

Welcome to Our New Newsletter

Dear Residents and Friends

Bridgeport Borough is pleased to introduce to you our new Borough newsletter. This publication provides you with information on municipal services and officials, contact numbers for municipal offices and other agencies, and updates on current projects being undertaken within Bridgeport Borough.

We extend a special thanks to the business and professional members of our community whose support through advertising has made publication of this newsletter possible at no cost to taxpayers. Please support the local businesses that support Bridgeport Borough.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all residents of Bridgeport Borough to contact the municipal offices for any assistance you may need. Community service is a priority of the Borough. We strive to do our best to make this a better community for all our residents.



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18 East 4th Street Bridgeport, PA 19405 610-279-5210 Mon-Thurs. 11am - 8pm Friday- Saturday 11am - 9pm Sunday 12pm - 5pm Hometown Press, the publisher of your Hometown Newsletter

We would like to send out a Heartfelt, Safe and Healthy message to all the residents, businesses, and Township staff during this pivotal time in history.

"And the World Came Together as the People Stayed Apart"

Around Town

2022 MIRAGLIA SCHOLARSHIP ROUND OPENS SOON

Every year, Bridgeport Borough provides a \$2,000 scholarship to a worthy student through the Dr. Vincent Miraglia Scholarship. Borough elected officials sacrifice a month of their annual stipend, and the Borough Solicitor and Engineer also make contributions comprising this award. The scholarship is named after Dr. Vincent Miraglia, long time health officer for the borough and principal of the former Bridgeport High School. The scholarship is open to all Bridgeport residents who are high school graduates and have lived in Bridgeport for at least 2 years prior to April 1, 2022, who are seeking further education that will result in degree, diploma, or certificate. 2022 applications will be sent to Upper Merion High School and local parochial schools in early April, with a decision rendered in May. Please call 610-272-1811 for more information.

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS OF BRIDGEPORT'S PET WASTE ORDINANCE

By Salvatore F. Bello, Jr., Esq., and Paul S. Peters, III, Esq.

Under Chapter 155 of the Bridgeport Borough Code, the rules, requirements, and penalties regarding the removal of Pet Waste from the Borough's streets and sidewalks is addressed. Section 155-9 of this Chapter makes it unlawful for any owner, keeper or walker of any dog or cat to allow that animal to discharge its waste upon the Borough's streets and sidewalks. If the owner, keeper, or walker does permit the animal to discharge its waste upon the Borough's streets and sidewalks, that owner, keeper, or walker is then required by law to immediately remove and clean up the animal's waste. Failure to follow Section 155-9 will result in a ticket being issued to the owner, keeper, or walker. Failure to pay the fine stated on the issued ticket within 10-days of issuance will result in the owner, keeper, or walker being given a non-traffic citation with a requirement to appear before the local Magisterial Judge. If found guilty before the Magisterial Judge, the owner, keeper, or walker will be subject to a fine of up to \$300.00, plus costs of prosecution and reasonable attorney's fees of the Borough. Failure to pay any fines and costs ordered by the Magisterial Judge may result in imprisonment up to 30 days.

This ordinance was enacted, and a reminder is being given, due to the health risks and concerns, as well as quality of life and aesthetic issues created. Furthermore, it is common courtesy and an act of being a good neighbor and citizen to pick up the waste of one's pet. No Borough resident wants to walk out of their home and find pet waste on their property on sidewalk, or to experience the unfortunate action of stepping in pet waste left on Borough streets and sidewalks. Additionally, this is a safety and sanitary hazard for children playing outside in the Borough.

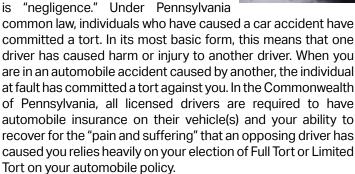
Cleaning up after one's pet is not a tedious, burdensome, unreasonable action for pet owners, keepers, and walkers. Therefore. it is asked of all Borough residents to be responsible pet owners, be respectful and mindful neighbors, and clean up pet waste left on the Borough's streets and sidewalks. The courteous and required action of picking up one's pet waste from the Borough streets and sidewalks furthers the beauty, cleanliness, and appeal of our Borough as a place to live, conduct business, and visit. We thank you for your consideration and cooperation with this matter.



