridgeport Borough Council, Laura Houck was sworn in as the newest representative of Ward 1. Laura, 38, is originally from Philadelphia but has been a Bridgeport resident since 2010. Laura states that she "found Bridgeport the same day that she found her husband", and had never heard of Bridgeport previously, thinking only of the city in Connecticut when she first saw his address. Chris and Laura were married in 2015 at Elmwood Park zoo, and have three beautiful children – Aiden, Sara and Max – and a cat named Ocee. Laura was the first server ever hired at Taphouse 23, and soon after that became the general manager of two locations for the Conshohocken Brewing Company. However, in 2021, Laura became the owner and operator of Frosty Falls Ice Cream. Laura had been realizing her dream of operating her own business for 6 months when disaster struck, as Hurricane Ida decimated both her home and business. But Laura was determined to persevere and committed to rebuilding both; refusing to let Ida take away her livelihood and her household. In Laura's words: "In a world full of uncertainty and fear, I feel grateful to be in the small but mighty Borough of Bridgeport." The addition of Laura marks the first time in the history of Bridgeport that there is a five-to-two female majority on Borough Council. Please join us in welcoming Laura Houck to Bridgeport Borough Council!



### PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE WORKS TO UPDATE BOROUGH ZONING REGULATIONS AND ADDRESS PARKING ISSUES IN BRIDGEPORT

The Bridgeport Planning Steering Committee is a body composed of members of Borough Council as well as borough administration and engineers. Created in 2018, the purpose of this committee is to work with a community planning professional provided through a contracted services agreement with the Montgomery County Planning Commission in order to accomplish certain policy updates and community goals with regard to developing a strategy for future community development and land use. The first fruit that came from this cooperative was the Bridgeport 2040 Comprehensive Plan; the borough's first comprehensive plan update in several decades. Now with the comprehensive plan completed, the Planning Steering Committee has turned their sights toward a revision of the Bridgeport Borough Zoning Code. Zoning refers to municipal or local laws or regulations that govern how real property can and cannot be used in certain geographic areas. For example, zoning laws can limit commercial or industrial use of land to prevent heavy industry, large retail stores or other types of businesses from building in residential neighborhoods. It is sound practice for a municipality to review its zoning and land use codes periodically and determine if there are any deficiencies that could be improved, or new regulations that are in need of implementation. It is the goal

of the Planning Steering Committee to promote "smart growth" throughout the community by updating our zoning regulations to ensure that each specific zoning district in the community is capable of attracting and accommodating the respective permitted land use. Another aspect of the zoning regulations in the borough that needs attention is the issue of parking throughout the Bridgeport community. Bridgeport Borough needs to establish a method to attract more businesses to our commercial corridors of Fourth and DeKalb Streets; doing so will provide our residents with amenities, goods, and services that they would otherwise need to leave the borough to obtain. However, at the same time, it is difficult to attract businesses like stores and restaurants when there is an extreme lack of public parking. Therefore, in addition to updating our zoning policies to better reflect the modern expectations for both residential and commercial parking, another goal of the committee is to identify properties that could be acquired and converted into public parking. Bridgeport Borough is experiencing growth and development on a level that it has not seen since our early industrial years at the turn of the 20th century – and the Planning Steering Committee is committed to ensuring that the proper policies and guidelines are in place to accommodate these huge changes.

### J.P. MASCARO TO PROVIDE NEW RECYCLING BINS FOR RESIDENTS

J.P. Mascaro & Sons (JPM), the borough's contracted trash and recycling collector, recently made a proposal to Bridgeport Borough Council. The proposal involves giving every resident a new 65-gallon recycling container, featuring wheels and a lid, free of charge. As part of a recycling partnership that JPM belongs to, select municipalities will take part in a pilot program that offers these new larger recycling bins at no cost to the community, in an effort to try to increase upon the overall recycling rates in each of these towns. Borough Council entertained the proposal from JPM at the September 12 public meeting and voted to approve the proposal on September 26. Residents should expect their new 65-gallon recycling container to be delivered to their homes in January 2024. There will be several benefits to upgrading these containers. A larger container with a lid means that the community should experience fewer overflowing recycling bins on trash day,

which should result in less litter on the streets. A container with wheels should make for better mobility, especially for our senior residents. And another unique benefit coming from this pilot program is the addition of flexible plastics to the list of materials eligible to be recycled moving forward. Flexible plastic covers a lot of ground and includes all of the following: inner cereal bags, dog food bags, sandwich bags, bubble wrap, and much more. For a more comprehensive list of eligible flexible plastics, please visit the Bridgeport Borough website and official Bridgeport Borough Facebook page. While Borough Council believes that these new larger bins will be overwhelmingly popular amongst most residents, they do realize that some households may find the new containers too large and cumbersome to be practical. Please do not be discouraged – residents that still wish to continue using the older, smaller recycling bins will be permitted to do so.

### TRASH FEES TO INCREASE IN 2024; SENIOR TRASH BILL DISCOUNT PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN 2024

In 2022, Bridgeport Borough bid out the residential trash and recycling services for the entire community, and experienced unprecedented increases in the annual contracted costs. The annual contract cost for trash and recycling collection increased from \$466,116 in 2022 to \$745,752 in 2023, an increase of 59.9% year-to-year. As a result, residential account rates were increased respectively. As we enter year two of this five-year contract, Bridgeport Borough wishes to notify residents that residential trash fees will again increase in 2024. Please be aware that the 2024 residential trash and recycling fees will increase from **\$472 to \$496 annually**, or a quarterly increase from **\$118 to \$124** per quarter. This is due to an increase in the overall contract cost, going up from \$745,752 in 2023 to \$781,224 in 2024. However, Bridgeport Borough Council is sympathetic to the financial impact that this increase will have upon our community, particularly senior citizens that may live on a fixed income. Because of this, Borough Council has also opted to implement a new discount program, as an attempt to aid in reducing the financial burden upon our seniors. Beginning in 2024, any residential trash account holder (primary residence, not rental properties) that is aged 60 or older will be eligible for a ten percent (10%) discount on their annual trash fee. After receiving the first quarterly bill of 2024, eligible account holders will need to provide proof of age (driver license or birth certificate) to the Berkheimer tax office, and the bill will be adjusted if qualified. Berkheimer will issue a credit upon eligible trash accounts for the first bill, and the discount would then be applied to future bills, provided no name changes are made to the account. Please review your first quarterly bills of 2024, as they will contain instructions on how to apply for the senior discount and obtain the credit.

