

## BRIDGEPORT LITTLE LEAGUE CELEBRATES 66 YEARS!

Next to the first sight of robins returning to the northeast, nothing signifies that nearing of spring quite like hearing the crack of a bat or the smack of a leather mitt when catching a line drive. This year, Bridgeport Little League will celebrate its 66<sup>th</sup> year of providing youth baseball to the children of Bridgeport and its surrounding areas. Opening Day ceremonies will be taking place on the morning of April 7<sup>th</sup>, and the annual efforts to prepare the fields at Bridgeport Memorial Park for more summer memories are already underway. As always, please keep your ears open on late April evenings for the sound of fire truck sirens, as the fire companies aid Bridgeport Little League in their annual fund drive efforts. New Little League President Dave Dolga would like parents and players to know that Bridgeport Little League offers league play for all children ages 4-18, for all levels of skill. Dolga also made a point to note that this year, Bridgeport Little League has placed an increased focus on providing higher levels of instruction and development to their players, particularly in the younger age groupings. Teaching the fundamentals of baseball to children at a young age is the best way to ensure that kids learn how to play the game right and have a fun time doing it. Registration is still open and interested parents should log onto [bridgeportlittleleague.org](http://bridgeportlittleleague.org) to register their little Chase Utley's online!

## 2018 MIRAGLIA SCHOLARSHIP ROUND OPENS SOON

Every year, Bridgeport Borough provides a \$2,000 scholarship to a worthy student through the Vincent Miraglia Scholarship. Borough elected officials sacrifice a month of their annual stipend, and the Borough Solicitor and Engineer also make contributions in order to raise the funds. 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, 2018, who are seeking further education that will result in degree, diploma, or certificate. 2018 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.

## BRIDGEPORT REQUESTS GRANT FOR PARKING LOT

March 1 was this year's submission deadline for the Montco 2040 grant program; a funding round open to all Montgomery County municipalities that is administered by the Planning Commission. A highly competitive grant program, 2040 provides maximum awards of up to \$200,000 annually to boroughs and townships in order to complete a variety of projects. Bridgeport's 2018 submission was for the *Town Center Parking Lot & Civic Event Area*, a project that seeks to construct a municipal lot on the property surrounding borough hall at 63 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. This parking lot would also serve as a community gathering place and site for the many events hosted by Bridgeport Borough. This project seeks to aid the borough through both economic and community development. Having a centrally located municipal parking lot should greatly benefit the many businesses in our downtown area that currently suffer from a lack of parking, and also hopefully attract new businesses that will see Bridgeport as a new opportunity. Additionally, it will accentuate how walkable Bridgeport is, and give residents an attractive venue to gather and enjoy community events. Borough administration believes that a project that stands to benefit local business and also increase community pride is very worthy of funding consideration and hopes that the county agrees! Pictured below is an artist rendering of what the *Town Center Parking Lot & Civic Event Area* will look like.



# BOROUGH OF BRIDGEPORT

*NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2018*

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: John Pizza, Ward 3

VICE-PRESIDENT: Howard "Randy" Bennett,  
Ward 1

Tony Heyl, Ward 3

Beth Jacksier, Ward 1

Bill Lawless, Ward 2

William Lawless, Ward 2

Kyle Shenk, At-Large

MAYOR: Mark E. Barbee

Council meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 7:30pm, at Borough Hall, 63 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Keith S. Truman, Borough Manager  
ADMINISTRATION: 610-272-1811  
POLICE DEPARTMENT: 610-272-5660

## **MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **IRS Impersonation Telephone Scams**

A sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be IRS employees, using fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a gift card or wire transfer. Victims may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

#### **Note that the IRS doesn't:**

1. Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
2. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
3. Demand payment without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

## **FROM THE BRIDGEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Designer Bag Bingo, Sunday March 25 at Goodwill Hall.  
Doors open at Noon, begins at 1pm.

Bridgeport Fire Co. #1's Flea Market will be held on Saturday May 19, 9am-1pm. Contact Doris Frymoyer at 610-279-5945 for more information.

Free smoke detectors are always available for residents!  
Contact Steve Wanczyk at 610-272-1811 for more information.

**Residents: Please consider displaying your street address at the rear of your property. It helps first responders immensely!**

## **NEW BRIDGEPORT FIRE TRUCK HAS ARRIVED!**

On January 27, Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department unveiled the new 2018 KME Pumper commissioned by the borough in 2017.



## **TWILIGHT ON THE RIVER**

Twilight on the River is the name of the new riverfront evening market concept that will be coming to Bridgeport in 2018. Developed by a new civic organization called Growing Bridgeport Together, *Twilight* will be more than your average farmer's market. In addition to some traditional market fare, visitors should expect live music and entertainment, a bit of the arts, and fun family activities, with a focus on promoting local artisans and businesses. *Twilight* will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of every month between May and October and run from 4:30pm-8:00pm.

## **2018 BRIDGEPORT CARNIVAL**

Bridgeport Borough would like residents to know that there will again be a Bridgeport Carnival in 2018! Last year's event was a fun and successful one, and we hope to be able to give residents an even better experience this year. This year's carnival will take place June 19-23, and will feature more rides than last year, including rides for some of the bigger kids, like a roller coaster and gravitron! In addition, the borough is extending the nights with live music and beer service from two days to three days, and will still feature a local vendors area featuring great food and gifts from our Bridgeport businesses. If you missed the Bridgeport Carnival in 2017, be sure to make it out in 2018, as it is sure to be five more days of affordable family fun!

## **INTRODUCING OUR NEXT CHIEF OF POLICE**

My name is Mark Shannon and it is my honor and privilege to announce that shortly I will be appointed as your next Chief of Police. As such, I believe it is important to share a bit of who I am and where I come from. I spent the first part of my life growing up in Lower Merion, graduating from Lower Merion High School. I served as a volunteer firefighter with Merion Fire Company in Ardmore, attaining the position of Assistant Chief. Prior to leaving the ranks of the fire company, I joined the New Jersey Air National Guard where I served as a crash rescue firefighter for six years and was honorably discharged at the rank of staff sergeant.

Though I enjoyed serving the community as a firefighter, I always had the desire to be a police officer. For that reason, I entered the police academy when I was 23. After graduating 1<sup>st</sup> in class I was employed by West Chester University as a campus police officer. Shortly thereafter I was hired by the Norristown Police Department in 1986.

During my tenure, I rose to the rank of lieutenant, supervised a patrol unit consisting of 10 officers, oversaw staff services and administrative duties including state accreditation. I hold an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Montgomery County Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management from Eastern University.

On a personal level, my wife Susan is a lifelong resident of the Bridgeport area, and we have lived in Bridgeport and Swedesburg for the past 28 years. We have four children who all attended Bridgeport Elementary School and went on to graduate from Upper Merion High School. They have all participated in local youth sports including Bridgeport Little League. I was an Upper Merion School Board Representative from 2001-2005, representing Region 2 which includes Bridgeport Borough.

I look forward to meeting with the residents of this great town through various meet and greets and other events held throughout the year. I extend a personal invitation to all to feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Open communication is essential to our department being able to better serve you; no question is unimportant.

Sincerely Yours, Mark T. Shannon