



## BOYERTOWN BOROUGH NEWSLETTER – November 2018

The Borough of Boyertown  
100 South Washington Street, Boyertown, PA 19512  
610-369-3028 [www.boyertownborough.org](http://www.boyertownborough.org)



### **News from our Boyertown Police Chief Barry Leatherman ~**

**New headquarters update –** The police department anxiously anticipates moving to our new building at 16 W. Phila Ave in the first quarter of 2019. The new building is currently under renovation, and when completed will better accommodate the many functions of a modern police department, taking into account the safety and comfort of visitors as well as the needs of the police. Some of the functional features the building will include is a lobby and reception area with seating, a public restroom, and adjacent interview room; a two-bay garage where patrol vehicles can be kept weather protected, and impounded vehicles with evidentiary value can be securely stored and processed; locker rooms and decontamination facilities; evidence processing and storage areas; and a multi-purpose meeting and training room. The building is also intended to serve as the joint EOC (Emergency Operations Center) for Boyertown and Colebrookdale Emergency Management, and is fully served by a stand-by generator. We thank and applaud Mayor Deery and Borough Council for the leadership and vision to realize the necessity of these improvements in order to continue performing the many functions of policing in a safe and efficient way in our changing society.

**Merger update –** The Borough and neighboring Colebrookdale Township continue to jointly explore and pursue the concept of merging our two police departments into a single, regional police force to serve the combined area. Because of our small sizes, the two existing departments already rely heavily on one another. We believe combining to work as a single entity under one structure would allow us to improve distribution of personnel, increase unity of purpose and effectiveness across the greater local community, and reduce duplication and inefficiencies. There are administrative hurdles that are complex and time consuming, but which must be resolved in order to bring this goal to a reality. In the interim, we continue exploring ways we can gradually integrate and increase inter-departmental cooperation. Full integration, if possible, would likely be toward the latter part of 2019. Anyone with questions, concerns or suggestions is invited to contact the Chief at 610-369-3033.

**Parking reminders –** We want to remind the community to please observe the various time limit parking restrictions in the one and three hour sections of the Town Center lot, the Residential Parking zones, and the downtown metered parking. Please remember that some meters serve two spaces - look for signs and instructions on the meters. Although these time limits and restrictions may seem inconvenient to users at the time, they are really a best effort by the Borough to manage available parking in a manner that maximizes its use for the greatest benefit, and to prevent abuses such as long term parking in heavy use areas. Revenue generated from meter fees, and fines from parking tickets helps to offset the cost of maintenance, infrastructure, and enforcement for these parking management initiatives. Private parking lot use restrictions are at the discretion of the property owner, but are enforced by the police upon request if lots are adequately posted.

In addition to patrolling the Borough and responding to calls for service 24/7/365, the Borough's police force of seven full-time members investigates reports of crime to the extent reasonably possible, and is also very active in helping to provide for the safety and traffic management needs of the many special events in town throughout the year. We are also happy to address groups in the community on policing and safety related topics. Please call the Chief at 610-369-3033 with those requests. And finally we encourage citizens to call the police immediately to report any type of crime or suspicious activity. Many times, people call the next day or hours later, when it is often too late for officers to identify and question individuals who may have been involved, or to investigate actual circumstances as they were occurring. Call 911 in an emergency. For non-emergency requests we can be reached through the county dispatch center at 1-800-372-9111, or for calls not requiring a prompt response, our office phone is 610-369-3050. If in doubt, call 911.

**Historical Society Holiday Tour**, Hosted by the Historical Society, Boyertown's holiday season begins on Friday, December 7th with the Boyertown Holiday Open House Tour which runs from 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. featuring homes, historic buildings, and an assortment of businesses in the Borough of Boyertown. Tickets are sold at Twin Turrets Inn, and the Boyertown Area Historical Society. The tour begins at the Boyertown Area Historical Society, 43 South Chestnut Street, where maps of the tour are to be provided. Trolleys and Buses run throughout the evening affording patrons a ride and a stop at every location.



Join Building a Better Boyertown for Santa's arrival for **Chillin' on Main** scheduled on Saturday December 8th, from 11am to 2pm, for a day of family activities right on Philadelphia Avenue, Boyertown. (Philadelphia Avenue will be closed from Reading Avenue to Chestnut Street 10am-3pm). Santa, Mrs Claus and their friends will be arriving on East Philadelphia Avenue at 11 am from the North Pole via the Colebrookdale Railroad. Enjoy a day of family activities and do a little Christmas shopping! Be sure to come early to get in line for your visit with Santa and receive a free 4" x 6" color photograph compliments of Building A Better Boyertown.



