

2019 MIRAGLIA SCHOLARSHIP ROUND OPENS SOON

Every year, Bridgeport Borough provides a \$2,000 scholarship to a worthy student through the Vincent Miraglia Scholarship. 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, 2019, who are seeking further education that will result in degree, diploma, or certificate. 2019 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.

NEW BOROUGH SPEAKER SERIES FOCUSES ON MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

On January 24, Bridgeport Borough hosted its first in a series of quarterly speaker engagements focused on shedding more light on mental health concerns, as well as ways to address them. Bridgeport welcomed Jordan Burnham as its first speaker; Jordan is an Upper Merion graduate and a suicide attempt survivor who now speaks publicly in an attempt to remove the stigma surrounding topics like suicide and depression. The event was received extremely well, with over 40 attendees turning out to fill borough hall. We hope to see the same interest in our next speaker event – scheduled for April 3rd. This session will provide QPR training to those who attend. QPR, or “Question, Persuade, and Refer”, is a method of training designed to help concerned friends and family identify symptoms of suicidal thoughts and prevent loved ones from making the attempt. Please check Bridgeport’s Official Facebook page for more details that are soon to come.

WELCOMING ANGELA MADLE LONG

Bridgeport Borough welcomes Angela Madle Long to the borough staff as our new Assistant Borough Manager. Angela replaces Mary Jo Dickinson, who recently retired after 24 years of dedicated service. Angela holds a master’s in public administration from Villanova University, and previously served as finance director for Conshohocken Sewer Authority. Angela lives in Douglassville with her husband, Chris, and enjoys remodeling her home in her spare time. Please join us in welcoming Angela to the Bridgeport family!

FINAL DESIGN OF TOWN CENTER PARKING LOT APPROVED; CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN IN SPRING

At the February 12 meeting of Bridgeport Borough Council, the final design for the Town Center Parking Lot & Civic Event Area was unveiled and approved. This project was awarded \$196,000 in funding through Montgomery County’s 2040 grant program, making Bridgeport the recipient of the largest grant award in 2018. This project will see the construction of a municipal lot on the property surrounding borough hall at 63 West 4th Street. This parking lot would also serve as a community gathering place and site for the many events hosted by Bridgeport Borough. Now that the final design has been approved, Bridgeport must submit the plans to the County for their approval, prior to putting the project out to bid. Bridgeport staff aims to begin construction in early spring and intends to have the project completed prior to the Bridgeport Carnival in June.

TWO NEW COMMITTEES WANT YOUR INPUT!

Bridgeport has created two new committees, both of which encourage public attendance and opinion – the Community Events Committee and the Sustainability Committee. The Community Events Committee helps to coordinate our great events and also brainstorms ideas for new events; while the Sustainability Committee focuses on a vision for a clean renewable energy future and other green initiatives that could be implemented in Bridgeport. Below are the 2019 meeting dates for each.

Community Events Committee: March 4, May 6, July 1, September 9, November 4. Meetings begin at 6:30pm at borough hall.

Sustainability Committee: March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12. Meetings begin at 7:00pm at borough hall.

BRIDGEPORT ENACTS LERTA

Per the auspices of Borough of Bridgeport Ordinance #2018-009, you may be eligible for a property tax exemption on your contemplated or planned **non-residential** improvement or new construction. A LERTA application may be obtained from the Borough of Bridgeport and must be filed with the Borough within sixty days of issuance of a building permit. Please contact Bridgeport Borough offices at 610-272-1811 for more details.



BOROUGH OF BRIDGEPORT

NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2019

BOROUGH COUNCIL

- PRESIDENT:** Kyle Shenk, At Large
- VICE-PRESIDENT:** Howard “Randy” Bennett, Ward 1
- Diane Gundrum, Ward 2
- Tony Heyl, Ward 3
- Beth Jacksier, Ward 1
- Meghan Nolan, Ward 2
- Kim Shronk, Ward 3
- MAYOR:** Mark E. Barbee

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

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

BRIDGEPORT ENACTS INCREASE IN SEWER RATES

Beginning the first quarter of 2019, Bridgeport Borough residents and businesses will experience slight increases in their sewer usage rates. Below, please find the full schedule of increases:

- 1. The residential fixed rate of \$36 (which covers the first 6,000 gallons of usage each quarter) has been raised to \$45.
- 2. The commercial fixed rate of \$80 (which covers the first 6,000 gallons of usage each quarter) has been raised to \$90.
- 3. The minimum usage threshold will remain at 6,000 gallons.
- 4. The charge for usage over the 6,000 gallon minimum has been raised from \$1.38 per 100 gallons to \$1.45 per 100 gallons.