### RIVER POINTE DEVELOPMENT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF HOMES

In the spring/summer edition of the Bridgeport Borough Newsletter, we had informed residents that construction of homes in the River Pointe Development would begin around May 23. Well, here we are, five months later, and we have over 50 homes currently in varying phases of construction, from foundations being poured to drywall being hung. And according to the builder, Lennar Homes, that number will increase to nearly 100 homes by the end of 2023. River Pointe, located on the site of the former Continental Business Center, will consist of a 250-unit apartment complex, approximately 360 townhomes, and a 7,000 square foot commercial space with twelve condominiums atop. The goal of the developer has always been to construct 80-90 homes per year, which means the entire project will have an estimated buildout period of four to five years, and it appears they are on schedule. The site work itself is also reaching some milestones, which in turn should provide a benefit to the surrounding neighbors. The construction of the large retaining wall along the riverfront side of the project is nearing completion, which means that

the dump trucks full of dirt travelling along borough streets should finally be coming to an end sometime in November. Also, all the internal streets within the development should be paved by the end of November, meaning that there should no longer be any dirt being tracked out onto borough streets. As part of their public improvements, the developer will be paving Depot Street, from Second Street down into the entry of the development, which will improve the currently poor condition of that stretch of road. The same goes for Ford Street, between Fourth Street and the railroad tracks – both Ford and Depot should be based or re-paved by the end of November. Additionally, the developers will be completing a significant portion of their stormwater and sanitary sewer tie-ins, which includes taking several existing storm sewer inlets located along Depot, Front, and Second Streets, and connecting them with the River Pointe stormwater collection system. This should go a long way toward resolving some of the issues with water ponding during heavy rain events that have always been problematic at Front and Depot Streets. All in all, this has been a relatively

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## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Happy Autumn, neighbors! This fall season has provided much excitement for the Bridgeport community, and whether you're a glass-half-empty or -full kind of person, we're barreling our way towards winter. During the past several months, residents of all ages have had opportunities for fun, learning, competition and more with everything the Borough has offered.

In September, we closed out the summer outdoor movie series with Pixar's *Coco*, Growing Bridgeport Together ended their seasonal Bridgeport River Market series, and the Bridgeport Sustainability Advisory Committee hosted their biannual cleanup day to focus on beautifying the path for the annual Bridgeport 5K. This year's 5K was another rousing success! I want to thank everybody who took the time to participate in the race, support their friends and loved ones who ran the race, volunteer as race marshals, and join us as sponsors to support this year's benefactors, Bridgeport Fire Department and the Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard, which both help Bridgeport residents on a regular and ongoing basis.

October is always eventful in the Borough thanks to the fanfare surrounding Halloween. With themed offerings available from Frosty Falls, the Elks Lodge, and the Parks & Rec Board, there was a reason for all of the hype! October also brought a new educational program to town – Voter Registration 101, an informational session hosted by Montgomery County Voter Services. In this presentation, residents learned about registering to vote, updating their registration, the different ways to cast their ballot, and they also received an overview of how absentee & mail-in ballots are processed and what happens after Election Day.

The voting program was an excellent opportunity for residents to get any of their voting-related questions answered before the general election on Tuesday, November 7. Remember: there are two regular elections each year (a primary election in the spring and a general election in November), so if you didn't register in time to vote this year, do so now in time for the next voting opportunity! While the event opportunities tend to slow down towards the end of the year, I can't forget to mention that even though I'm writing this in September, I am very much looking forward to the annual Festive Lights event, which takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving! This year, the date is Saturday, November 25 and I'm excited for the fireworks, children's activities, performances, and more! Earlier in the day, Growing Bridgeport Together will also be hosting their Holiday Shopping Village – I cannot wait for this because it gives an extra opportunity to get some holiday shopping done and support local businesses in the process! This event conveniently falls on Small Business Saturday, if you needed yet another excuse to partake in the merriment.

Looking to the next year feels strange, but it will be here before we know it, and the Founders' Day Committee is prepared! The second Bridgeport Founders' Day event will be taking place on Saturday, March 30 (rain date Sunday, March 31) at and around Borough Hall with even more action than the first Founders' Day event earlier this year. Next year's theme is "Transportation" and I'm sure you have at least an inkling of how much transportation is linked to the expansion of Bridgeport as a river-adjacent Borough, but you'll have an even better idea after attending the event! In addition to hosting the main exhibit in Council Chambers in Borough Hall and an outstanding lineup of local vendors in the Borough Hall parking lot, the event will be expanding to include children's activities in the Public Works garage and even more history showcased at Bridgeport Fire Co. #1.

Make sure to participate in this year's Founders' Day Passport Competition! As with last year, for the week leading up to Founders' Day starting on Sunday, March 24, residents are encouraged to remove the passport found in the Founders' Day ad in this newsletter, take it to all participating businesses during their open hours, get each spot hole punched, write your name and phone number on the back, and return the completed passport to the Information Desk at the Founders' Day event to be entered to win one of several great prizes! If you are interested in helping to make next year's event even bigger and better, join the Committee at their regular meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in Borough Hall. To help build excitement for the 2024 event, Jeanne Sorg, the Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds, will be bringing her MontCo Roots program to Borough Hall on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 PM to review the types of documents that are recorded with the Recorder of Deeds' office and go through how to search the database for current and historical deeds on your property. She'll even be focusing on one building in particular that is coated in Bridgeport history, so make sure to mark your calendar for these events coming up – you won't want to miss them!

