



Winter



December, 2015

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA **“The Garden Spot of the Lebanon Valley”**

Robesonia Borough Hall: 75 South Brooke Street Robesonia, PA 19551

Phone: (610) 693-3474 **Fax:** (610) 693-5799 **E-mail:** RobesoniaBorough@comcast.net

Website: www.robsoniaboro.org Like us on Facebook!

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Friday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

MAYOR: Randy Gartner

2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Abby Wertz, President
Rodney Soliday
William Langjahr, Jr.
Frank Schnee

Harvey Marshall, Vice President
Vernon Bright
Tony Wirebach
Grayson Ziegler, Jr. Council Member

MANAGER: Lisa Heilman

STREETS & MAINTENANCE: Garry Degler

TAX COLLECTOR: Marshall Reynolds, (610)693-6640

ENGINEER: David Bright, SSM (610)621-2000

SOLICITOR: Andrew George, Kozloff-Stoudt (610)670-2552

PLUMBING , BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, ACCESSIBILITY INSPECTOR :

Comprehensive Inspection Agency, Jerry Farro: (570)385-3010

ZONING OFFICER: Nancy Johnson, Technicon Enterprises, Inc. II

ASSISTANT ZONING OFFICER: Frank Schnee, 610-693-5457

(Simple zoning permits for sheds, fences, pools)

ROBESONIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY – (610) 693-3264

Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM,

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Mike Palm

EMERGENCIES: 911

BERKS RADIO(Non-Emergency): 610-655-4911

Borough Council Meetings

1st Monday of the Month

7:30 PM at the Borough Hall

*The officials of the Borough of Robesonia **WELCOME** all the new families that have chosen Robesonia as their place of residence. We hope you will support our Borough and use its many facilities.*

At the Borough Hall you can:

Pay your sewer and trash bills, apply for building and zoning permits, pick up voter registration forms, Borough maps and dog license applications. The Borough issues one recycling container per property. We do not replace stolen or lost lids or wheels. **If you move from the property, the recycling container must remain there.** Trash pick-up is every Monday. Recycling pick-up is every Thursday. Large or bulk items may be contracted separately with Kreitzer Sanitation at 1-866-573-4893.



THE MAYOR'S MUSINGS
Mayor Randy Gartner

I would like to thank Trinity Lutheran Church and all those involved in this year's Jack Frost Parade for another great parade. This parade just keeps getting better and is a really nice, community-friendly event.

I would also like to thank everyone who came out and supported the Burger and Cheese Steak Night put on by the Robesonian Fair Committee. The Street Fair and Fireworks cost a considerable amount of money to put on and it is only through your support at events like these, and at the street fair, that allow us to continue to provide them.

The Friends of the Robesonian Furnace have a great museum! If you'd like a tour of the museum or the furnace ruins, please feel free to contact me at 484-955-7381 to schedule a time for you or your organization.

My wife, Lisa, and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A REMINDER TO TAXPAYERS

Hello fellow Borough residents! The end of the year is almost here and all regular 2015 taxes – County, School and Per Capita are now in the 10% penalty phase due no later than December 31, 2015. After December 31, all unpaid bills are sent to a collection agency and I cannot accept any 2015 payments once this is done.


I have one final sitting day at my home on December 30, 2015 from 10 AM to Noon. You can also mail your payment or drop it in the lock box by my office door. If you want a receipt for your payment, please include at self-addressed and stamped envelope.

It has been a good year and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in the spring. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Marshall Reynolds
 276 S. Church St.
 Robesonian, PA 19551
 Tax Collector
 610-693-6640

THE WORD ON THE STREETS.....

Streets Supervisor
 Garry Degler



Winter is quickly approaching and with it comes winter weather. Your patience during snow removal operations is greatly appreciated! **When opening up your driveways, please do the minimum until the plows are finished on your street. Dig only a hole to get out of your driveway and finish after the plow is done cleaning your street so you don't have to do it twice.** If we work together, we can all work smarter, not harder.

Snow Removal

- A. As in the past, the Streets Department will keep the roads passable during the nighttime hours and clear the streets where no vehicles are parked. During the daytime hours, the snow will be pushed back to the curb and the roads will be widened. Please move your vehicles to a cleared side or cleared road and have a little patience. They're working as fast as they can!
- B. The Mayor has the power to declare a snow or ice emergency. Notice will be given through the media.
 - 1. The Borough has declared the following streets as Snow Emergency Routes
 - a. East and West Penn Avenues
 - b. North and South Church Streets
 - 2. No vehicles are allowed to be parked on any snow emergency route during a declared snow or ice emergency. The Borough playground will be cleared and available for parking during a snow emergency.
 - 3. Snow tires or chains must be used on snow emergency routes.
- C. The Police Department will have any vehicles towed that are in violation of the snow removal ordinance. You will also be cited with fines as high as \$300.00 plus the cost of towing and storing your vehicle.

