



Winter



December, 2016

**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](mailto:RobesoniaBorough@comcast.net)

**Website:** [www.robesoniaboro.org](http://www.robesoniaboro.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

**2016 COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

Harvey Marshall, Vice President  
Michael Martin  
Tony Wirebach

**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**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 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 County Wide Sanitation at 1-866-573-4893.**



**WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Chief Bill Schlichter**

**Prepare Your Vehicle for winter**

Winter is not an easy time for your vehicle. Don't expect your car to function properly without some attention to its winter needs. The following tips will help you prepare. Make sure you check the following items before winter hits.

**Snow tires.** Make sure they are in good condition, balanced correctly with the proper tire pressure.

**Engine oil.** When the temperature gets below freezing, you may need to switch to thinner oil.

**Car Battery.** Inspect your battery, cables, terminals and fluid. Check for cracks and breaks and look for loose connections. It may be time to charge or replace your battery.

**Windshield Fluid.** Always choose a washer fluid with an antifreeze solution.

**Emergency kits:** This is a great gift for someone! You should also have a few other emergency items: flares, blankets, boots, radio, engine oil, washer fluid, coolant, flashlight, backup charger.

**7 Winter Safety Tips for Seniors**

During the winter months, ice, snow and cold temperatures can make life challenging for everyone. Slippery sidewalks and cold weather can cause a wide range of injuries and illnesses -- especially for seniors.

Here is some helpful advice for preventing common winter dangers that the elderly population faces.

**The Ice. When ice storms hit, stay inside. Icy or snowy road makes it easy to slip and fall so try and just stay indoors. Before winter hits, set up someone to come to your house to salt your walkways or shovel. It's not worth a slip that can literally lay you up for week.**

**If you must go out, wear proper shoes, and take your time. Falls can cause major injuries such as hip and**

wrist fractures, head trauma and major lacerations. While younger people often recover relatively quickly from such injuries, older adults can face complications

**Dress correctly.** Cold temperatures can lead to frostbite and hypothermia, a condition where the body temperature dips too low. Don't let indoor temperatures go too low and dress in layers. If you must go outside, wear warm socks, a heavy coat, a warm hat, gloves and a scarf. In very cold temperatures, cover all exposed skin. Use a scarf to cover your mouth and protect your lungs. Your body temperature should never dip below 95 degrees!

**Wintertime Depression. Since it can be dangerous to get out during these cold winter months, seniors have less contact with their friends and family which can cause them to feel lonely and isolated. Try to make an extra effort to visit or call and check on the elderly.**

**Prepare for Power Outages.** Winter storms can lead to power outages. Make sure you have a supply of flashlights and a battery-powered radio in case the power goes out along with extra warm blankets. Keep these items handy in a closet that is easy to access. Keep non-perishable foods that can be eaten cold on hand.

**Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.** Using a fireplace, gas heater or lanterns can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure you invest in a carbon monoxide detector and if you have one, make sure you check the batteries.

**HELP.** Most importantly, ask for help. Reach out to your family, friends and family. There are local organizations that can help you, and of course your local police department is always here if you need us.

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 safe and fun winter season.

## THE WORD ON THE STREETS.....

Streets Supervisor

Garry Degler



### WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS!!

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.**



### NOTEWORTHY NEWS

### FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Abby Brunner, Director

### Winter 2016-2017 Activities

#### Children and Youth Programs:

**Miss Jenn** has lots of wintery fun planned! Come to the library to learn about penguins, hibernation and what is just around the corner when Mr. Groundhog wakes up.

**Family Story Time** Mondays at 6:30 pm, No Story Time January 16<sup>th</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup>

**Tween Time** every other Tuesday at 4 pm, ages 10-13, December 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, January 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

**Baby Lap Rap** Tuesdays at 10 am, ages 0-21 months

**Story Rider, Mama Patt** visits Wednesdays at 9:30 am. December 7<sup>th</sup> is Mama Pat's last visit in 2016!

Please check our website at [www.berks.lib.pa.us/sro/](http://www.berks.lib.pa.us/sro/) for the 2017 Story Rider schedule.

**LEGO Club** every other Wednesday at 4 pm, ages 0-100, December 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, January 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

**Preschool Story Time** Thursdays at 10:30 am, ages 21 months-4 years

#### Holiday Closures:

Closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Holiday

Closed December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> for New Years

Closed January 16<sup>th</sup> in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Closed February 20<sup>th</sup> in honor of President's Day

## Friends of Robesonia Community Library

Our thanks to those of you who have so generously responded to our membership drive in the fall. We are extremely grateful that there are so many of you in the community who believe, as we obviously do, in the power of libraries and the value that our small but mighty Robesonia Community Library adds to our area.