Don't miss Santa's workshop, games crafts, and activities provided by participating local businesses and non-profits on your favorite Main Street. We'll be rocking around the Christmas Tree with holiday music and announcements during the event. Enjoy treats like reindeer food, hot chocolate, and lots of cookies to be handed out by the volunteers of Building A Better Boyertown. Parking will be available in the Town Center Parking lot, along the streets, and in the lots of Good Shepherd and St. John's Church and The Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. There will be face painting, a Santa's workshop, interactive activities, entertainment, story time, and more. Come out and join the fun! (Minimal fee for some activities)

For more information about these event and other Boyertown activities please visit [www.boyertownpa.org](http://www.boyertownpa.org) or contact Building a Better Boyertown, [assistant@boyertownpa.org](mailto:assistant@boyertownpa.org) 610-369-3054. For vendor information please contact [promotions@boyertownpa.org](mailto:promotions@boyertownpa.org)

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**Calendar of Events**

- Tuesday, November 6 – Election Day
- Tuesday, Nov 20, 7PM – Public Works, Public Utilities and House Committee
- Thursday, Nov 22, 8AM – Boyertown Wellness Council "Turkey Trot" in the Community Park Portions of E Phila Ave will be closed until 10:15AM for the safety of the runners.
- Wednesday, Nov 28, 7PM – Police, Finance, Public Communication Committee Meetings
- Monday, December 3, 7PM – Borough Council
- Friday, December 7 – Holiday Open House Tour
- Saturday, December 8, 11AM-2PM – Chillin' on Main (street closed 10AM – 3PM)

**LEAF PICK-UP PROGRAM**



Leaves will be picked up in the borough through Friday, December 7 using the following schedule:

- MONDAY & TUESDAY - west of the railroad tracks
- WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY - East of the tracks
- FRIDAY – make-up day

**ALL LEAVES MUST BE RAKED TO THE CURB/ INTO THE GUTTER – NO GRASS CLIPPINGS OR BRANCHES. LEAVES ONLY!**

*No cars parked at curbs on pick-up days*

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Please be advised that grass clippings are not to be blown into the borough streets or right of way during the leaf collection time or at any time during grass cutting season.



The Colebrookdale Railroad is celebrating! On Friday, October 5, Senator Bob Mensch announced that the railroad is to receive a state grant for \$1.5 million, which will help pay for a brand new Welcome Center at the rail yard. Mensch was joined by State Rep. David Maloney, Boyertown Mayor Marianne Deery, Berks County Commissioners' Chairman Christian Leinbach, and Nathaniel Guest, executive director of the Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust.

The funds awarded to the railroad are made available through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. The Welcome Center will enable the railroad to safely board passengers, attend to their needs, and direct them to the community. The welcome center will also provide a place for organizations to meet and hold community events. The facility will connect rail, pedestrian, automobile, and bicycle modes of transportation, with an emphasis on getting people out of their cars to explore the town on foot and on bike.

"We are grateful to Senator Mensch and our other elected officials for helping to make this regional amenity a reality," said Guest. "Their forward-thinking leadership is creating a stronger and more sustainable economy than we've seen in many years. I applaud them for working with us using Pennsylvania's unique historic resources like the Colebrookdale Railroad to create jobs and secure investment in our communities."

On another note, you may notice that the "blue bins" are no longer in the rail yard. These bins were contracted to be carried to another train site. As a freight train, there is an obligation to accept these requests. An out of town loading area is being researched for future opportunities. If you do have questions on the progress of the train yard, please feel free to call at 610-367-0200.

Be sure to select one or more of the upcoming excursions this fall and Christmas season. The railroad offers nearly two-hour expeditions into the Secret Valley, one of the most scenic and historic regions in the northeast. There are wine tours, bon-fire tours, meal excursions and many holiday packages available. What a great family outing or holiday gift. Check out their website for more details at [www.colebrookdalerailroad.com](http://www.colebrookdalerailroad.com)

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE PARK? ~

BOYERTOWN COMMUNITY PARK  
FRANKLIN STREET PARK  
WASHINGTON STREET PARK



The water at the bath houses and the new Dog Water Fountain is turned off for the winter. The pool is closed but the playgrounds, exercise areas, disc golf and walking trails are open all winter, as long as it is safe during any snow or storms.

