

BOROUGH COUNCIL VACANCY, WARD 1

At the February 11 meeting of Bridgeport Borough Council, Miss Beth Jacksier, Ward 1, announced her resignation from Borough Council. Miss Jacksier noted that she will be moving in with her partner, who lives in a different borough ward, thus making her unable to serve the residents of her current Ward 1. If any residents of Ward 1 are interested in pursuing this seat, please send a letter of interest, including name, address, background, and why you are interested, to ktruman@bridgeportborough.org.

POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW OFFICER

At the February 11 meeting of Bridgeport Borough Council, Spencer Ellers was hired as the newest member of Bridgeport Police Department. Ellers, 29, is a native of Haverford Township, a 2013 graduate of St. Andrews University in Scotland, and a 2019 graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy. Ellers will be joining the BPD ranks as a part time police officer, so please, join us in welcoming Officer Spencer Ellers on board!

SAYING GOODBYE TO LONG TIME BPD OFFICER

Come Spring of 2020, Bridgeport Police Department will be saying goodbye to Sergeant Gerald Cunnane. Sgt. Cunnane, of Upper Merion, has been a full-time member of the Bridgeport Police Department since 1992, marking 2020 as his 28th year on the force. Sgt. Cunnane, or Jerry, has been a dedicated and consistent leader in the department for nearly three decades, and the community will surely miss him. Please join us in wishing Jerry much success in his retirement!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS COMING IN 2020!

Bridgeport Borough is excited to announce that beginning in 2020, the borough will begin hosting "Family Movie Nights" in the Town Center Parking Lot! 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! While full details are still being worked out, the plan is to hold these movie nights at least once a month, on a Friday or Saturday evening, during the warmer weather months – likely May to September. Bridgeport is proud to be able to offer another addition to its growing lineup of community events and encourages residents to stay tuned for more details in the coming months!

TRASH RATE INCREASE FOR 2020

As many residents are already aware, Bridgeport Borough's trash and recycling collection/disposal contract with J.P. Mascaro & Sons expired in December 2019. This required the Borough to undergo the bid process in late 2019, which allowed regional waste haulers to submit a proposal for consideration. Whenever municipalities undertake the bid process, the hope is always that it results in multiple competitive proposals from an array of contractors or vendors. However, in this case, Bridgeport received only one bid for collection services: again, from J.P. Mascaro & Sons.

Mascaro was required to provide the Borough with two separate collection options, as well as two separate contract terms – Option 1 involved twice weekly trash collection and once weekly recycling, and Option 2 involved once weekly trash and recycling collection. Both options also required a proposal for a 3 year and 5 year contract. Borough Council required this in response to requests from residents to explore going back to twice weekly trash collection. Upon receiving Mascaro's proposals, Borough officials were met with cost estimates that dwarfed the previous contract. Option 2, which involved twice weekly collection, would have cost anywhere from \$170,000-\$300,000 greater annually than the 2019 contracted cost, and therefore was determined to not be a reasonable option. Even Option 1, which kept the same collection frequency as our 2019 contract, was going to result in an increase of \$109,000 in the first year of the new contract (2020), and \$117,000 greater by the third year of the contract (2022). Despite these increases, this 3 year contract, being the most cost effective, was the option ultimately selected by Borough Council.

As a result of the large increase in collection expense, Borough Council made the difficult decision to increase residential trash rates, beginning the first quarter of 2020. As of 2020, residential trash rates have increased from \$73 per quarter (\$292/year), to \$80 per quarter (\$320/year); an annual increase of \$28. Borough Council did not make this decision lightly; unfortunately, solid waste disposal and recycling processing expenses have increased immensely in the past decade, and coupled with having fewer countries presently that accept U.S. recyclables, all of this has resulted in an unavoidable rate increase for municipalities across the country.



BOROUGH OF BRIDGEPORT

NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2020

BOROUGH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Kyle Shenk, Ward 3

VICE-PRESIDENT: Tony Heyl, Ward 3

James Fee, Ward 1

Diane Gundrum, Ward 2

Meghan Nolan, Ward 2

Cory Scott, At-Large

Vacant, Ward 1

MAYOR: Mark Barbee

Keith S. Truman, Borough Manager

Todd Bereda, Chief of Police

Salvatore F. Bello, Jr., Borough Solicitor

Edward Woyden, Borough Engineer

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.

ADMINISTRATION: 610-272-1811

POLICE DEPARTMENT: 610-272-5660

MUFFINS CLOSES AFTER 43 YEARS OF SERVICE

If you made it out to the Council Meeting on the night of January 28 and saw the “standing room only” crowd, you quickly understood that something special was about to happen. At the January 28 Borough Council Meeting, residents had an opportunity to do something they don't always get – personally say goodbye to a business owner that has decided to close their shop.