FULL TORT VS. LIMITED TORT: WHY DOES FULL TORT COVERAGE ON YOUR AUTOMOBILE POLICY MATTER?

By Salvatore F. Bello, Jr., Esq., and Salvatore F. Bello, III, Esq.

What is a Tort? According to Black's Law Dictionary, a tort is a "civil wrong, other than a breach of contract, for which a remedy may be obtained, usually in the form of damages; a breach of a duty that the law imposes on persons who stand in a particular relation to one another." To state it more concisely, a tort is an act or omission that gives rise to injury or harm to another. The typical tort at issue with regard to automobile accidents is "pagligance". Under Pennsylvania.



What is Full Tort? Full Tort coverage allows an individual who is injured in an automobile accident to sue the at-fault driver (the individual who caused the accident) for damages, such as pain and suffering. This is also known as compensatory damages. Assuming you have elected Full Tort coverage on your policy, when bringing a claim against the at-fault driver, you are essentially asking the other driver to compensate you for the resulting pain and suffering you have sustained. Pain and suffering damages can include death, permanent disfigurement, serious impairment of bodily function, and dismemberment, but pain and suffering damages can also be physical pain and discomfort as well as psychological pain like anxiety, PTSD, and depression. Pain and suffering damages are not easily quantified and will vary depending on the seriousness of the injury and whether you have been permanently injured by the at-fault driver. Pain and suffering damages allow injured individuals to recover the largest possible sums for their injuries. As there is no defined calculation for pain and suffering damages in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pain and suffering damages can range from thousands to millions of dollars, depending on the severity of the injuries you have sustained. When bringing a claim under Full Tort, the at-fault driver is responsible for paying for damages and medical costs to you, generally through their own liability insurance. With Full Tort coverage, you not only have the ability to bring a claim against the at-fault driver for pain and suffering damages, but you can also make claims for medical bills, vehicle damage, lost wages, and potential future costs. While Full Tort comes



with specific advantages such as the ability to sue the at-fault driver for pain and suffering damages, it does come at a higher cost to the insured individual. The biggest shortcoming of Full Tort is the fact that you should expect to pay a higher premium on your automobile insurance than if you were to simply elect Limited Tort coverage.

What is Limited Tort? Based on name alone, you are likely not surprised to hear

that Limited Tort coverage actually limits many of your rights when you are in an automobile accident. According to Title 75§1705 of the Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Laws, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, electing Limited Tort insurance limits your right and the right of members of your household to seek financial compensation for injuries caused by other drivers. Limited Tort coverage allows an injured driver to sue for costs such as medical bills, property damages, and lost wages. Limited Tort will allow you to sue for "serious bodily injury." However, clients are often stunned to discover that some real, painful, protracted injuries do not qualify as "serious bodily injury" under the law. In such cases, the clients who have selected Limited Tort will be foreclosed from pursuing compensation for their injuries. The bottom line: Limited Tort coverage will not allow you to seek compensation for pain and suffering unless you meet one of a few exceptions, which will be discussed in a future article. The biggest upside to electing Limited Tort coverage is that you can expect to save money on your car insurance premiums. That is a very real benefit for those who simply cannot afford to pay the higher premiums associated with Full Tort coverage.

Full Tort - It's Worth Your Money: When given the option between Full Tort v. Limited Tort insurance coverage, our firm will always recommend a Full Tort election on your automobile policy, as long as you are financially able to do so. In exchange for paying a higher premium, Full Tort coverage allows an individual to be fully compensated for the injuries they sustained due to the negligence of an at-fault driver. Automobile accidents can have life altering effects on an individual. To be adequately compensated for the pain and suffering you have experienced due to the actions of an at-fault driver, Full Tort coverage is your best option. We certainly represent numerous individuals who have elected Limited Tort coverage as well. Whether you have Full Tort or Limited Tort automobile coverage, we highly recommend that you contact an attorney if you are in an accident. Next time you are faced with the important decision to select Full Tort or Limited Tort just try to remember the old saying: "It's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it."

