



# ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

*From Where It All Began*

*... Is Happening Again*

No. 84 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

August 2015

## Activities to Dominate Centre Square; Traffic Diverted

# Heritage Celebration Is Saturday, Sept. 12

“Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future” is the theme for the annual Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration to be enjoyed Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year’s event will return to its appropriate location – “on the square” – creating a two-block pedestrian mall. The day is coordinated by the Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association and supported by borough services.

All motor traffic will be detoured in a one-way fashion around the festival area at Wayne and Liberty streets with traffic diverted to Mifflin Street for westbound traffic and to Independence Street traveling eastbound. The only wheeled conveyance on the square will be the Victorian Highwheelers riding and answering questions from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather permitting.

Plenty of space will be open for vendors and displays of all types on Centre Square, the Community

Parking Lot and on North Warren Street. Residents and visitors can browse and shop in safety, having the run of Market Street without stepping up and down from the sidewalks. The event will be held rain or shine.

Entertainers throughout the day include blues singer/guitarist Sterling Koch from 9 a.m. to noon; students of Crystal’s School of Dance at 11 a.m.; nature program from Hawk Mountain at noon; and singers and instrumentalists of Diaspora from 1 to 3 p.m.

Hop aboard the trolley to take a historical riding tour with narration through the downtown area. Cub Scout Pack 624 will be in charge of the dunk tank. Many vendors of franchise and homemade crafts and products will line both sides of Centre Square.

Side venues will be in close proximity to all the action. Salem United Methodist Church one block off the square at the corner of South Liberty and Independence Street will serve a hearty breakfast in its Fellowship Hall.

The very popular annual Apple Fest and other activities of St. John’s United Church of Christ will take place at the church and in its Fellowship Center on East Market Street just one block off the Square. All sorts of baked goods containing apples will be available for sale. Lunch will be served and a quilt raffle is all part of the celebration.

The Orwigsburg Historical Society, 109 E. Mifflin Street (just one block north of Centre Square), will be open throughout the day for visitors. Local historian and archaeologist Francis Burke will be in the Community Room. The “old jail” attached to the society headquarters will be open with the “jail keeper” present to tell the story and answer questions.

## COMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY, AUG. 30** – Free Block Party hosted by Salem United Methodist Church. West Independence St., between South Warren and South Liberty streets will be blocked off from 3 to 7 p.m. Free entertainment, food and activities. All are invited!

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 12** – Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – “On the Square” and North Warren Street; Apple Fest, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in St. John’s UCC Fellowship Center, E. Market Street.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 3** – Kimmels Church Harvest Family Festival. Fun for the entire family.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 3** – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church holds its annual Fall Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 10** – Family Fun Day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Veterans Community Memorial Hall.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28** – Halloween Parade, begins at 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 29** – Trick or Treat, 6 to 8 p.m.; Turn your porch light on to indicate youngsters, 12 years and younger, are welcome to get a treat.

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# Post Office Temporarily Closed

## ORWIGSBURG BOROUGH

209 N. Warren Street  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961 • Ph: 570-366-3103  
[www.orwigsburg.net](http://www.orwigsburg.net)

### OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Barry Berger  
Council President..... Buddy Touchinsky  
Council Vice President..... Susan Murphy  
Borough Manager..... Robert A. Williams  
Secretary..... Sherry Edwards  
Treasurer..... Colleen Hoptak  
Tax Receiver..... Colleen Hoptak  
Solicitor..... Frank Tamulonis  
Borough Engineers..... ARRO Consulting, Inc.  
Entech Engineering, Inc.  
Alfred Benesch & Company  
Fire Chief..... Dave Hardinger

### ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Paul Bedway, Jr. • Darle Cresswell  
Edward Mady • David Rubright  
Angela Hoptak-Solga

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Non-emergency..... 570-366-3101  
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Jake Brensinger • David Teter • Brandon Wagner

### WATER AND WASTEWATER

Patrick Mulqueen • David Teter • Jake Brensinger

### BOROUGH OFFICE

Sherry Edwards • Kathi Mengle

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Orwigsburg Municipal Building, 209 North Warren Street.