We also want to thank those many book and baked good lovers who patronized our October book sale. To those of you who donated so many wonderful items as well as those of you who bought those items and thus gave them a new life—thank you! The books that were not sold at our sale were transported to VF Outlet for the 2017 Book Bonanza in July, so all worthwhile donations are given another opportunity to please a new reader.

Keep those donations of gently used books, CDs and DVDs coming in. You can drop them off at the library whenever it's open for business. We hope to hold our 2017 spring book and bake sale on May 13 when we also sell native perennials and flowering annuals.

A bus trip to an exciting, out-of-town destination is also in the works for 2017. Stay tuned for next year's events.

*"My two favourite things in life are libraries and bicycles. They both move people forward without wasting anything. The perfect day: riding a bike to the library."*

— [Peter Golkin](#)

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](mailto:juncofan@yahoo.com).

### A REMINDER TO TAXPAYERS

Hello everyone! Reminder notices for past due 2016 taxes have gone out. I can accept payments until December 31, after that the books are closed and I cannot accept any more payments. For your convenience, I have office hours on December 30 - 10 AM to Noon at my home. If the hours do not fit your schedule, you can also mail your payment to me – Marshall Reynolds 276 S. Church St. Robesonia, PA 19551. Or drop off your payment at my house – I have a white lockbox next to my office door for tax drop-offs. If you itemize for your

income tax – the federal government requires a receipt for property taxes. Enclose a self addressed and stamped envelope if you would like a receipt. Receipts will not be mailed if you do not include a return envelope. If you have any questions or concerns, you can call me at 610-693-6640.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

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



### 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 24<sup>th</sup>

**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!*

#### New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Service

One worship service only on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am. Join us as we celebrate the new year.

Regular 5pm worship on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **4th-Annual Chocolate Frosted Buns 5K**

Mark your calendars for the annual Frosted Buns 5K. *The date is January 28<sup>th</sup>*. The race and fun run will start at the Conrad Weiser High School at 9:15am. Call the church office for details or for a registration form. Put on your long underwear and join us!

## **Service of Prayer & Healing**

December 27<sup>th</sup>, 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. 31<sup>st</sup>, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> and Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

Service for Ash Wednesday will be March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

## **CALVARY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

### **Twas the Lights Before Christmas**

A fun and free Christmas activity for the entire family.

**Sinking Spring** – Come catch the Christmas spirit with a light show extravaganza for the entire family! Our show runs every night at **Calvary Bible Fellowship Church** in Sinking Spring, December 2-22 from 5 – 10 p.m. Five miles of 80,000 lights are set to your favorite Christmas tunes. Visitors enjoy the 15-minute show right from their cars. On the weekends, enjoy free hot chocolate, cookies, and a kids Lego activity in the Barn from 6-9 p.m.

This is Calvary's fourth year running their Christmas light show—with an additional 10,000 lights added from last year. An estimated 8-10 thousand visitors attended the Light Show last year, and Calvary anticipates more this year. Contact the Calvary office at 610-678-5166 for more information.

## **ST. DANIEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

480 Big Spring Road  
(610) 693-5145

[www.stdaniels.com](http://www.stdaniels.com)

Ample Parking and Handicapped Accessible  
All ages are welcome and invited!  
Rev. Rebecca Knox.

**Christmas Vesper Service** on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.  
Pre-service music by Bell Choir at 3:40pm.

Conrad Weiser High School Auditorium.  
Reading Pops Orchestra, St. Daniel's Senior Choir, and Soloists Brian Lewis, Melissa Small, Gretchen Patti and Tyler Ravert.

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: [stpaulsrobsonia.org](http://stpaulsrobsonia.org)

Email: [stpaul4secretary@comcast.net](mailto:stpaul4secretary@comcast.net)

Off-street Parking

Handicapped Accessible

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

## **Christmas Eve Services**

December 24<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Thursday of the month

## **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 Jack Frost Parade? We were 80 strong and came in 2nd in our category! Thank you to all who supported us with your nut and candy purchases. Just around the corner is cookie season! We will be offering a new cookie this year based on the traditional camp favorite - S'mores. They are yummy. The girls will be busy this winter with Thinking Day where they explore countries around the world and delve into some of their current social issues. Then they are off to the races with their Powder Puff cars to see who's creation is the fastest or the most artistic. Membership is always open to all girls from K-12 and adult volunteers too. Contact Ann Reynolds - [AnnR40@comcast.net](mailto:AnnR40@comcast.net) or phone 610-693-6640. Adults too!