My focus has always been on promoting everything exceptional about the Bridgeport community, which includes events, like those mentioned above. I am also passionate about helping our residents and small businesses, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions about anything Bridgeport-oriented. If I can't answer them, there's a good chance I know who can! Email me at [bjacksier@bridgeportborough.org](mailto:bjacksier@bridgeportborough.org) or call me at 610-272-1811 ext. 244.

Until Spring, Mayor Beth Jacksier

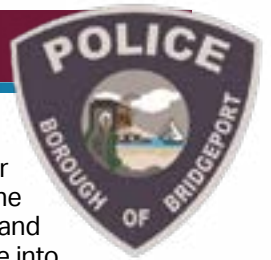
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## RIVER POINTE DEVELOPMENT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF HOMES *continued from page 5*

smooth first year of home construction, considering the enormity of this project. When constructing a new development of this size, it is inevitable that the surrounding areas will experience inconveniences temporarily while trucks, dirt, and materials are imported onto the site. Bridgeport Borough and PRDC Properties would both like to thank the residents and businesses of Bridgeport for enduring these inconveniences throughout the construction. Despite some temporary aggravations, borough officials would like to convey to residents just how important this project will be in terms of shaping our future landscape, as well as the positive financial impact this development will have upon our community.

This development will undoubtedly bolster the trend of revitalization that Bridgeport Borough has been experiencing in recent years – new businesses are quickly occupying many of the vacant storefronts that have been present along our commercial corridors. The construction of new homes and commercial properties also aids in increasing tax revenues, which the borough relies upon to fund the services and amenities provided to our residents. And all this new development has had an incredibly positive impact on the property values of all properties within the borough. It is true what they say – a rising tide does indeed lift all ships.





## DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Bridgeport Police Department is pleased to talk about our recent changes in our operations and to inform the public about long standing Commonwealth and Borough law. BPD recently purchased an advanced license plate reader system that has enhanced our ability to identify and enforce the traffic and criminal statutes in the Borough for all like and manner of violations. As discussed at the September 12 Borough Council meeting, this new technology has already led to the seizure of multiple stolen motor vehicles and criminal offenders. Residents may have noted the presence of the smaller digital traffic signs on Dekalb

Street. Did you know that they gather data from all the vehicle trips that travel the street? Did you know that between July 1 and August 31 of this year, 162,000 cars came into the Borough from DeKalb Street in Norristown with 111,000 departing southbound on DeKalb Street? The data BPD is able to gather from these new pieces of technology greatly help us improve our ability to protect the public and provide valuable insight to other aspects of government operations such as traffic planning.

## ORDINANCE AIMS TO CRACK DOWN ON ATV USAGE ON BOROUGH STREETS

In August 2021, Borough Council adopted Ordinance #2021-004, also known as the "All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Ordinance." This legislature was a response to an influx of unlawfully operated unregistered vehicles not meant for operations on roadways. The penalty for a first offense is the forfeiture of the vehicle and a \$500 fine. If you enjoy riding dirt bikes and ATVs, then please appropriately store and trailer them, and take them to private property locations where they can be safely and responsibly ridden. Residents are urged to contact BPD via 911 if they witness any such recreational vehicles travelling through the borough.

## SCHOOL BUS AND STUDENT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

With the school season upon again, there are always concerns with the operation of vehicles around school buses. When the yellow lights are flashing on a school bus, or the red stop signs (with or without additional red lighting) are deployed, drivers must stop and wait until the signs are retracted and may not pass on any roadway that is not a physically divided highway. In Bridgeport that means drivers must always stop and wait. Additionally, those very important people that you see dressed in neon yellow and green are the Bridgeport Police Department's crossing guards: Mr. John Puzio, Mr. Bill Helsel, Mrs. Maryann Helsel, Mr. Les Seiders, Mr. Mike Riley and Mr. Sonny Zielinski. They are empowered by law to control traffic when performing their daily duties. As such, make sure to always be alert and prepared to stop when travelling

through the Ford Street corridor in the morning, paying special attention to the following intersections: School Lane, Union Avenue, and Bush Street. Speaking of Union Avenue, BPD will be installing a new crossing guard post at the corner of Union Avenue and Bush Street during the standard student pedestrian time of 8:00-9:00AM and 3:00-4:00PM in the very near future. BPD asks that you ensure that your children cross where the guards are - not above or below their posts where traffic is not controlled. BPD thanks all participants for the feedback that led to the survey work and subsequent agreement with our partners at Upper Merion Area School District to share the costs of a new crossing guard at this important intersection. It will certainly help to keep our littlest residents safer on the way to and from school!

## PARKING TRAILERS AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON BOROUGH STREETS

Bridgeport Police Department often fields questions about whether you can park recreational vehicles and trailers on borough streets. The short answer is that trailers and recreational vehicles are permitted to be parked on streets, but for no longer than 48 hours, and in the case of trailers, must remain attached to the towing vehicle the entire time. Borough Code, Recreational Vehicles, Section 535-33.1 states, **"no person shall park or store any large or recreational vehicle upon any street, alley, or highway within the physical boundaries of the Borough of Bridgeport nor shall any trailer be left remaining on any street, alley, or highway without being attached to a motor vehicle"**. The only relief for normal, non-business-related issues (i.e., utility vehicles or commercial vehicles making deliveries) is under Sub-section (C)(4), which allows for a period of time not to exceed 48 hours as long as the trailer does not create a "visual obstruction". Furthermore, commercial vehicles (i.e., work trucks, box trucks, construction vehicles) are not to be parked on borough streets and must be parked on private property. Section 535-33.1 of Borough Code, Parking of Commercial Motor Vehicles, Large Vehicles and Equipment, states that **"any vehicle with a gross weight in excess of 8,000 lbs. and/or any truck, trailer, semi-trailer, recreational vehicle or other vehicle in excess of 80 inches wide and/or any truck, etc., in excess of 20 feet in length, alone or in combination with another vehicle and/or any truck, trailer semitrailer or vehicle in excess of 8 ft in height and/or any vehicle, regardless of size that causes any visual obstruction that would create a hazard to the public safety and welfare"**. Also please note that any parked vehicle that encroaches on a crosswalk is always prohibited. And finally, Section 535-28 of Borough Code, Trailer Parking Prohibited At All Times, states that, **"no person shall park a trailer or allow the same to remain parked upon any of the highways in the Borough at any time, unless the trailer is attached to a motor vehicle"**. If residents see trailers, RVs, or large commercial vehicles parked along borough streets, they are encouraged to call BPD using 911.