Both meetings are open to the public. A Work Session for discussions and setting of an agenda takes place on the First Wednesday each month. The Business Meeting is then held on the Second Wednesday.

### OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Orwigsburg Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2015 in observance of the stated holidays – Good Friday, April 3; Memorial Day, May 25; Independence Day, July 3; Labor Day, September 7; Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 and 27; Christmas eve and day, Dec. 24 and 25.

The Orwigsburg Post Office temporarily closed its doors July 22 due to environmental issues while the owner of the leased property takes remedial corrective action.



Orwigsburg postal carriers are being dispatched from the Pottsville facility. In-town and rural deliveries to residential and business customers are unaffected by the change.

Retail counter service and P.O. Box pickups will be available from a temporary mobile unit post office located in the parking lot thanks to the efforts of Orwigsburg Borough the offices of state Senator David Argall and U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, and Robert Carl, executive director of the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce.



If package delivery requiring a signature was unsuccessfully attempted, the package will need to be retrieved at the temporary mobile unit or redelivery can be requested.

Your address remains the same ... Orwigsburg, PA 17961 ... the postal service takes the necessary steps to assure delivery to you.

A postcard from the U.S. Postal Service delivered to all 17961 mailboxes at the time of closing explained the necessary changes, stating "A return of carriers and retail service to the location is expected when conditions are corrected." The postcard concluded, "We remain committed to providing you with excellent delivery and retail service."

The borough has scheduled a public meeting to hear concerns from residents. All are invited to attend. The meeting will be held at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18.

### *Borough change of address*

With the temporary closure of the Orwigsburg Post Office, the Borough has decided to discontinue its P.O. Box and, instead, have the mail carrier deliver it to the Municipal Building.

This necessitates all who mail utility payments and any other correspondence to make the following change in the address mailed. Do not use the previous P.O. Box in the address.

### **Send all mail to:**

Orwigsburg Borough • 209 N. Warren St.  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961



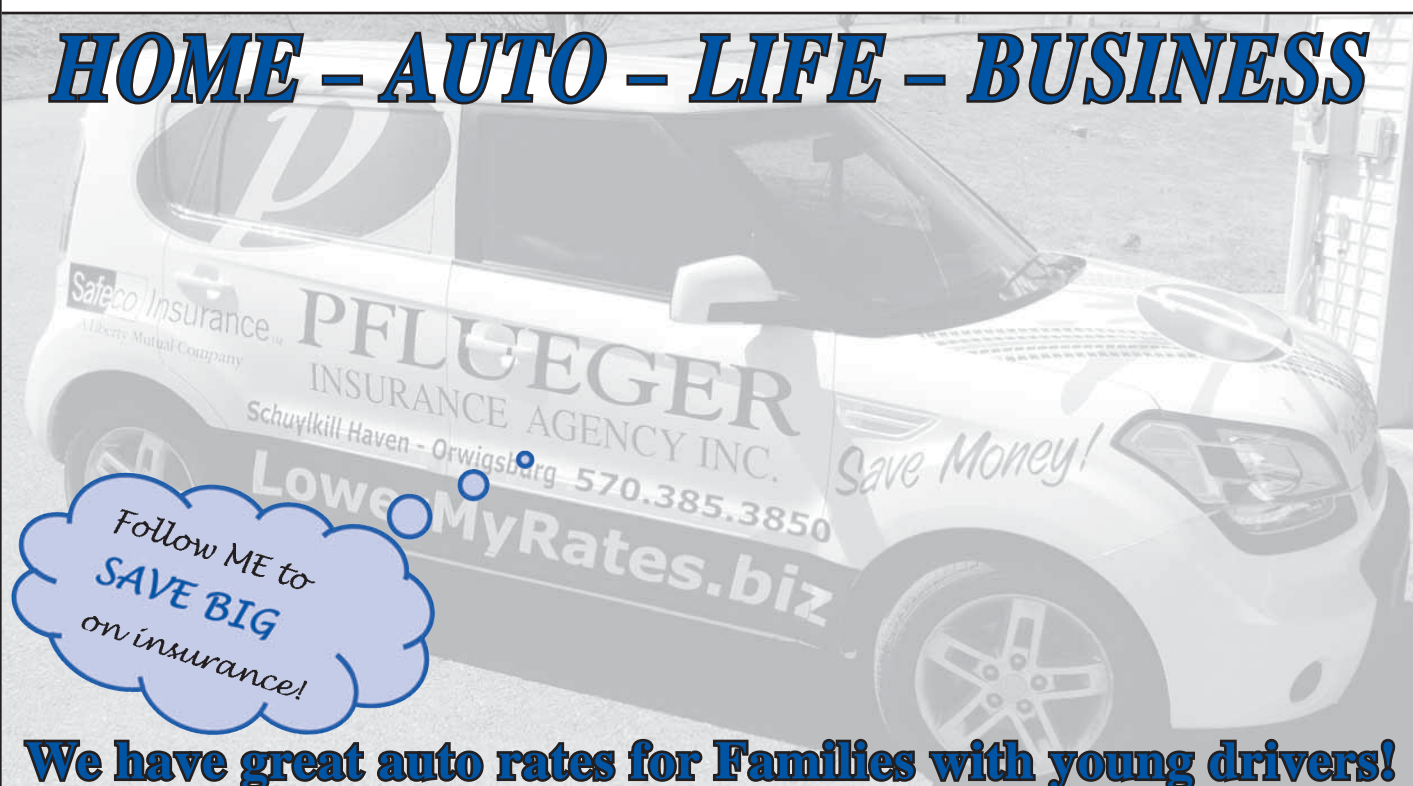
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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Square Time