D. No one is permitted to shovel, push, throw or plow snow from any sidewalk, driveway, parking lot or any other area into the street. If you do, it will be put back from where it came!!

Snow and Ice Removal from Sidewalk

All snow and ice must be removed from your sidewalks **within 24 hours** after the snow has stopped falling or the ice has stopped forming. There is a fine of not more than \$300.00 plus the cost of prosecution for those who do not comply with the ordinance.

If you plan on traveling during the winter, make sure you make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to clear your sidewalks and, if necessary, to move your car.



WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Bill Schlichter

With the winter months approaching us here are some helpful hints to stay safe while driving:

- Make sure your vehicle is free of snow and ice before operating on highway.
 - Please allow yourself extra time when traveling on snow covering roadways to your destination.
 - Please make sure you have good tire tread on all of your vehicles.
 - Maintain a safe distance between you and the vehicle you are following in case of sudden stopping.
 - Driving at a slower speed in inclement conditions is much safer.
 - Please be aware of snow emergency routes.

Here are some tips for home safety during the holidays:

- We all want our homes to reflect the joy of the season, but avoid displaying gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- Arrange to have packages delivered to a neighbor if you're not home to receive them.
- Packages left on porches or doorsteps are "easy picking" for thieves. It also draws unwanted attention to your home.
- Consider simple outside decorations. Elaborate or large lawn pieces are often stolen right out of the lawn.
- Be sure not to obscure the view from your windows. You need a clear view of your property.
- Always lock your home's doors and windows, even if you're only gone for a few minutes.
- Compact or dispose of packaging discreetly. Often criminals will spot something you've discarded and can target you for their next burglary or theft.
- When leaving town, have a trusted friend or neighbor take care of your home.
- Notify your local police when you're planning an extended absence. You can obtain a vacation watch form from the Western Berks Regional Police Department to check your home in your absence.

Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts, so be cautious when accepting a package.

- It's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be

used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.

The Western Berks Regional Police Department operates 24/7 and in an emergency dial 911. For non-emergency calls, you can contact Berks County Dispatch at 610-655-4911. It's important to report any crime or suspicious activity immediately to your local police.

From all of us here at Western Berks Regional Police Department, we would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.



**NOTEWORTHY NEWS
FROM YOUR LIBRARY**

Winter 2015-2016 Activities

Regular Activities:

1st Monday LEGO Night @ 6:30 pm

2nd Monday Craft Night @ 6:30 pm

In December Santa will be visiting, January will feature an activity based on books by Eric Carle and for February there will be a Valentine themed craft!

3rd Monday Book Club @ 6:30 pm

December book club will be our Second Annual Cookie Exchange, No Book Club in January, February a new selection The Newbery Medal Winner The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate will begin!

4th Monday Family Movie Night @ 6:00 pm Movie selections to be announced by the first of each month.

Tuesdays @ 10:00 am Baby Storytime

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am Storyrider

Thursdays @ 10:30 am Preschool Storytime

Special Activities:

December 14th @ 6:30 pm Santa Visit

December 21st @ 6:30 pm Cookie Exchange- please sign up in the library, we ask that each family bring 2 dozen cookies!

January 14th @ 10:30 am Scrubby Bear visits

The **2016 One Book, One Community** selection is Gaining Ground by Forrest Pritchard. Extra copies are

available for checkout! Adult activities relating to the book will begin in February!!

Holiday Closures:

December 24th & 25th CLOSED for Christmas

December 31st & January 1st CLOSED for New Year's

January 18th CLOSED for Martin Luther King Day

February 15th CLOSED President's Day

Friends of

Robesonia Community Library

The Friends of the Robesonia Community Library is a non-profit voluntary organization to promote and support the Robesonia Community Library.

The following officers were installed at the Annual Public meeting in October: President – Peg Henderson; Vice President – Connie Aker; Secretary - Loretta Schneck; Treasurer – Leslie Pirl-Roth.