## BPD ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO JOIN RESIDENTIAL SECURITY CAMERA CAMPAIGN

Bridgeport Police are encouraging all residents who possess exterior residential/commercial cameras to contact the department and join in a campaign to help strengthen community security. By supplying their contact information, address, and the view description of the camera coverage,

BPD will be able to develop a map all of these external resources to assist in investigations. Remember, your camera could be the key in helping keep your block safer! Please call the BPD non-emergency line at 610-272-5660 or email [chief@bridgeportpd.com](mailto:chief@bridgeportpd.com) with questions and information.

## WHO WE ARE

### • 2 Stations 1 Department

The Bridgeport Fire Department is comprised of two fire companies; *Bridgeport Fire Company #1* & *Good Will Fire Company*. **Operationally, we are united both in command and structure under the title: Station 54**

### • 24/7, 365 Days, All Volunteer

Our volunteers have been providing fire prevention & protection in Bridgeport Borough for 130+ years. Our crew is made up of dedicated and trained firefighters serving the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

### • Neighbors, Friends, & First Responders

We are the neighbors you see on your way to work. The friends sitting on the porch as you're walking your dogs. We stop to chat with old friends and new. Have dinner next to you at the pizza places, and stop to say 'Hello' in Wawa. Just don't take it personally if we leave mid-sentence.

**When a call for help goes out, we put the community first as your volunteer first responders.**



## JOIN US TODAY



## We Need You to VOLUNTEER

**Bridgeport Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization.** That means it takes community members, like yourself, to step up and join the fight.

### • NO PREVIOUS TRAINING NEEDED

Training is important! We provide training through Montgomery County Fire Academy at no cost to you. (16 years of age and older)

### • NO TIME MINIMUM REQUIRED

We get it—life is busy and there isn't time to dedicate all your free time to one place. Help out when your schedule allows.

**Give Us a Call:** (610) 272-1811 Ext 248

**Or Visit the Stations:** Monday Nights @ 6:30

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 18**  
**Elvis Show with Live Band**  
Bridgeport Fire Co. #1

**November 19**  
**Bag Bingo**  
1:00 p.m.  
Good Will Fire Co.

**November 24**  
**Corner Boot Coin Collection**  
Bridgeport Fire Co. #1

**November 25**  
**Borough of Bridgeport**  
Festive Light Ceremony

**December 17**  
**Breakfast with Santa**  
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Good Will Fire Co.

**December 23**  
**Santa Tours the Town**  
Bridgeport Fire Department

**May 18, 2024**  
**Flea Market**  
Bridgeport Fire Co. #1



Visit our department Facebook for new or changing events.



*Good Will Fire Co.  
304 Bush Street*



### • Early Detection

Smoke is responsible for the majority of fatalities in fires. Have smoke detectors throughout your home and set a reminder to test them once a month.



### • Help Us Find You

Every minute counts when it comes to you and your home. Make your address visible from the street so we can find you fast.



### • CO Detection

One of the most important detectors are for the dangers you can't see. Keeping a CO detector in a central part of your home.



- Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. For foods with longer cooking times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.
- Clear the cooking area of combustible items and keep anything that can burn such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

## Parks and Recreation

### MULTI-PARTNER PROJECT RESULTS IN NEW COURTS FOR MEMORIAL PARK!

In July of 2023, multiple community organizations partnered together with one goal in mind – improving the tennis and basketball courts at Memorial Park. A collaboration between the Bridgeport Community Fund and Park & Recreation Board and Bridgeport Borough, along with a generous donation from the Sons and Sisters of Bridgeport, resulted in a project that saw both the tennis courts and basketball courts at Memorial Park re-painted, re-striped, and seal coated to protect against wear and tear from Mother Nature! Additionally, the tennis courts received

an extra upgrade of sorts – as they are now also striped to accommodate pickleball games if visitors so desired! Even the contractor got in on the charitable feeling, as they donated a new tennis net to the project. The total project cost was just shy of \$20,000; and included a \$10,000 donation from the Sons and Sisters of Bridgeport. Bridgeport Borough thanks both the Community and the Sons and Sisters of Bridgeport and encourages folks to get out there and enjoy those brand-new courts!



## Community Events

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPING VILLAGE – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

On Saturday, November 25th, the Annual Holiday Shopping Village was held, which celebrates Small Business Saturday and is operated by Growing Bridgeport Together. There was holiday music, children's activities in a heated tent, and the opportunity to get started with your holiday shopping while supporting Small Businesses from Bridgeport and surrounding communities. Please check out [www.bridgeportborough.org](http://www.bridgeportborough.org) or the official Bridgeport Borough Facebook page for photos and other details on the event including updates on next year's lineup! Past years' vendors include: Frank's Fine Swine and Beef with their no-salt added beef and chicken jerky, Tiff's Wicks Candle Company with their hand poured candles, Heck of a Cookie and their

variety of cookies and other sweet treats, Handmade by Rita featuring fabric ornaments and wreaths, Donald Moser's variety of fashionable winter wear, Lotus J Collections featuring crystals and other healing items, Junebug Sweet Treats and her variety of delectable desserts, Mazz Comics with Funko Pops and other comics related merchandise, and Familiar Curiosities with a variety of gift ideas and crocheted items! We were also happy to welcome the amazing people who take care of your precious pets from Bridgeport Veterinary Hospital. We hope that you were able to come out and see what some of our great local businesses have to offer, and we thank Growing Bridgeport Together for orchestrating the event.