Please understand that the borough does not take rate increases lightly. However, when developing the 2019 budget for the Bridgeport Sewer Fund, a deficit was projected that could not be solved through further cuts in spending. The Sewer Fund faced a similar deficit in 2012, which ultimately led to a large sewer rate increase that year. In 2012, a two-step rate increase proposal was presented to the borough; Step one would allow the borough to balance the 2012 budget, but Step 2 would have allowed for greater flexibility by providing additional revenue the borough needed to undertake massive improvements necessary at the sewer plant. At the time, the borough opted to only adopt Step 1, as this alone resulted in substantial rate increases to residents and business owners and Step 2 was seen as being too much to pass onto residents at one time. The borough was able to provide a balanced budget and deliver a high quality of service from this sewer rate increase for six years, from 2012 to 2018. However, every year since 2012, costs continue to increase while revenues have remained neutral. In order for the borough to continue operating its own sewer treatment facilities, and to responsibly budget for needed repairs and improvements to the system, this increase was necessary. In terms of overall impact to individual account holders, residents with average water usage should expect increases in their quarterly bills in the range of 10 to 13 percent. For example, an average household that uses 12,000 gallons of water per month will see their sewer bill increase from \$118.80 to \$132.00; an increase of \$13.20 or about 11%. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding, and we will continue to strive to deliver the best service possible.

REMINDER: PRIMARIES ON MAY 21ST

Just a reminder to Bridgeport residents – primary elections will be held on May 21st, 2019. Please call borough hall at 610-272-1811 for your ward’s polling location and get out there to vote!

2019 BRIDGEPORT CARNIVAL UPDATE

Ladies and gents, another cold front may be rolling into the Delaware Valley as we speak, but preparations for the 2019 Bridgeport Carnival are already heating up! The 2019 Bridgeport Carnival will be held from June 18-22 this year. So jot it down in your calendars, cancel your vacations, and come enjoy five more days of affordable family fun with us! Like last year, Bridgeport will be hosting a beer garden and live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. We are currently working on booking bands for those nights and have secured two already! Please join us on Thursday night, June 20, as we welcome The Mighty Manatees to the Bridgeport Carnival for the first time. Then be sure to return June 21, as AM Radio returns for their second carnival! Please stay tuned for more updates as we progress toward another fantastic event in June!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: DAVE NASH

David Nash is a 15-year Bridgeport Borough employee; Dave serves as police dispatcher and is also the borough’s IT specialist. Dave, 59, is a third generation Bridgeport resident, hailing from the Second Ward. Dave attended St. Augustine’s Roman Catholic Church as well as St. Augustine’s grade school and Bishop Kenrick High School, graduating in 1977. Dave was a gymnast and ice hockey player. After high school, Nash went to the Philadelphia School of Graphic Arts. Dave is a 3rd degree blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do and has trained in martial arts since 1977, Dave is also proud of the ten years he served with Goodwill Fire Company and Ambulance Service, beginning at age 16. Dave is the proud father of Samantha who was just hired as a Secondary Education/English teacher with a Philadelphia school.

INCREASED BOROUGH TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

*By Salvatore F. Bello, Jr., Esq. and Paul S. Peters III, Esq.
(Article continued on next column)*

The enjoyable spring and summer seasons will be upon us soon. To insure and maintain safety for all borough residents, traffic enforcement within the borough will be

increased. The beautiful weather brings people outdoors and there is a significant increase in pedestrians, runners, and playful children. For these reasons, it is vitally important to follow all speed restrictions, obey traffic controls signals, keep an eye out for pedestrians in the street, and most importantly, **DO NOT TEXT or SEARCH THE INTERNET and DRIVE!** With the increased traffic enforcement comes an increased risk of residents receiving traffic citations and the attendant consequences. The common consequence of a traffic citation is the payment of a fine. However, certain citations may bring with them license “points” or suspension, which may also lead to an increase in insurance rates. Common offenses with “points” include the following:

Red Light Violation	3 points
Improper Passing	3 points
Stop Sign Violation	3 points
Careless Driving	3 points
Reckless Driving	6-month suspension
Leaving Scene of Accident	4 points
No Insurance	90-day suspension
Speeding:	
6-10 mph over	2 points
11-15 mph over	3 points
16-25 mph over	4 points
26-30 mph over	5 points
31+ mph over	5 points and other sanctions
11+ in Work Zone	15-day suspension
School Zone	3 points; 60-day suspension for 2nd offense

The accumulation of points may lead to a license suspension or require retaking and passing the driver’s license exam. With the nice weather bringing residents outside, the biggest fear is a pedestrian or child being injured by a car. If you find yourself in the horrific situation of impacting someone with your vehicle, while the fear and anxiety involved may lead you to just want to drive away, that would be the worst decision you can make. Most accidents with pedestrians are that, “accidents.” Situations for which you have car insurance and will not involve any criminal charges. Even if the situation is an accident, once you flee it then becomes a crime. Therefore, always stop in the situation of an accident with a pedestrian, or another vehicle, to help, render aid, or call for a first responder and provide the proper information to the police for insurance purposes. We wish all borough residents wonderful, fun, and safe Spring and Summer seasons.