It is all of our responsibility to keep our parks clean and protected all year long. See you again in the spring!

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A medication drop box is available in the main office of Boyertown Borough Hall for disposal of unused and expired medication. Prescription medications in standard containers or a sealed bag, over the counter medications and liquid medications in plastic are accepted during normal business hours. The box does not accept loose pills, syringes, thermometers, bloody or infectious waste, medication from businesses, hydrogen peroxide or other cleaning agents, aerosol cans and inhalers.

## Winter Time Pollution Prevention

Water pollution and conservation are important issues during the spring and summer months; however, there are many things that we can do during the winter months that will help reduce water pollution and help conserve water. Below are three topics with several tips on how to make a difference this winter:

### 1. Too Much Salt

When the snow and ice melt after a winter storm, the water flow will take with it anything that it collects on the ground and wash it down storm drains. This means that melting ice will carry the deicer materials that we use to clear our driveways and walkways down storm drains and into local waterways. The chlorides that make up the deicers can harm aquatic wildlife, affect nearby plant growth in your yard, and can remain trapped in your soils. Luckily there are alternatives to conventional rock salt deicers that are easy to purchase and will also help in keeping our pathways safe! Here are some helpful tips that will keep your pavements clear and local streams cleaner!



- ❖ Removing freshly fallen snow before it has a chance to freeze and harden into ice is one of the more effective ways of keeping your pavements clear. Deicers work better when there is only a thin layer of ice or snow.
- ❖ If you are using traditional rock salt, the recommended application is a **handful for one square yard**. Using more salt than this will not make the ice melt faster; it will only end up costing you more money and the salt will be washed away by the stormwater!
- ❖ Pay attention to the type of deicer material your applying so that you reduce the risk of damaging your sidewalk and driveway.
- ❖ Mixing sand in with the deicer will also aid in melting the snow and ice and allow you to cut back on the amount of rock salt that is being used. Sand and regular brand kitty litter will also add traction to the surface as well. **But remember, if there is left over sand and kitty litter on your walkway or driveway, then use a broom to clean it up. Using a hose to wash the sand and kitty litter away will push the material into nearby storm drains and potentially cause a clog or back-up of the drains, so put that broom to work! \*Fertilizer is not an appropriate substitution for any of the above materials\***

### 2. Losing Water

Bursting pipes in the winter time can cause a strain on water supply levels and also on a homeowner's wallet. By preventing pipe bursts and water loss now, you can help conserve water and money!

- ❖ If you have outside spigots, turn them off during the winter months to prevent them from bursting due to the cold temperatures.
- ❖ You may be able to turn the spigots off by an inside valve, and then drain the remaining water from the pipes.
- ❖ Make sure that your water pipes are insulated properly and check for leaky pipes now before freezing temperatures arrive.

### 3. Household Hazardous Waste

It is important to dispose and use our cleaning products appropriately. The water that goes down your sink drain also carries residues from your home, and many harsh household chemicals are not removed by sewage-treatment or septic systems.

Household Hazardous Waste is any household product which is labeled:

**CAUTION, DANGER, FLAMMABLE, EXPLOSIVE, TOXIC, WARNING, CORROSIVE, POISON and VOLATILE** or a combination of these characteristics

Here are a few things that will help reduce these problems with household chemicals:

- ❖ Read your labels and know what is in the product before using it.
- ❖ Consider using products that are "environmentally friendly." These products will advertise that they do not contain phosphates, chlorine, ammonia, etc. **(all of which contribute to water pollution)**
- ❖ Store household chemicals in a dry area with the lids secured tightly.
- ❖ Use only the recommended amount of the product.
- ❖ Never dispose of chemicals in storm drains **(they lead directly to nearby rivers)**.
- ❖ When disposing of household chemicals, check to see if there are special instructions and/or collection sites for your convenience. In Berks County, the Berks County Solid Waste Authority hosts Household Hazardous Waste Collections in the Spring and Fall to help homeowners dispose of Household chemicals. For additional info, please visit the Berks County Solid Waste Authority website at <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/swa/Pages/default.aspx> or call 610-478-6362. **(This article is compliments of the Berks County MS4 Steering Committee and Cooperative Education Program. For additional information please visit <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/MS4%20Cooperative%20Education%20Program.aspx> )**