### ANNUAL FESTIVE LIGHTS CEREMONY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Also taking place on Saturday, November 25th beginning at 6:30pm was the annual Festive Lights tree lighting ceremony, operated by the Bridgeport Festive Lights Committee. A tradition for 24 years running, this event involves the closure of Mill Street between Third and Fourth Streets, and takes place in the Borough Hall parking lot, the borough public works garage, and along Mill Street. Residents and visitors alike will enjoy caroling and refreshments and the lighting of the Borough Hall Christmas Tree,

as the town prepares for the arrival of Santa Claus, who always takes time to greet the children of Bridgeport and take photos with them. The evening is capped off with another tradition unique to Bridgeport, a fireworks display along the Schuylkill Riverfront that is visible from almost the entire town! We hope you were able to come out to this great event, and we thank the Festive Lights Committee for continuing to deliver this tradition.





 **BRIDGEPORT  
FOUNDERS' DAY**

**MARCH 30, 2024**  
**12:00-4:00 PM**

 **BOROUGH HALL**  
**63 W 4th Street**

**Rain Date: March 31**

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**Passport Competition**

1. Visit all 4 Passport Businesses below during their open hours from Sunday, March 24-Founders' Day
2. Have them hole punch their spot
3. Bring your completed passport to the Info Desk at Founders' Day, write your full name & phone number below, and be entered to win a prize!

**CARZONE**  
Auto Group Inc.

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 [www.BridgeportFoundersDay.org](http://www.BridgeportFoundersDay.org)

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### VETERANS DAY 2023

November 11 is Veterans Day, a federal holiday that is meant to honor all veterans of the uniformed services who served or are still serving during times of peace as well as war. Bridgeport Borough wishes to thank all those among us who, despite the risk and sacrifice, raised their hand to serve and defend this beautiful country—our veterans, active-duty service members, guardsmen and reservists. Their service has helped keep our country and its citizens safe and free. We also wish to also take a moment to acknowledge those families of service members and veterans who help shoulder the weight of war and the burdens of sacrifice. To the mothers, fathers, spouses and children of our military men and women—thank you. Their love, support and resilience are the backbone of this nation, and that must never be forgotten. Bridgeport Borough hopes that residents took the time this Veterans Day to find a local veteran and thank them for their service; and also everyone who attended the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Bridgeport War Memorial at Fourth and DeKalb Streets this year.



### ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING EVENT – BRIDGEPORT BOROUGH HALL, SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

The Bridgeport Borough Sustainability Advisory Committee and West Conshohocken Borough have teamed up to offer residents of both boroughs an e-waste recycling event, taking place at the Bridgeport Borough Hall Parking Lot on Saturday, December 16, from 9:00am to Noon. This event will be an easy way for residents to responsibly dispose of any obsolete electronics. While Montgomery County used to offer these events frequently, it has been several years since an e-waste collection event has been held, therefore Bridgeport Borough Council and the Sustainability Advisory Committee thought this would be a great event to provide to borough residents. Electronics will be recycled by eForce Compliance, Philadelphia's first Certified Responsible Recycler. Eligible items include all electronic devices with a plug, but **NO SMOKE DETECTORS or LARGE APPLIANCES** will be accepted. Acceptable items include: Laptops, Dehumidifiers, Peripherals, Computers, Typewriters, Mice, Telephones, Small Appliances, Microwaves, Fax Machines, Cameras, Keyboards, Cell Phones, Printers, Calculators, Air Conditioners, TVs, and Computer Monitors. **Please note there is a \$30 fee per TV or computer monitor; and a \$100 fee per wood console or projection TV.** This event is open to residents of Bridgeport and West Conshohocken Boroughs only. Residents will be asked to provide proof of residency in order to enter. Certificates of destruction for any hard drives will be available upon request. We hope to see you there! For more information or to find the link to sign up, please visit [www.bridgeportborough.org](http://www.bridgeportborough.org) or call 610-272-1811.

**JEANNE SORG**  
Montgomery County  
Recorder of Deeds

*Montco Roots*

**THURSDAY  
MARCH 7  
7PM**

Bridgeport Borough Hall  
64 W Fourth Street

Jeanne Sorg, Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds, will review the types of documents that are recorded with the Recorder of Deeds office and go through how to search the database for current and historical deeds on your property.

For more information contact:  
Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds | 610-278-5289

### STAY INFORMED! BECOME A BRIDGEPORT E-SUBSCRIBER TODAY!

Bridgeport Borough sends out updates and alerts about important topics around the community weekly. You can sign up to receive these news alerts by visiting [www.bridgeportborough.org](http://www.bridgeportborough.org) and locating the "E-Subscribe" icon under "Resources" along the lefthand side of the homepage. Just plug your email address in, and you will be registered for our email list. Whether it's community events, detours for road work, or weather emergencies, Bridgeport Borough tries to keep its residents informed with up to date, topical information.

### *Thank You To The Businesses*



Bridgeport Borough would like to thank the businesses and organizations that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. It is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.



### 2023 BRIDGEPORT 5K – RECAP

The Bridgeport Borough 5K Committee wishes to thank everyone who took part in the 2023 Bridgeport 5K on September 30; runners, volunteers, sponsors and staff alike! We had a fantastic turnout for the event, with 125 total participants and well over 30 corporate sponsors. The event was able to return to Rotoondo Riverfront Park this year, after having to relocate in 2022 due to the Chester Valey Trail construction – and being able to stage the race at this scenic location in our community is key to putting on the best event possible. Between runners and spectators, a crowd of over 200 was present to witness our sixth, and possibly best ever, 5K event! The Bridgeport 5K is held annually to serve not only as a community event, but to also operate as a fundraiser for local charitable groups and organizations. This year, the Bridgeport 5K was able to generate net proceeds of nearly \$10,000, which will be donated to our two fantastic beneficiaries – The Bridgeport Fire Department, and The Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard. Below please find a list of our race winners, as well as a list of our amazing corporate sponsors.