Borough Council and the Bridgeport Business Association held a presentation to acknowledge and thank Brian and Tina Foley, owners of Muffins Restaurant, who decided in December 2019 that 43 years was the perfect time to start enjoying retirement. Having opened Muffins in 1977, Brian and Tina have been a staple in the community for over four decades. Multiple generations of Bridgeport residents have staked a claim at their favorite booth or hunkered down at the kitchen counter, watching Brian and Tina do their thing - carefully cooking each order like it was for their own family, and quickly getting the meals to their eagerly awaiting customers with a smile and a fair price.

As Council President Kyle Shenk read a tearful tribute to the Foleys and presented them with a Community Achievement Award, dozens of audience members shouted out their favorite orders to the flattered Foley family. To those who knew Muffins, it was a cornerstone to the community; an establishment that was always going to be there. Sadly, everything comes to an end, and in this case, the story has a happy ending. Brian and Tina are retiring on their own terms and have many years ahead of them to enjoy the retired life. We can only hope that whoever moves into their storefront can be half as friendly, fair and reliable as Muffins and The Foleys.



COMMUNITY EVENT: QPR TRAINING – MARCH 18

On Wednesday, March 18, Bridgeport Borough will be hosting its second QPR training session in Borough Hall, from 6:30pm-8pm. QPR, or Question, Persuade, & Refer is the acronym given to the three simple steps that can be used to detect the warning signs of suicidal thoughts and provide the connections to help avoid an actual attempt. In 2019, the Bridgeport Borough Community Events Committee began a series of quarterly speaker and training sessions focused on mental health awareness. The 2019 QPR event was so well attended that the decision to hold another training session this year. Attendance is free but space is limited, so please visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/116784136405505/> to find out how to reserve your seat!

TWILIGHT ON THE RIVER CHANGES VENUES IN 2020

2020 will mark the 3rd year of existence for Twilight on the River – the open air evening market Bridgeport has hosted in Rotondo Riverfront Park in both 2018 and 2019. However, those visiting “Twilight” this year will be in for a change of scenery. In a move that is considered temporary in nature, Twilight on the River will be held at the Borough Hall parking lot in 2020 due to county road construction. Later this year, Montgomery County is scheduled to begin construction on the Chester Valley Trail; a biking and walking trail that connects Chester County's Struble Trail to Montgomery County's Schuylkill River Trail. A large portion of this project is located in Bridgeport, as the trail will run along side of DeKalb Street (Route 202), and the fear of Growing Bridgeport Together (GBT), who operates “Twilight”, is that the road construction and traffic will make it difficult for both vendors and visitors to access the Rotondo Riverfront Park location. Both Bridgeport Borough and GBT are hopeful that a change in location not only avoids a potential traffic jam, but also that being situated right on Bridgeport's “Main Street” brings the event better exposure to traffic and visitors. Below are the 2020 dates for Twilight on the River, which is held from 4:30pm to 8pm:

May 13	May 27	June 10
June 24	July 8	July 22
August 12	August 26	September 9
	September 23	

2020 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, 2020, who are seeking further education that will result in degree, diploma, or certificate. 2020 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.

2020 BRIDGEPORT CARNIVAL LINEUP ANNOUNCED!

Keep June 16-20 open on your calendar, as the Bridgeport Carnival will return for its fourth year in 2020, and with it another five days of affordable fun for the whole family. Swikas Amusements will again operate the Carnival, and this year 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, so stay tuned to Facebook and the Borough website for updates on when they go on sale. In addition to the Carnival midway, Bridgeport Borough will also host the local vendors area on the other side of Fourth Street, where our beer garden and bandstand are located. And once again, we will have four amazing local bands on display for your listening pleasure:

June 16: Emmanuel Ohemeng & Perpetual Motion

June 18: The Mighty Manatees

June 19: AM Radio

June 20: Allen Reynolds Band

BOROUGH TO PURCHASE NEW STREET SWEEPER

Bridgeport Borough Council adopted the 2020 Budget in December of 2019. As part of this process, Council authorized the capital purchase of a new street sweeper in 2020. The previous street sweeper, a 1996 Ford, was disposed of last year, as it was frequently breaking down and was no longer cleaning the streets to our standards. So, some time in the Spring of 2020, the Borough will be taking ownership of a new Ravo sweeper; a state of the art machine that will allow the Borough to effectively stay on top of the cleanliness of borough streets. Keep an eye out for it when you are driving through town!