*Women's Club  
of Wernersville  
Serving our  
Community*

Wernersville Women's Club  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
At the South Heidelberg Twp. Bldg. @ 7:30 p.m.  
*Serving our surrounding communities  
We are always looking for New Members*

*Help us treat the residents at Berks Heim to  
Bingo - Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.*

*Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9 to 2  
Christmas Cookie Bake Sale at Tompkins VIST  
Bank - Penn Ave., Sinking Spring  
Contact Denise Bertolet  
For more information (484) 529-3781  
Or Visit our website:  
[www.womensclubofwernersville.org](http://www.womensclubofwernersville.org)*

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

**“Life Begins at 75”**

A Christmas Party in honor of all  
“seasoned citizens” of the Robesonia area who are 75  
years of age or older

Sponsored by the  
Robesonia Community Association

**Saturday, December 3, 2016**

**12:00 noon**

**St. Daniel's Lutheran Church**

The dinner is for all “seasoned citizens” who live in the Robesonia area or who attend church at one of the four local Robesonia churches. If you are 75 or older and would like to attend, please contact Steve Bright at 610-693-6420. Luncheon, entertainment, and small gift are part of the program. Rides to and from the event are also available if needed.

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**

**BENEFITS THE  
SWIMMING POOL ASSOCIATION**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2016**

**7:00 AM UNTIL 12:00 NOON**

**PIONEER HOSE COMPANY SOCIAL  
QUARTERS**

**(WEST PENN AVENUE, ROBESONIA)**

**PROCEEDS WILL HELP TO SUPPORT THE  
OPERATION OF THE ROBESONIA**

**POOL THROUGHOUT THE  
UPCOMING SEASON**

**FULL MENU AND FREE COFFEE WITH  
MEAL**

# The Robesonia Furnace

As you may or may not be aware, some of the property formerly known as the Robesonia Furnace is privately owned by the Breininger family. Recently, a portion the Breininger property was sold in a public auction. The remainder of their property is the focus of this article.

Roughly 8 acres of wooded mountainside is being prepared for sale to the Womelsdorf- Robesonia Joint Water Authority; their goal is to forest some of the land and to maintain the property for recreational and conservation use. Another 3 acres of the land, including what remains of the Furnace industrial architecture, was found to contain some contaminated soil, and is therefore unable to be used for residential development. Please be aware that at this time the pollutants, including Lead and Cobalt, are in no danger of harming our neighbors or of seeping into the water supply. But these chemicals have the potential of being a threat to public health and safety, and, now that we are aware of their presence in the borough, we are working with the Breininger family and the appropriate authorities to find a remedy to this issue.

According to the PA Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the area in question should be fenced off to prevent public access to the contaminated soil, in order to avoid the release of these elements into the environment and possibly affecting the health of those exposed. We can also remediate the problem in either one of two ways:

1. we can cover over the area in question with 1-2 feet of clean, safe top soil, or:
2. we can dig up the contaminated soil and haul it away to be sequestered or disposed of in an appropriate toxic waste facility

**BAD NEWS:** Either of these 2 options presents a rather large expense to the owners of the property, potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars.

**GOOD NEWS:** There are state and federal grants available to help cover the costs of remediation of such properties, covering up to 75% of the costs of the clean up.

**BAD NEWS:** Somebody has got to cover the remaining 25% of costs that are not covered by the grants; nor is this grant money available to private owners, only to government entities.

**GOOD NEWS:** there are a number of dedicated, active members of the community who are working hard to preserve this historic property and to maintain public safety.

As of today, the borough is in the process of working with the Breininger estate to potentially take ownership of this property, in order to make good use of available public funds for the clean up process. Should the municipality take over the management of this lot, our goal is to remediate the contaminated soil, possibly build a park highlighting the historical significance of the area, construct a municipal composting transfer facility, or both.

At this point those who have been involved in the planning stages of this project are still working on getting the necessary information together, from multiple sources, before a decision can be made about how best to proceed.

The reason we are including this in the newsletter is to make the public aware of the situation to invite public feedback and to answer any questions you might have. Please attend our monthly Borough Council meetings, generally held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, at the borough hall. Or call the office at 610-693-3474 or email us at [robsoniaborough@comcast.net](mailto:robsoniaborough@comcast.net) to find out more.



With Christmas right around the corner, why not consider surprising your veteran by buying a brick in his or her honor to add to the Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park? We are adding a limited number of VETERANS bricks at a cost of \$40 each. Order forms are available at the Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday 8am to 5pm or Friday 8am to noon.

**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*



**CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL**

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



**RENTAL PROPERTY  
CERTIFICATION  
AND  
REGISTRATION  
REMINDER**

Just a reminder: Registration of all tenants is required before January 31<sup>st</sup> 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!