#### Top 3 Male Finishes

- 1 Evan Martz King Of Prussia PA 19:30.96
- 2 Ryan Brenan Wayne PA 19:44.43
- 3 Daniel Francis King Of Prussia PA 20:00.87

#### Top 3 Female Finishes

- 1 Kaitlyn Lutz Bridgeport PA 21:44.17
- 2 Teresa Resendiz Norristown PA 23:06.77
- 3 Helene McElroy Bridgeport PA 24:07.87

Bridgeport Borough and the Bridgeport 5K Committee would like to thank and recognize our fantastic community sponsors. We literally couldn't pull this off without their continuous support!

#### Gold Level:

Bello, Reilly, McGrory & DiPippo Law Firm

BBD, LLP Audit Services

Bridgeport Veterinary Hospital

Bridgeport Business Association

Gannett Fleming Engineering

JP Mascaro & Sons

PECO

PRDC Properties

Tube Methods

Workers First Pharmacy

WSFS Bank

#### Silver Level:

Armond Pools

Matus Brothers Auto Body

Phoenix Physical Therapy

Reach Rock Climbing Gym - The Factory

Suzy Jo Donuts

#### Bronze Level:

Applied Testing & Geosciences

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Bridgeport Beer Co.

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#### And very special thanks to...

Bridgeport Trophy Company for their fantastic donation of the award medals every year!

The Collegiate Water Polo Association for their annual contribution!

The Village Velo for their volunteer bicyclist that leads the way through the course!

Suzy Jo Donuts for their annual donut donation!

Bridgeport Business Association, Bridgeport Veterinary Hospital, Growing Bridgeport Together, WSFS Bank, Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard, and Phoenix Rehabilitation for attending as exhibitors!

John Keane of Keane Farmers Insurance Agency for once again serving as our unparalleled Master of Ceremonies!

Mark Shepperd for his rendition of the National Anthem!

Bridgeport Public Works, Bridgeport Police Department, Bridgeport Fire Police, Plymouth Ambulance and Bridgeport Fire Company for keeping us safe and keeping the route secure throughout the event!

Bridgeport Elks Lodge #714 for manning the water table at Memorial Park every year!

And ALL of our amazing volunteers - whether they're serving at the registration tables, helping to set up and breakdown, or serving as race marshals throughout the course!

We are blessed to live in such a beautiful little town with residents that care and businesses that support our community events. Thank you all, and we hope to see you out there again next year.



### FASTEST PEOPLE IN BRIDGEPORT

At the October 24 meeting of Bridgeport Borough Council, Mayor Beth Jacksier Borough Council presented resolutions to this year's Fastest People in Bridgeport – Kaitlyn Lutz and Jared Winn. A tradition that's been going on since the Bridgeport 5K began in 2017, each year the two top borough residents with the best 5K times are bestowed with this prestigious title. Kaitlyn finished the 5K race in a time of 21 minutes 44:17 seconds, while Jared finished in a time of 21 minutes 48:62 seconds. Please join us in congratulating Kaitlyn and Jared on their accomplishments!



## Bridgeport Public Works

The Public Works Department consists of four full-time employees. While few in number, our Public Works staff are incredibly dedicated to their work and pride themselves on delivering as high a quality of life to our residents as possible. The routine maintenance activities of the Public Works Department include landscaping, fleet maintenance, snow removal, minor road repairs, physical plant maintenance, traffic signal maintenance, street sweeping and street signs. The Public Works Department also plays a vital role in Bridgeport's community events operations, such as plotting detours for the annual 5K Run, decorating the town with "Season's Greetings" lights and community banners, and erecting the Christmas Tree at Borough Hall. Contact the Public Works Department regarding any street-related problems such as potholes, snow plowing, or streetlight and traffic signal outages by calling the Public Works Garage at 610-313-3138.

## Updates From Bridgeport Sewer

With the changing of the seasons, things at the Bridgeport Wastewater Treatment Plant slow down a little bit. Sludge wasting and pressing becomes less frequent due to the consistency of the sludge. Landscaping and groundskeeping needs to happen less often as the grass growing slows its pace. As the autumn chill sets in it provides a great opportunity for preventative maintenance to occur. As part of this yearly maintenance, the crew at the plant will be systematically taking the primary and secondary clarifiers offline. These clarifiers are a vital part of the wastewater treatment process as they help to remove solids in the water. While each clarifier is empty it will be inspected to ensure all movement is smooth and all components of the clarifier are secure and functioning properly. Any sludge/algae will also be removed from the walls and arms using a high-pressure water hose. Once cleaned and inspected the clarifier will be put back online. Only one clarifier is taken offline at a time.

The sewer department wants to let residents know that anyone doing any digging, including the installation of fence posts, or utilities repair/replacement to their homes are required to inform PA One Call in order to allow utility companies the

opportunity to come out and mark any facilities they may have in the area. The number to dial is 811.

2023 marks the 95th anniversary of the design and building of our own wastewater treatment plant. Originally located next to the PA Turnpike overpass, the plant was moved in the early 1960's just a few hundred yards from where it once stood to where it sits today. The sewer plant has 4 employees including 3 PA licensed treatment plant operators. As Bridgeport grows the plant has had to adapt and grow with it, not only to accommodate greater wastewater intake but also to keep with the standards set by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

In order to keep our sewer system as well as the pumping and treatment plant equipment in good working order, it is of the utmost importance to monitor and control what is being put into the system. Residents and businesses should not be dumping any baby wipes, oil, grease, feminine hygiene products, or contraceptives down the toilets or drains in



their homes or in the storm drains on the street. These items cause excess wear on the system and can lead to clogs and breakdowns. A great way to remember what is acceptable to put in a sewer system is to use The 3 P's. The 3 P's are Pee, Poop, and (toilet)Paper. Despite what the packaging may say "flushable" wipes should not, in fact, be flushed. These as well as other personal hygiene products should be thrown in the trash. Used cooking oil and bacon grease can be saved and reused. It's a great way to save money and more importantly save the potential cost of your own sewer lateral cleaning or replacement.

To learn more about the wastewater treatment plant, process and day to day activities please follow them on Instagram @ BridgeportWWTP. Please like, comment and share their funny and informative content and help them get to 1,000 followers!