Police Department





Happy Spring, Bridgeport! It's been three months into my term of being your Mayor and I'm very happy to be here. It's been a wonderful experience getting to meet so many residents, learning more about the inner workings of how the Borough runs, and beginning to plan projects that I'm passionate about bringing to our community. With that said, when I get the opportunity to talk with somebody new, the one question I'm always asked is, "What does the Mayor really do?" It's a difficult question to answer because while you might see me working in all facets of this Borough, the real answer is that the only official responsibility I have is to run the police department. So far, I've learned quiet a lot of the fundamentals of our hard-working police officers, such as how their scheduling works, what their individual roles really entail, and the intricacies of completing reports. Most importantly, I have been getting to know them as human beings who clearly care about this community and are passionate about keeping everyone within

it safe. Many of our officers seem to spend more time in Bridgeport than they do at

their own homes, so it is enlightening to see how they are able to make such an incredible impact here within their roles. However, the real goal of spending all of this time with our officers is to give back to Bridgeport by ensuring we are protected by the officers who know our community best.

While this might be my primary function, I will also be accomplishing this goal in a variety of other ways, too. I'm very excited to continue expressing my love of community events as Mayor. Working with council members and our police department will ensure success in hosting a variety of events. This will encompass anything from speakers on mental health topics to workshops on life skills, like CPR. We are also working on adding to our bigger event offerings, like with National Night Out (NNO), where residents might find themselves treated to even more engagement from our police officers than they have been at previous iterations of NNO. The event I am most looking forward to in the near future is hosting a Mental Health Expo on May 14th at noon in Borough Hall in honor of Mental Health Awareness month. Here, residents will learn how to seek out crucial resources, hear from experienced professionals on how to act as a caregiver, and even enjoy poetry from a local poet who will beautifully describe her own mental health journey in a way that everyone can able to relate to.

Since many residents are unable to attend council meetings, I will be providing additional opportunities to have your voices heard. You'll be receiving a survey in the mail soon that you can fill out to share what you're looking for from your Mayor so I can best focus my efforts in the community. I'll also be offering Office Hours in my office at Borough Hall so you can meet with me directly to discuss any ideas, questions, or concerns you might have regarding Bridgeport. As for additional public forums you can attend, we will be introducing Chats with the Chief, where residents can have questions answered by our Chief of Police and learn more information about ongoing trends and tips & tricks that you should know. We will also begin hosting Public Safety meetings with representatives from our first responder organizations to discuss topics relevant to the safety of our Borough residents.

I like to refer to the Mayor as the unofficial cheerleader of not just our residents, but our small businesses, as well. You'll be able to see business spotlights from me on my Facebook page @beth.jacksier and at select Council Meetings. These spotlights showcase our business owners, detail what types of goods they are selling, and explain what makes them unique and integral to our welcoming Borough. We have so many unsung businesses that deserve our support here and it is my intention to make everyone aware of what they have to offer us both here and regionally. I will also be working with our Small Business Association to further assist our small businesses, collaborate on the best way to encourage exciting new businesses to invest in our town, and to further build relationships between business owners and our residents.

I am eager to hit the ground running to assist residents with any needs you may have, so know that I am available to speak with you even when I'm not hosting Office Hours or attending a public meeting. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at bjacksier@bridgeportborough.org or by phone at 610-272-1811 x244 with any thoughts.

See you soon!

Mayor Beth Jacksier

Police Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDS NEW VEHICLE TO PATROL FLEET

This spring, Bridgeport Borough will be acquiring a new 2022 Ford Hybrid AWD Police Interceptor, in an effort to continue upgrading our fleet of patrol vehicles. This purchase was made through the New Holland Auto Group, under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's CoStars program. CoStars is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's cooperative purchasing program and serves as a conduit through which registered and eligible vendors and state-affiliated municipal members are able to leverage contracts already established by the PA Department of Government Services (DGS) to cost-effectively and efficiently identify suppliers with whom to do business. In other words, these contracts between varying suppliers and the PA DGS allow communities like Bridgeport to piggyback onto vendor agreements and take advantage of established competitive pricing without the encumbrance of having to bid out certain items and services. Bridgeport Police Department has previously purchased another Ford Hybrid Interceptor, in the summer of 2020, and are extremely satisfied with its performance and reliability. The Borough looks forward to getting this new vehicle upfitted for police use and out on the streets, helping to monitor the safety of the community!

