



Winter



December, 2017

## **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.robsoniaboro.org](http://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

### **2017 COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Abby Wertz, President

Harvey Marshall, Vice President

Rodney Soliday

Michael Martin

William Langjahr, Jr.

Tony Wirebach

Frank Schnee

**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; Jeff Farro (570) 621-8425

**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**

Winter can be fun. Playing in the snow, sledding and building snowmen are just a few of the fun things to do. Here are some tips to help you drive safe, keep your pets safe and enjoy the winter season!

**Winter Tips for your Pets**

Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat of your home can cause itchy, flaking skin. Dry your pet off when it's snowing or raining as soon as he/she comes in and check their feet, in-between the toes, for any snow balls from between his foot pads.

Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. If your dog is long-haired, simply trim him to minimize the clinging ice balls, salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry his skin, and don't neglect the hair between his toes. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly. For many dogs, this is regulation winter wear.

Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin.

Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle.

Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather months can provide much-needed calories, and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help keep her well-hydrated and her skin less dry.

Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect. PLEASE Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside.

**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.

**Tips for driving in the snow:**

Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight.

Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads. Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, and turning – nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.

The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

Know your brakes. Whether you have anti-lock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold breaking. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill as slowly as possible.

Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

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.



### 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

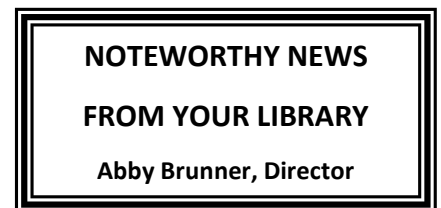
- A. As in the past, the Streets Department will keep the roads passable during the nighttime hours and clear the streets where no vehicles are parked. During the daytime hours, the snow will be pushed back to the curb and the roads will be widened. Please move your vehicles to a cleared side or cleared 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.**



### Winter 2017-2018 Activities

#### Children and Youth Programs:

- Family Game Night December 4<sup>th</sup> & February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Visit the library for a night of family fun. At each meeting we will play a different type of game.
- Art Attack December 11<sup>th</sup>, January 8<sup>th</sup> & February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Learn about a new artist each meeting and make your own masterpiece in that style. For ages 8 and up.
- Color Therapy December 18<sup>th</sup> & January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm. Stop by the library, relax and color. For ages 8 to 100.
- Family Movie Night January 29<sup>th</sup> & February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Snacks will be available to purchase during the movie. All ages welcome!
- Tween Time every other Tuesday at 4 pm. Meeting dates are December 12<sup>th</sup>, January 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy snacks, crafts and games. For ages 10-13.

Story Rider, Mama Patt visits Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Story Rider visits are geared toward preschoolers ages 2 ½ to 5.

LEGO Club every other Wednesday at 4 pm. December 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. At each meeting there will be a new theme to BUILD on! For ages 0-100.

Little Friends Story Time every Thursday at 11 am. Miss Jenn will be sharing stories, songs and simple crafts with little ones from birth to age 5.

**Special Program:**

Breakfast with Santa. Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am-11am. Enjoy breakfast and holiday activities with the "Big Guy," all ages welcome! Must sign up by December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Holiday Closures:**

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>-Christmas

Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>-Christmas

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>-New Year's Day

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>-Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>-President's Day

## Friends of

## Robesonia Community Library

Our heartiest thanks for your generous response to our membership drive earlier in the fall. We could not continue to provide financial support to our outstanding community library without your help.

Our two book and baked good sales this year were a success. We hope to hold our spring book sale on Saturday, May 12, 2018, which also features native perennials and flowering annuals. 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 had a very informative general meeting in October when Steve Heffner presented a program on the Battle of Gettysburg, Day 1. We hope to have him return next October for a continuation. Steve's eagerness to share his passion for Civil War history makes for a thoroughly engaging evening.

Our bus trip to West Chester and Longwood Gardens at the end of November was an ideal way to welcome the Christmas season. Thanks to all of you who joined us for a terrific day.

"When all else fails, go to the library." ~Stephen King

## ROBESONIA LIBRARY BOARD

The Robesonia Library Board currently has 2 openings  
We meet 10 times a year (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 7PM except July & December)

We are a group of volunteers looking for ways to help our Library thrive!

Do you have an interest in the Library and a concern for its future?

AND

Are you a business owner?

OR

Maybe retired with a little free time?

OR

Do you have financial experience?

OR

Have ideas for fundraising?

OR

**Want to get involved with a vital part of our Community?**

Please contact the Robesonia Library for more information @ 610-693-3264

## A REMINDER TO TAXPAYERS

Hello everyone! The year is winding up. Any unpaid County, School Real Estate or Per Capita taxes are now in the 10% penalty phase and due NO Later than December 31, 2017. After that time, I can no longer accept any 2017 payments. I will have office hours on December 29 at my home from 10 AM to Noon.

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

You can also drop off your payment at my house – I have a white lockbox next to my office door for tax drop-offs. Please do not put it in the US Mailbox on the street – the mailman may pick it up before I find it.

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.

You may have seen there is a new state law that will require tax payments be made payable to Marshall C. Reynolds, Robesonia Borough Tax Collector. This is intended to better protect your payments.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can call me at 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

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

**9:30am** – Regular weekly worship 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**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 December 31<sup>st</sup>

Regular worship services at 8:00 & 10:45am. Kids New Year Party at 9:15am.

### 5th Annual Chocolate Frosted Buns

#### 5K

Mark your calendars for the annual Frosted Buns 5K.

*The date is February 3<sup>rd</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!

