



# BOYERTOWN BOROUGH NEWSLETTER – December 2019

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 ~

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 early part of 2020. Anyone with questions, concerns or suggestions is invited to contact the Chief at 610-369-3033.

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More than just books.....As winter approaches, the Boyertown Community Library (BCL) is a great resource for community members looking for indoor activities. BCL is part of the Berks County Library System, therefore, books, DVDs, audiobooks or magazines that may not be on our shelves can be ordered from one of the other county libraries and delivered to Boyertown.

BCL offers a variety of digital resources as well, so it is possible not to have to leave home. E-books and e-audiobooks are available using Overdrive or the Libby App. Also, BCL currently subscribes to RB Digital, Lynda.com, and CreativeBug.

RB Digital gives patrons access to hundreds of e-audiobook titles for adults, teens and children. Simply download the RB Digital mobile app from your device’s play store, create an account using your library card number and pin, and you are ready to listen.



CreativeBug is as fun as it sounds. This app, owned by Jo-Ann Fabric, has thousands of crafting videos available for patrons to view from anywhere! Professionals will teach you how to knit, paint, sew, and more with high quality step-by-step videos.

Lynda.com, owned by LinkedIn, is an “online learning platform that helps anyone learn business, software, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals.” This amazing resource can help a person to sharpen skills or learn new skills to re-enter the job force or to change careers. Links to all of the above can be found on the library [website](#). Programs for children, teens and adults will continue throughout the winter, weather permitting.

Lapsit, Toddler and Preschool Story Times happen each week on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have after school drop-ins including Youth Chess Club and teen after hours programs. Saturday family activities are planned, with varied themes each month. Please check the website for details.

Book Clubs, adult crafting and painting programs take place monthly, and Scrabble Clubs meet every Thursday at 10am. All events can be found on our [website](#), on [Facebook](#), or you can receive weekly emails by [subscribing](#) to our newsletter.

## Calendar of Events

Friday, December 6 – Holiday Open House Tour  
3PM – 9PM. Tour begins at the Boyertown Area  
Historical Society at 43 S Chestnut St.

Saturday, December , 11AM-2PM – Santa Claus  
comes to town! Chillin' on Main (street closed  
10AM – 3PM)

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### 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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All property owners,  
occupants or tenant of every  
property in the Borough is  
required to remove the snow,  
ice, hail or sleet from the  
sidewalks within 24 hours of the cessation of  
the precipitation. A path of at least three feet  
is required. Please consider the safety of the  
students that walk to school. Also, please  
remember that it is unlawful to put the snow,  
ice, hail or sleet into the street. It is also  
important that you shovel the snow from  
around the fire hydrants located near your  
home!

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A Holiday Reminder: Buzzed driving is  
drunk driving. Keep your holidays merry and  
bright – don't drink and drive!

The members of the Borough of Boyertown  
Borough Council and committees and staff  
would like to wish our friends and neighbors  
in the Borough a very  
Happy Holiday and a safe,  
healthy and prosperous  
New Year!!



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The **school bus** is the safest vehicle on the  
road—your child is much safer taking  
a **bus** to and from **school** than traveling by  
car. ... NHTSA believes **school buses** should  
be as **safe** as possible. That's why  
**safety** standards for **school buses** are above  
and beyond those for regular **buses**. School  
buses are protected incredibly well under U.S.  
traffic law, and for good reason: we trust  
these vehicles to transport our kids safely to  
and from schools. Without proper laws and  
standards in place to protect school buses,  
we would be putting  
children in immense  
potential harm.



This is especially true  
during the boarding and offboarding of  
passengers at bus stops, where the most  
important school bus safety rule is enforced. If  
a school bus is at a full stop with stop signs  
out and lights blaring, it means **STOP!** This is  
the most crucial point in school bus safety, as  
kids are exiting and entering the bus, and  
they may not be aware of other vehicles on  
the road. When even adults have issues with  
looking both ways before crossing the street,  
it's no surprise that children have problems  
remembering that as well.

As many children in the Borough walk to and  
from school each day, we  
also want to remind you to  
drive carefully and watch for  
the students. Obey speed  
limits, follow stop sign and  
stop light direction, watch for pedestrians and  
stay alert! Do not be distracted by your  
passengers, radio or phone.



## 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 you are 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. Loosing 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.



Flammable



Corrosive



Toxic



Explosive

### 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 information 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 complements 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> )**