Square Time events, organized by the Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association with the support of Orwigsburg Borough services, again brought a variety of summer activities "on the square" in downtown Orwigsburg.

June Jamboree was held Thursday, June 25 with a vibrant turnout despite the threat of showers. Always a crowd pleaser, Family Funfest boasting a "carnival of fun for all" was held Thursday, Aug. 6.

The annual Heritage Celebration will be featured on Saturday, Sept. 12 and Halloween fun will be the theme at the Chili & Chills Cook-Off event on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Chili & Chills will be held at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Everyone is invited to dress in their favorite costume and enjoy a night of seasonal fun and the chance to vote for the best chili around.

## Free Block Party

The Salem Church Block Party will be held Sunday, Aug. 30 from 3 to 7 p.m. on Independence St. The block at the church, from Liberty to Warren streets will be closed to traffic. All of the fun and activities are free. Find out who makes the best chicken wings



**SALEM UM CHURCH ROCKS THE BLOCK**

with the town's inaugural "OrWINGSburg Cook-Off" contest.

This year the block party is a mix of old and new features. A bouncy slide and bouncy house set up along with face painting for youngsters, a nail design station for all ages, and a duck pond for the youngest family members will be pure fun for all. A health station will offer services and children can enjoy many art and craft activities. Live music, featuring "REZ Music" and "Rob and Buehner," will entertain throughout the day.

Splash the Clown will again be part of the fun creating his famous balloon animals for the children.

*- Continued on page 6*

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## Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 4

All the food you care to eat and drink will be offered, including fresh-grilled dogs, snack bags, soft drinks, fresh-popped popcorn, and icy sno-cones.

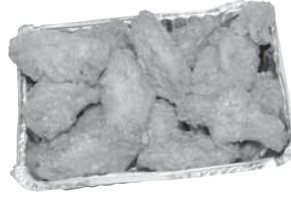
Free samples of Yuengling Ice Cream will be available. Also new programs to this year's Rock the Block feature Orwigsburg's Friendship Fire Company with its fire truck and fun activities, the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library will host a "create your own bookmark" craft with participants getting a free book, and the Team Orwigsburg volunteers will have a display and explain its Volunteers in Mission work.

The annual end-of-the-summer FREE block party is Salem UMC's gift as an expression of God's love to one and all in the greater Orwigsburg community. For additional information, call 570-366-0201 or visit [www.SalemUM.com](http://www.SalemUM.com).