### Wednesdays at the WELL

In October, Trinity launched a new mid-week worship opportunity. In Jesus' day people gathered at the well to be refreshed, to learn, and to care for one another. We do the same on Wednesday evenings at Trinity. We know family life is busy, but we invite you to join us for a mid-week worship service every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm in our beautiful sanctuary. It is an informal service with a homily or a very short sermon. We offer communion by intinction. Please know that everyone is welcome.

**Come meet us at The WELL...**

### Ash Wednesday Service

Service for Ash Wednesday will be February 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stdaniels.com)

Ample Parking and Handicapped Accessible

All ages are welcome and invited!

Rev. Rebecca Knox.

## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue  
610-621-5770

Website: [stpaulsrobersonia.org](http://stpaulsrobersonia.org)

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

Off-street Parking

Handicapped Accessible

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

Join us Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>,  
for our

Christmas Eve Celebration

We will have a morning worship service that day at our regular time 10:25am

Christmas Eve special music at 6:30pm

Christmas Family Service starting at 7:00pm.

Quieter service at 11:00pm.

Happy New Year!!

Join us for  
Sauerkraut  
The traditional  
good luck in the  
January 1<sup>st</sup>,  
11:00am to



Pork and  
German meal for  
New Year.  
2018  
2:00pm



**GIRL SCOUT NEWS**

Did you see us at the Wernersville Halloween Parade or Jack Frost Parade? The girls really enjoy marching and getting to throw candy to the crowd.

Our winter activities include a Pancake breakfast with Santa on Dec. 9 at Applebee's from 8 to 10 AM. Tickets are available at the door or see your favorite Girl Scout for advance tickets. Adults - \$7.00, 12 and under - \$5.00.

Also this winter we will be doing our annual Powder Puff Derby and International Thinking Day events.

Cookie season is also right around the corner. This is how the girls fund their activities for the year. Please consider buying a box or two when you see them at your local stores.

Girls K to 12 are welcome to join any time of the year and adult volunteers too!  
Any questions – Ann Reynolds 610-693-6640 [AnnR40@comcast.net](mailto:AnnR40@comcast.net)



*Women's Club  
of Wernersville  
Serving our  
Community*

Our upcoming events are as follows:

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.**

Christmas Dinner at Hain's Church  
RSVP by December 1st  
\$15.00 per person (spouses welcome)

Program: Bryan Dreibelleis

**January 10, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

General Meeting at S. Heidelberg Twp. Bldg.  
Program: Elephants of Africa

**February 7, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

General Meeting at S. Heidelberg Twp. Bldg.  
Program: Girls of the Month  
Come out and hear about the amazing accomplishments of these young women and their future plans

**March 14, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

General Meeting at S. Heidelberg Twp. Bldg.  
Program: Arcadia Flowers & Gifts

Ladies come out and join us – We are committed to Serving our surrounding communities  
If interested, contact Denise Bertolet (610) 678-3033  
*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 2, 2017  
12:00 noon  
(doors open at 11:30)  
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.

**Patriotic Order Sons of America,  
Camp 113**

The Patriotic Order Sons of America, or POS of A, is an organization that promotes patriotism and honoring the American flag in local communities. Robesonia is served by POS of A Camp 113. We thank everyone who visited the Furnace Office where we held an open house that coincided with the Friends of the Robesonia Furnace's craft show in August. Through the immense generosity of the Breinger family, we hope to soon be officially responsible for the office, which is across the street from the Robesonia Furnace Mansion along Freeman Street and where we meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM.

Camp 113 has placed a flag-disposal box in the lobby of the Borough Hall, as is shown here. Please dispose of any tattered or soiled flags and any flags no longer suitable for respectful display in the box. A Camp brother periodically will empty the box. All flags removed will be stored for eventual retirement at either an annual Flag Day event or at a ceremony held at the Furnace Office property. At one such recent ceremony at the office, approximately five thousand flags that were collected from several disposal boxes which our Camp monitors were retired in a mobile "flag retirement device" constructed by John Lutz, who is a POS of A member of the Centreport camp. Attached to the exterior of the box at the Borough Hall is a holder that contains application forms which provide additional information about our organization.



Any suggestion for a speaker for the annual Memorial Remembrance ceremony at the Henry P. Robeson Park in May in which we participate would be appreciated. If you are interested in joining the POS of A or in learning more about our service organization, please contact Camp President Scott Wagner ([slwagner4620@msn.com](mailto:slwagner4620@msn.com)) or Dave Bright ([david.bright@ssmgroupp.com](mailto:david.bright@ssmgroupp.com)). Suggestions for the memorial ceremony speaker also can be passed along to either of these two.

### **HONOR YOUR VET WITH A BRICK!**

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.



### **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, 2018 will be another inspection year so start checking those rental properties now to ensure they are up to code/standard!

Just a reminder! There is a new Carbon Monoxide Detector requirement to be complied with this year! Watch for more details in your mailing!

### **FIRE COMPANY NEWS PIONEER HOSE COMPANY #1**



Thank you for your generous support for our annual collection!

Please see our new electronic sign for upcoming events.

Check your smoke detector batteries!

If you have a live Christmas tree, please check your lights before placing them on the tree. Also, check to make sure your tree has plenty of water all season!

Have a fire-safe holiday season from all of us at the Pioneer Hose Company #1.

Thank you to all who helped place and remove the flags for Veterans' Day!

**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.**

### **Past and Present**

(Joseph Kallinger)

Christmas, the time of year  
that has the impact  
of a childhood story  
and the dreams of the future  
all rolled into the presents  
that we give our loved ones.