## DO I NEED A BACKFLOW PREVENTER?

Bridgeport Borough is a fantastic place to live, work, and relax – a quaint small town with great qualities. However, every town has its challenges – and some challenges that Bridgeport residents are faced with are a result of the fact that Bridgeport is situated along the side of a large hill that flattens out into the Schuylkill River Basin. This means that heavy rain and flooding events affect our residents much more than other communities not so centrally located near water. Further complicating matters is the fact that Bridgeport is a "combined sewer" community – meaning that both stormwater runoff and sanitary sewage water are collected and conveyed to the plant in the same pipe system.

Because our sewers collect stormwater in addition to sewage, heavy rain events can adversely affect Bridgeport properties more than some of our neighbors. When the Schuylkill River experiences elevated water heights, the result can often times leave water in the basements of residents, even those that might live higher up the hill. In the case of Bridgeport, a flooded basement is usually the result of backflow. When the town's sewer system is completely full of water, the pressure of the water can cause water to flow backwards, re-entering the basements of homes.

Backflow can be problematic because it can become a pollutant. Contaminants like pesticides, human waste, and chemicals can be in this water, causing a health concern. To save us from this hassle, backflow prevention devices were invented. Simply put, it prevents backflow from happening. It's designed to keep water inside the systems, flowing in one direction. Many Bridgeport properties have backflow preventers installed, but not all. Bridgeport officials always recommend installing a backflow preventer when folks are buying a home in town, as it can keep a family safe from potential health hazards and greatly reduce the cost of future repairs. You might ask, "how do I know if I already have a backflow preventer installed in my home?" Well, if you have a newer home, a backwater valve may have been installed during construction. If you are unsure, take a look around your basement — backwater valves are usually located in the floor and have a cover that can easily be removed for maintenance. The cover itself is likely round, but there may also be a rectangular panel on top. If you have a sump pump, the backwater valve is likely close by. If you have experienced flooding issues at your Bridgeport property before, it might be a good idea to contact a professional plumber and ask them about installing a backflow preventer in your home!

# Recycling Roundup

## Bulk Pickup Day Reminder

All residents may place one (1) bulk item curbside per month for collection on the last Tuesday of the month.

### These items can include:

1. Furniture
2. Carpets (Carpets and padding must be cut into 3-foot widths, rolled, tied or taped. Only 10 rolls of carpet/ padding per pick up.)
3. Appliances (Appliances that do not use Freon)
4. Tree limbs or trunks larger than 3" in diameter (Cannot be longer than 36")
5. Windows, mirrors, glass panels in doors, etc. (Must be taped in a crisscross pattern to prevent breakage.)
6. Mattresses and box springs: Please note that a mattress + box spring is considered one (1) item, so both can be put out together. All mattresses and box springs must be wrapped in plastic sheeting or bagged prior to putting them out for curbside collection. This is an attempt to protect collection employees from contact with bed bugs. Please understand that box springs and mattresses that are not wrapped/ bagged will not be collected).

Refrigerators, air conditioners, and humidifiers contain Freon, which is considered hazardous; you must call Mascaro to schedule a pickup 1-800-432-1616. An additional charge may apply.

"White" items such as washers and dryers require a call to J.P. Mascaro (610-272-2765) to schedule a pickup.

Please Note: Bulk pick up is not an opportunity to dispose of multiple items accumulated over a lifetime when you are moving. If you wish to dispose of more than one item, please call J.P. Mascaro at 610-272-2765 and they will arrange a special pick up for you. Multiple bulk items placed at the curb is prohibited without an agreement with Mascaro. This restriction will be strictly enforced.

### To all Bridgeport Residents and Businesses:

Bridgeport Borough Recycling Ordinance #2018-004, requires the following:

1. All residents and businesses must separate recyclables, including glass, plastics #1, 2, 3, and 5, aluminum and bimetallic cans, paper, and cardboard, from their solid waste.
2. All residents and businesses must separate leaf waste, including leaves from trees, bushes, and other plants, garden residue, chipped shrubbery and tree trimmings, but not including grass clippings, from their solid waste, and either compost leaf waste on their property, set leaves out during municipal leaf pickup days (please view the Yard Waste Collection page for annual dates), self-haul the leaf waste to a state-approved composting facility (such as the Heuser Park Compost Site in Upper Merion Township) or have a hauler collect the leaf waste, to be delivered to a state-approved composting facility.
3. All residents and businesses are prohibited from burning recyclables and leaf waste or including these items with their other solid waste (trash).

Single-stream recycling allows Bridgeport Borough residents to place all recyclables: cans, bottles and plastics together with newspapers, cardboard, etc. in one container. There is no need to separate items since the "single stream" recycling process used allows all recyclables to be mixed together.

### How do I separate Trash from Recycling?

It is easiest to have a container or two set up where it happens, like a bin in the kitchen for bottles and cans you have washed out, and another in the office for used paper and mail. Just remember that with single stream recycling, it can all go in the same container – we do the sorting for you. Single stream recycling will be collected by a compaction truck. Only recyclables will be on this truck on your recycling day, it cannot collect non-recyclable items.

### Acceptable Recycling Materials

Metal: Aluminum cans, aluminum foil and foil plates, etc. Metal lids, Metal food cans (tin/steel).

Glass: Glass bottles and jars (food and drink only, any color). Please rinse all food waste from bottles and cans before recycling.

Plastic Containers: Plastic bottles and containers labeled #1 through #7 (soda, water, milk, juice, liquor, shampoo, detergent, condiments, salad dressing, yogurt, margarine).

Mixed Paper and Cardboard: Newspaper and inserts, magazines and catalogs, junk mail, envelopes, file folders, white/colored/computer paper (staples and paper clips ok), corrugated cardboard, paper bags, phone books, wrapping paper (remove metallic paper and bows). Please remember to flatten all cardboard/paper boxes and containers.