### **OrWINGSburg**

Enter your best-tasting, "secret recipe" chicken wings in Salem's cook-off contest during the Free Block Party on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Your wings could be the hit of OrWINGSburg! Cooks must be at least 15 years of age to enter. Register at [SalemUM.com](http://SalemUM.com) before the deadline at noon on August 24. There is no entry fee. Prizes will be awarded for the Best Overall Wings and for the second and third place finishers. Judges will be chosen by Salem Church.



Wing entries should be fully prepared and brought in a crockpot or other warming device. At least 36 wings are required. The event will take place inside Fellowship Hall of the church.

The Block Party begins at 3 p.m. Wing contest judging begins at 5 with winners announced at 6 p.m.

### **St. Paul's Fall Bazaar**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 215 N. Warren St., invites residents and visitors to its annual bazaar Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Soup, beef-barbecue, hot dogs and chili will be available to eat-in or take out. Baked goods, candy, crafts, and jewelry will be displayed for your purchases. A Chinese auction of various baskets and gifts will also be featured.

### **Family Fun Day**

Lots of fun, food and games for all ages – called Family Fun Day – will be held Saturday, Oct. 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in and on the grounds of the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall on Grove Street.

Everyone is invited to be part of the action. Proceeds benefit Team Orwigsburg, the area's faith-

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Free checks are basic stock checks. See Bank representative for further details on products and bonuses.



# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!



**LAST YEAR'S BOB THE BUILDER DUNK TANK**

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based mission team that assists those in need locally and in devastated communities elsewhere.

A variety of games, a pumpkin drop from high in the air with Bartush Sign Co. cranes, music, a yard sale, a Chinese auction, great food plus "surprises" will all be available at a reasonable cost not to break the family budget.

## Halloween parade

The annual Orwigsburg Halloween parade, coordinated by the Lions Club and the Borough, will be featured Wednesday, Oct. 28.

The parade route for this year will improve par-

ticipant safety and allow vehicle traffic to skirt the parade, but still move through the Borough. As in the past the parade will form on Margaret Avenue, beginning at 6 p.m. Marchers and vehicles will begin the parade stepping off at 7 p.m.

A map of the parade route will be available for view on the borough website: [www.orwigsburg.net](http://www.orwigsburg.net). To register your group for the parade or to obtain more information, contact Mike Swenson at 570-617-6050 or [mike1swenson@gmail.com](mailto:mike1swenson@gmail.com).



## Trick or Treat

Youngsters dressed as princesses, super heroes, movie characters, and Halloween ghosts and goblins are invited to go door-to-door during Orwigsburg's designated Trick-or-Treat night on Thursday, Oct. 29 between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m.

Girls and boys, up to 12 years of age, are permitted to participate and asked to walk with a friend, parent, or a responsible group leader. Residents are asked to turn on their porch light for the children's safety and as an indication the youngsters are welcome to get a treat.

## Fall Cleanup & Electronics Recycling

The Schuylkill County Office of Solid Waste

– Continued on page 10

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\*Evenings By Appointment  
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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 8

& Resource Management will hold its annual Fall Cleanup & Recycling Event with the cooperation of numerous municipalities the weeks of Sept. 14-19 and Sept. 21-26.



Electronics, scrap tires, appliances, scrap metal and other bulky items may be taken to any of the designated collection sites for proper disposal. Specific dates, times, and collection locations will be published in local newspapers and on the county government website.

Orwigsburg, through its weekly refuse collection, allows for large item disposal once per month through its waste service contract and is not a county drop-off municipality. However, electronics are no longer allowed in landfills and must be recycled. The upcoming county collection will be an opportunity for residents to dispose of those electronics.

## Labor Day holiday

The national holiday to honor workers – Labor Day – will be celebrated on Monday, Sept. 7. All borough offices will be closed in observance of the holiday. Refuse and recycling pickup will be delayed one day to Wednesday, Sept. 9 and Saturday, Sept. 12.



## Fisher's Dam Rodeo

More than 100 children participated in the 25th annual Children's Fishing Rodeo at Fisher's Dam held Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3. More than 500 fish – 325 tagged to win a prize– ranging in size from 12" to 24", were stocked for the rodeo this year.



Trophy winners were Reagan Bennett and Caleb Caracappa hooking the longest fish. Reagan landed a 23" lunker followed closely by Caleb's 22-7/8" catch.