BRIDGEPORT POLICE WELCOMES TWO NEW OFFICERS; SAYS GOODBYE TO THREE

Bridgeport Borough Police Department recently welcomed two new additions to the force. At the January 25, 2022 meeting of Bridgeport Borough Council, Trevor Knechel was sworn in and hired as a part-time patrol officer. Trevor is a native of Harleysville, and a December 2021 graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy, where he received honors as the top marksman of his class. At the February 8, 2022 meeting of Bridgeport Borough Council, Matthew Stead was also sworn in and hired as a part-time patrol officer with BPD. Matthew is a resident of Schwenksville, and a 2013 graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy. He has served as a Deputy with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department since 2014, where he is still employed. Both Matthew and Trevor bring a wealth of skill and exuberance with them to BPD, along with an eagerness to learn about and connect with the Bridgeport Community. Please join us in welcoming both Trevor Knechel and Matthew Stead! Regretfully, BPD also said goodbye to three part-time officers, and wish to thank them and recognize their service to the community: Matthew Muscari (3 years), Spencer Ellers (2 years), and Ryan Stead (9 months). We wish all three the best in their future endeavors.



Officer Matthew Stead being sworn in by Mayor Jacksier



Officer Travis Knechel with Mayor Jacksier and family

Fire Department

FREE SMOKE DETECTORS AVAILABLE

According to the National Fire Protection Association, while 96% of US residences have smoke detectors installed, 20% of these same homes have detectors that are non-operational between 2014-2018. Furthermore, 41% of the home fire deaths were caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms, and 16% had alarms that were not operational. The risk of dying in a house fire is reduced by 55% when a functional smoke detector is installed. Bridgeport Fire Department does not wish to see any of our community members become one of these statistics. If you or someone you know is in need of smoke detectors, BFD has a limited number of free smoke detectors available through the 6ABC Save-A-Life program. Please contact Borough Hall at 610-272-1811, ext. 248, to learn how you can obtain detectors for your home.



BFD TRAINING IN WATER RESCUE; RECRUITING FOR MEMBERSHIP!



Bridgeport Fire Chief Steve Wanczyk wishes to report that 14 members of the Bridgeport Fire Department (BFD) are currently undertaking advanced training for water rescue operations, in an effort to continue to strengthen the BFD's ability to respond to and assist with the necessary measures when faced with high-water emergencies. Furthermore, BFD is actively recruiting for new membership to the Bridgeport Fire Department. The BFD wants community members to realize that being a member of the fire department does not necessarily mean that you must become a firefighter. In fact, there are many other responsibilities, such as administrative tasks, grant writing & fundraising, and equipment maintenance that are every bit as crucial as responding to fires and other emergencies. If you are interested, please contact Chief Wanczyk at 610-272-1811, ext. 248 for more information.

BOROUGH OF BRIDGEPORT 2022 COLLECTION CALENDAR



TRASH COLLECTION:

One (1) time per week collected Tuesdays

RECYCLING COLLECTION:

One (1) time per week collected Tuesdays

BULK ITEM:

One (1) time per month collected last Tuesday` of each month.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION:

2 collection dates, May 7 & October 8, 2022



Parks and Recreation

Bridgeport Park Board has Exciting Announcements for 2022!

The Bridgeport Community Fund Park and Rec Board is excited for another year of recreational and community activities presented at Bridgeport Memorial Park and Chiccino Field.

The Community Fund welcomes the Bridgeport/ Upper Merion Little League back for their 69th year of chartered Little League Baseball in Bridgeport. The league has a rich history of providing youth baseball instruction for boys and girls in levels ranging from Tee Ball through the Big Leagues. Please visit www.BB-UL. org for more information.