### Unacceptable Recycling Materials

Ceramics, dishes, coffee cups, drinking glasses, glass oven ware, Pyrex, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, plastics without #1 - #7 labeling, plastic bags, styrofoam, bubble wrap, tissue or paper towels, wax paper cartons, metallic or coated paper, waxed boxes, and food contaminated cardboard (i.e. pizza boxes).

### E-Waste Alert! Disposal Ban

Solid waste disposal facilities in Pennsylvania are no longer allowed to accept televisions and computer devices including hard drives, monitors, keyboards, mice and printers or their components. Retailers such as Staples® and Best Buy® often have e-waste recycling options at no charge. Check their websites, restrictions may apply.

### Use Retrievr for your Electronic Waste Recycling Needs!

Montgomery County has recently partnered with RETRIEVR to provide local electronic waste recycling services. For a small fee, Retrievr will take just about any clean and dry textile or fabric in your home, and most electronic devices or accessories including TVs, computers, monitors, and mobile phones. For more information, contact Retrievr.com or text "PICKUP" to or call 757-703-3824.

Please note that we do not take household appliances, such as dishwashers, refrigerators, toasters, vacuums, hair dryers and the like. Please see our Greater Philadelphia Area page for the full list of accepted items.

### Disposal of Household Paints

Latex paint: Let paint dry in can. Adding kitty litter or a commercial drying agent will speed up the drying process. When paint is dry, double bag the can before putting it in the trash. Leaking paint will damage our trucks and stain your street. Oil based paint: Is hazardous waste and will not be collected. Call Montgomery County Recycling (610-278-3618) for drop off locations and dates.

### Bridgeport Borough Blue Recycling Containers

Blue Borough containers are for recycling collection use only. Remember: If you move, the blue container should be left behind at the household as they are the property of Bridgeport Borough. If you need a replacement, call the Borough Offices at (610) 272-1811.

Questions or Problems? J.P. Mascaro Office Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturdays 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Call 1-800-432-1616 or visit us on the web. Residents are also encouraged call the Borough Offices with collection problems, at (610) 272-1811.

### Bridgeport Borough Fall Leaf Collection

Bridgeport Borough Public Works performs residential fall leaf collection every year in November. The 2023 fall leaf collection schedule will be every Monday and Friday during the month of November. Please gather leaves along the curb line of your property, unbagged. Public Works will remove them from the curb line of your property during their normal daytime hours of operation.

### Heuser Park Composting Site in Upper Merion Township

All Bridgeport residents are permitted to use the composting site at Heuser Park in Upper Merion, 694 W. Beidler Road for disposal of residential yard waste. A couple notes to be aware of before going:

1. You must bring photo ID to verify that you are a Bridgeport resident. Only Upper Merion and Bridgeport residents are permitted to utilize this free service.
2. This service is for residential yard waste only. Commercial landscapers will be denied access.
3. You must have grass clippings separated from tree and bush trimmings, but you may bring both. There are two separate dumping locations for each of these within the site - please tell the attendant what you have and they'll direct you where to dump each.
4. You must check in at the weigh scale shed as you enter the park, and drive over the weigh scales before entering the composting site. All vehicles are weighed before and after dumping to accurately gather tonnage data.
5. No dirt, rocks or mud, thus no sod as well. If you have large root balls that you are discarding, you must hose/knock off as much dirt from between the roots as possible before dumping. Dirt and rocks damage the grinder used to process the yard waste.

Please feel free to take advantage of this free service available to all Borough residents. Bridgeport Borough thanks Upper Merion Township for continuing to provide this ability to the Bridgeport community. Please visit the Upper Merion Township website for more information including hours of operation.

## LET THE PENNSYLVANIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WORK FOR YOU

Many Pennsylvania residents do not realize that the Pennsylvania state government has a wealth of resources available to them that cover a variety of issues and topics. In this section, we would like to highlight a couple of the services provided by the PA Attorney General's Office.

<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/military-veteran-affairs/> - Many military personnel and veterans do not realize they can reach out to our Attorney General's Office for assistance. The Office of Attorney General is grateful and proud of the service of Pennsylvania's nearly 1 million veterans and military members, as well as their families. Their contributions and sacrifices for the country, the Commonwealth and Pennsylvania's communities cannot be overstated. The Office of Attorney General is committed to protecting all Pennsylvania consumers from unfair business practices and scams; however military members, veterans and their families are often specifically targeted by dishonest businesses looking to exploit their patriotism, lifestyle and hard-earned benefits. Consumer issues can hurt a military member or veteran's personal finances, damage their credit, threaten their security clearance, or prevent them from getting a job. Correcting the record can be costly and time-consuming. The best way to prevent being scammed is to be an educated consumer and to protect your personal information. The transition from military service to college or a new job can be full of exciting opportunities, but at times can be overwhelming. Knowing your options as well as some of the potential hurdles, whether it is understanding the higher education marketplace or knowing the signs of a deceptive job listing, can help you in achieving your personal goals and get a great start to the next stage of your career.

<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/public-protection-division/>

bureau-consumer-protection/ - Many people do not realize the Attorney General's Office is authorized to take formal legal action against persons and organizations who engage in unfair and deceptive conduct. By law, the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection is authorized to perform the following duties:

1. Investigate commercial and trade practices in the distribution, financing and furnishing of goods and services for the use of consumers;
2. Conduct studies, investigations and research into matters affecting consumer interests and make such information available to the public;
3. Advise the Legislature on matters affecting consumer interests, including the development of policies and the proposal of programs to protect consumers;
4. Investigate fraud and deception in the sale, servicing and furnishing of goods and products, and strive to eliminate such illegal actions;
5. Promote consumer education and publicize matters relating to consumer fraud, deception and misrepresentation.

Based upon consumer complaints or investigations, the Bureau is authorized to take formal legal action against persons and organizations who engage in unfair and deceptive conduct in the advertisement or sale of goods or services within the Commonwealth. However, in response to numerous consumer complaints received each year, the Bureau has also developed a statewide mediation program which seeks restitution, refund or other relief for consumers and affected businesses in a fair and impartial manner.



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