The Friends hold various events during the year to raise funds for the Library. These events are comprised of two book sales as well as a special fundraiser. Our special fundraisers in the past have been: the Radio City Christmas Spectacular; Mount Vernon visit; Jersey Boys play; Washington DC; Twin Towers memorial and Winterthur. We are hoping to run a trip to NYC in the fall of 2016. Watch for our posters for our fundraiser trip...

Our Spring "Books, Botanicals and Baked Goods" Sale will take place Saturday, May 7th from 9 to 1. Our meetings are held on Tuesdays nights at 7pm on the following dates: February 23, March 22, April 26, May 24, August 23, September 27, and October 25 (ALL at the Borough Hall Main Meeting Room). Please come and support our wonderful library! If you are interested in becoming a Friend, contact the Robesonia Library for additional information or email Peg at juncofan@yahoo.com.

**ROBESONIA SWIMMING POOL
ASSOCIATION**

It's never too early to start thinking about summer..... and a refreshing dip in your friendly neighborhood pool. The Robesonia Swimming Pool has been serving the community since the early 1960's and has been enjoyed by several generations of families in the Robesonia area.

The Robesonia Swimming Pool Association is a privately run organization. What that means is that the pool is owned by the pool members, operated by a board of volunteer members, and receives no formal financial support from any municipality. Being a privately run pool has its benefits. Our pool is free from the somewhat tedious decision-making process of local government and won't be the victim of a funding or budget cut. The Robesonia Pool is funded using membership fees, guest fees, fundraisers, and donations of time and money. However, in some years, it can be difficult to cover all of the operating costs, especially during cool or rainy weather patterns.

More importantly, our community pool will only be successful if enough of the members give their time and effort to support it. Have you taken your turn? There are currently several open board positions that need to be filled. The board needs to be completely filled in order to manage the pool efficiently. There are also many other opportunities to help with events such as swim meets, fundraisers, splash parties, and "work" parties (we also have some fun doing these). Please call the pool at (484) 269-0066 to volunteer or ask questions. **GET INVOLVED!!**

The RSPA has attained a 501c3 status which means that your donations to the pool are tax deductible. We rely heavily on the thoughtfulness and charity of others to keep our community pool open. **Please consider a tax deductible gift to the Robesonia Pool.** Donations can be mailed to "Robesonia Swimming Pool Association, PO Box 95, Robesonia, PA 19551".

The RSPA is running a **community breakfast on Sunday, December 13th, 2015 at the Pioneer Hose Company Social Quarters from 7:00am to 12:00 noon.** The breakfast will feature a full menu and a bottomless cup of coffee. The funds raised from this breakfast will be used to support the operating costs of the pool next summer. Come and enjoy the great food!!!

In these trying economic times, think about joining the pool as an alternative to a costly

summer vacation. A pool membership also makes a great Christmas present for a friend or family member. Our pool also features a great swim team and swimming lessons. Please support the Roby Pool so that it can be here for future generations to enjoy.

Please visit our website at www.robypool.org for other information.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

108 South Robeson Street
Robesonia, PA 19551
610-693-6062

Rev. William H. Weiser, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jennifer Dee, Associate Pastor

Holiday Worship Schedule



December 24th

4:00 & 6:00pm – Family services geared to families with children. Holy Cow will share the message, and there will be communion and candle-lighting.

8:00 & 10:30pm – Traditional services with the senior choir, traditional sermon, communion and candle-lighting.

All are welcome!

Chocolate Festival and 3rd-Annual Chocolate Frosted Buns 5K

Mark your calendars for the annual Chocolate Festival. *The date is January 30th.* The race and fun run will start at the Conrad Weiser High School at 9:15am but the rest of the "sweet" activities will be at Trinity Lutheran Church. Who can say "no" to chocolate?! Call the church office for details. Please join us.

Service of Prayer & Healing

December 29th, we will be having a prayerful and meditational service for healing. This special worship service occurs the last Tuesday evening of every month at 7:00pm. We welcome everyone to this healing experience. Future services are scheduled for Jan. 26th, Feb. 23rd and Mar. 29th.

Ash Wednesday Service

Service for Ash Wednesday will be February 10th at 7:00pm. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

ST. DANIEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

480 Big Spring Road

(610) 693-5145

www.stdaniels.com

Ample Parking and Handicapped Accessible

All ages are welcome and invited!

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Rebecca Knox to St. Daniel's Lutheran Church as our new Pastor.

Christmas Vesper Service on Sunday, December 20th at 4pm.

Pre-service music by Bell Choir at 3:40pm.

Conrad Weiser High School Auditorium.

Reading Pops Orchestra, St. Daniel's Senior Choir, Bell Choir and Soloists.