Bridgeport Bocce will be kicking off their spring season as well. The Bridgeport Bocce League provides competition for all levels including seniors. Please visit www.bridgeportbocceleague.com for information.

The Upper Merion Area School District Baseball Team will be playing their Junior Varsity home games at Bridgeport Memorial Park once again this season. Please visit www.umasd.org for schedules if you would like to visit the park and watch some of their games.



Bridgeport Park Board will also be partnering with Bridgeport Elks Lodge 714 and The Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council 3327 to present an Easter Egg Hunt event this spring. Please stay tuned to Bridgeport Community social media for more information.

The Park Board is finalizing the details for the return of a Yoga in The Park series this summer under the direction of Anja Dietrich. The program was very well received last year and is a terrific offering for the community.

In addition, the board has infrastructure projects that are scheduled to be completed this spring, all of which will make our park a safer and more enjoyable place to play. Included in these projects will be:

- Refreshing the playground surface and equipment at Bridgeport Memorial Park. This will be accomplished through partnering with our great local business community.
- Additional upgrades to our security system that was installed in 2020. This will add additional coverage areas to our current surveillance to curb vandalism on the property.
- LED lighting and electrical upgrades to the Grove Street Pavilion, making it more secure during evening hours.
- Refreshing the Grove Street Pavilion, making this a more friendly space for gatherings and our Yoga in The Park program.
- Building repairs including roof replacement and bathroom repairs.

The Bridgeport Community Fund Park and Rec Board looks forward to serving the community. Please email Randybennett19405@gmail.com or call 610-496-2764 with any questions, concerns and ideas about our park or our programs.

Community Events



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS COMING BACK IN 2022!

Bridgeport Borough is excited to announce that after being a big hit in the summer of 2021, the borough will again be hosting "Family Movie Nights" in the Town Center Parking Lot in 2022! Bridgeport has purchased a 17-foot inflatable movie screen that will be placed along the side of the building; parents and kids can bring their own lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of family friendly movies! Please stay tuned to the Borough website and Facebook pages for a complete schedule and listings of the movies to be shown. Movie Nights take place once per month from May to September, on Saturday nights beginning at sunset. Bridgeport is proud to be able to offer another addition to its growing lineup of community events and encourages residents to stay tuned for a complete listing of movie nights in the coming months.

Bridgeport Carnival - June 21-25

Keep June 21-25 open on your calendar, as the Bridgeport Carnival will return for its fifth year in 2022, and with it another five days of affordable fun for the whole family. Swikas Amusements will again operate the Bridgeport Carnival, and as always we are working with Swikas to bring a great blend of rides for all ages to the event. One price ride wristbands will again be back for several nights of the carnival, so stay tuned to Facebook and the Borough website for updates on when they go on sale. After a one year absence from the festivities, Bridgeport is also pleased to announce that the Carnival will again feature our traditional beer and wine garden featuring Cardinal Hollow Winery and Conshohocken Brewing Company, along with some great local and live bands! We wish to announce that the following acts have already been booked to play the carnival – On June 21st, come enjoy the melodic tones of Philadelphia based jazz ensemble Emmanuel Ohemeng & Perpetual Motion; on June 23rd, AM Radio will be here with their amazing tribute to those AM Gold hits from the 60s and 70s; and on June 25th, The Mighty Manatees will cap off another memorable week with their distinct rockin' jam band sound! Keep an eye out for the announcement regarding who will be playing on June 24th, as it is sure to be another terrific local act. We hope to see you there!







Public Works

2022 PAVING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Bridgeport Borough would like to announce that it is in the process of developing the bid package for this year's road paving project. Borough officials are proud to be able to say that since 2016, nearly 90% of borough streets have been repaved; all of which has been achieved without taking on additional loan debt or increasing borough property taxes. Due to COVID and other urgent town matters, no paving projects were conducted in 2020 or 2021. However, the borough still used that opportunity to apply for grant funding and obtain monies for future paving projects. In fact, a total of \$413,000 in block grant money is available for Bridgeport Borough to utilize on road repaving in 2022. In addition to these grant awards, the borough will also contribute a considerable amount in capital funds towards this large scale 2022 paving project. Borough officials will not know exactly how far this \$413,000 will stretch until bid proposals are received from paving contractors, meaning that there is a possibility that not all of the following street segments will be addressed this year. However, the Borough wishes to announce that the 2022 borough-wide paving project specifications include the full-width restoration of the following street and alley segments:

2nd Street, Depot to DeKalb

3rd Street, Mill to Green

6th Street, DeKalb to Mascaro Transfer Station

9th Street, DeKalb to Merion

Coates Street, Holstein to Fraley

Cherry Alley, Front to 2nd

Elm Alley, Ford to Green

Ford Street, 4th to Front

Fraley Street, 4th to Hurst

Front Street, Depot to DeKalb

Front Street, Ford to Vine

Green Street, 4th to York Alley

Greenfield Alley, Hurst to Grove

Holstein Street, 4th to Coates

Prospect Street, 4th to Fraley

Merion Street, 5th to 9th

Rambo Street, Ford to Mill

Vine Street, 4th to Front





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.

WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY.



All the soap, scum, and oily grit runs along the curb. Then into the storm drain and directly into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters.

And that causes pollution which is unhealthy for fish. So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy. Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street. Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

If you have questions regarding storm water, please contact your municipality or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Office. For general questions, you may also contact DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (717) 772-5661 or visit www.dep.state.pa.us. Thanks to the Washington State Water Consortium for permission to adapt and use this poster



BRIDGEPORT BOROUGH GENERAL INFORMATION

63 West 4th Street, Bridgeport, PA 19405

PHONE: 610-272-1811 • www.bridgeportborough.org

OFFICE HOURS: M-F, 8:30-4:30pm



From left to right: Mayor Beth Jacksier, Borough Council: Tony Heyl (Vice President), Amy Funahashi, Kyle Shenk (President), Meghan Nolan, Cory Scott, James Fee, and Diane Gundrum

Mayor

Beth Jacksier

Phone: 610-272-1811, ext. 244 bjacksier@bridgeportborough.org

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Councilmember, Ward 1 afunahashi@bridgeportborough.org

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Cory Scott

Councilmember, At Large cscott@bridgeportborough.org

Keith S. Truman

Borough Manager and Secretary (610) 272-1811 (ext. 234)

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kshenk@bridgeportborough.org

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Angela Madle Long

Assistant Borough Manager and Treasurer (610) 272-1811 (ext. 221)

Angela Gear

Assistant to the Borough Manager (610) 272-1811 (ext. 223)

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Chief of Police, Emergency Management Coordinator (610) 272-5660, ext. 123

Steve Wanczyk

Building and Codes Director, Zoning Officer (610) 272-1811 (ext. 248)

Michael Kinsey

Rental Inspection Program Director (610) 272-1811 (ext. 224)

David Lang

Lead Foreman, Public Works (610) 313-3138

Chris Conway

Lead Foreman, Bridgeport WWTP (610) 313-3138

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Borough Solicitor

Salvatore F. Bello, Jr., Esq. Bello, Reilly, McGrory & DiPippo Borough Engineer Edward Woyden, P.E. Gannett Fleming



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FREE TREAT!

Buy any size Italian Ice, get 1 free

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Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church

Saturday Service -6 pm English Divine Liturgy

Sunday Service -

9 am Ukrainian Divine Liturgy **Weekday Services** -7 am Divine Liturgy Livestream Sunday School for all children Pre-School to High School Every Sunday @ 11 am Enroll on Website



Father Ronald Popivchak • 610-272-7035 • www.sspeterpaulukrchurch.us

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Keith J. Murphy Supervisor Funeral Director



Bernard S. Gutkowski Funeral Director

Bernard S. Gutkowski

610-275-6385

305 Jefferson St., Swedesburg, PA 19405 www.gutkowskifuneralhome.com bernardgutkowski@verizon.net







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- Real Estate
- Bankruptcy
- Criminal Law

- Domestic Law/Divorce
- Estate Planning
- Taxation
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- License Suspension/DUI
- Corporate Law
- Administrative & Municipal Law

^{*} Also Admitted in New Jersey