Free Will Offering will be received.

Christmas Eve Services:

3pm in the Chapel - Holy Communion

7pm (Candlelight service) - Holy Communion, Adult Choir and Handbell Choir

9pm (Candlelight service) - Holy Communion, Adult Choir

The **Western Berks Free Medical Clinic** is located at St. Daniel's. It is open Wednesday evenings. Please call to schedule an appointment: 610-693-6207.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue

610-621-5770

Website: stpaulsrobersonia.org

Email: stpaul4secretary@comcast.net

Off-street Parking

Handicapped Accessible

Worship 10:30, Sunday School for all ages 9:15

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th 7:00 and 11:00

Special music at 6:30

Special Music and candle lighting

Join us as we celebrate the Lord's birth!

Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner **(New Year's Day)**

January 1st 11:00-2:00

Come onct and eat yourself full!!

Soup and Such- now twice a month

Free hot meal from 4:00-6:00pm

On the 2nd and last Thursday of the month
December 10 & 17 (early because of Holiday)

January 14 & 28

February 11 & 25

March 10 & 31

St. Paul's UCC's Clothing Closet

Same day as Soup and Such

from 3:30-6:00pm

Free children's clothes –

infants through youth size 16

One free bag per child (provided by church), additional items \$.25.

For information call 6106215770



GIRL SCOUT NEWS

Did you see us in the fall parades? The girls just love participating and throwing out candy. There are lots of activities in the planning stages. Our youngest girls (K-3) will be doing a sleepover at St. Paul's. Think pajama party with about 50 giggling girls, crafts, games, snacks and a movie. Other fun activities in the works are Pancakes with Santa, Powder Puff Derby and World Thinking Day and much more. Along with that each troop is having fun and exciting adventures of their own.

New members K thru 12 are always welcome. Adults too! Contact Ann Reynolds at reynolds40@comcast.net or 610-693-6640 for more information.



**RENTAL PROPERTY
CERTIFICATION AND
REGISTRATION
REMINDER**

Just a reminder: Registration of all tenants is required before January 31st of each year. Tenant Registration Forms are available at the Robesonia Borough Hall. There is a \$10.00 registration fee per property and a possible \$300 fine or imprisonment of not more than 30 days if compliance is not met. Also, 2016 will be another inspection year so start checking those rental properties now to ensure they are up to code/standard!



*Women's Club
of Wernersville
Serving our
Community*

Wernersville Women's Club
Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the Month
At the South Heidelberg Twp. Bldg. @ 7:30 p.m.
Come out and join us:
Wednesday, January 13th at 7:30 p.m.
Program by the Red Cross: Disaster Planning
February 10th
We honor the "Girls of the Month" from
Conrad Weiser H.S.



Fundraiser: Christmas Cookie Bake Sale

Friday, December 4th VIST Bank in Sinking Spring
9:00 a.m. until sold out! Our ladies are fantastic bakers....

We are always looking for new members. What we do with the funds we raise?

Support the food bank and library, donate a \$500 scholarship to a CWHS student every year, support a CW student to attend HOBY (a youth leadership

program), organize Bingo for the Berks Heim residents twice a year, purchase seedlings for Arbor Day for the kindergarten children at Conrad Weiser, and donate to Berks Women in Crisis to name a few projects. If you would like more information, call Denise at 610-678-3033.

**ROBESONIA SENIORS -
AGE 75 OR OLDER:**

The Robesonia Community Association (RCA) will hold the annual **Life Begins at 75 Christmas Party** at 12:00 noon on **Saturday, December 5th, 2015**, at St. Daniel's Lutheran Church located north of Robesonia on Big Spring Road.

The dinner is for those "seasoned citizens" who are 75 years of age or older and who live or attend church in the Robesonia area. The party consists of dinner, entertainment, and plenty of fellowship with old friends.

If you would like to attend and have not already been contacted, please call Steve Bright at (610) 693-6420. Transportation will be provided for those who need a ride if requested.



"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

— Edith Sitwell

**THE ROBESONIA MAYOR, BOROUGH COUNCIL
AND EMPLOYEES WISH EACH AND EVERY
ONE OF YOU A BLESSED AND JOYOUS
HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

Merry Christmas



Don't forget! If school is closed due to inclement weather, so is the library! Also, if the school district has a delayed opening, the library will as well (i.e. if the school has a one hour delay, the library will open one hour later than usual).



CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL

**Christmas trees will be picked up
curbside during the month of January.
All trees are recycled into mulch.**