The rodeo is coordinated by the Orwigsburg Children's Fishing Rodeo Committee. Volunteers and strong financial support from area businesses and residents make this event possible each year. Harold Sausser of Orwigsburg was the 50/50 chance drawing winner.

## Team Orwigsburg

Team Orwigsburg, a faith-based mission team here in our community, has been active now for 10 years. The team does local work on a volunteer basis to "help heal hearts and homes" and has also been active in some of the renovation work being done at



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## Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

the Orwigsburg Memorial building on Grove Street.

Recently the team was able to help when a tornado destroyed the Blue Mountain Christian Academy elementary school near Hamburg. That school will be rebuilt by professionals.

Team members are proud of each mission project and also of the ability to travel as a complete team one time each year to another state, where hurricanes have destroyed homes and the team is able to help give hope back to the residents.

New faces are enthusiastically welcomed. Monthly meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Salem United Methodist Church, S. Liberty Street. Local church affiliation is not necessary, but the team does ask new members be committed to help raise the funds necessary to do local mission work and to travel one time each year for a week out of the area. Phone Susan McCartney at 570-943-2103 for additional information.

### **Master Gardener Field to Fork**

Join Schuylkill Master Gardeners at Hope Hill Lavender Farm on Saturday, Aug. 22 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to learn, experience and shop.

Education includes growing vegetables on the porch, deck or elsewhere in containers, growing vari-

ous varieties of lavender and even cooking with it, as well as learning factual answers to questions you bring to the event.

Enjoy the experience of tasting samples of fresh, locally grown produce and enjoying a spectacular view of Schuylkill County in this rural setting, rain or shine. The event is free but you can purchase fresh produce, cut flowers, potted plants and baked goods.

### **Large item disposal**

One large item may be placed at the curb beside your regular trash once per month.

Regular trash consists of up to six bags of garbage and up to ten bags of leaves. Residents should place trash at the curb any time after 6 p.m. on evenings prior to collection. Because

pickup times vary, do not wait until the morning of collection to place garbage.

Construction materials (shingles, drywall, cabinets, insulation, etc.) may not be placed at the curb with your regular trash. You must get a dumpster which can be leased from the borough's trash collector, Kreitzer Sanitation at 570-874-3047.

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Month	Tues.	Fri.
Aug.	11	14
Sept.	9	12
Oct.	13	16
Nov.	10	13

### **LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES**

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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## Request for cones

Cones are available for use from the Borough. A cone request form must be filled out and is available from the borough office. Forty-eight hours notice must be given to allow time to get the cones delivered to their location and signs made and placed on the cones.



## Owner/tenant forms

Reminder to all landlords: Orwigsburg Borough Ordinance #396 requires that every owner/lessor of any apartment, house or other type of rental building shall register with the Borough every year. If any tenant moves from the dwelling during the year, the owner shall notify the Borough within thirty (30) days of said changes. Forms are available at the borough office or from the borough website.

In addition, landlords living in excess of 20 miles from the Borough must designate a local manager for the property. This individual must live within 10 miles of the borough.

## Proper disposal of Old Glory

Used flags may be brought to the borough office for proper disposal. Place flags inside the designated mailbox-like container in front of the borough building.



## Albright's Woods

It is time to begin planning that fall 2015 event. The pavilion at Albright's Woods is available for rent for your birthday party, family reunion or other event. Albright's Woods is located on Grove Street in Orwigsburg. The park has a pavilion with picnic tables and a kitchen available for use. Rental fee for the kitchen is \$75, \$25 of which is a returnable security deposit. If the kitchen is not needed, a \$25 fee is charged. For further details or to make a reservation to use the park in 2015, call the borough office at 570-366-3103.



## Help us help you

It shall be the responsibility of property owners in the Orwigsburg Borough to number their buildings. The number needs to be placed over/under each front door, or front transom bar or glass or front show window, over or on either side of the entrance or upon a permanent standard, base or support between building and street. The number is to be of paint, metal, enamel, plastic, or other weather resistant material and at least three inches in height, the color of the



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## Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

numbers to be in contrast to the immediate background, and shall be so placed as to be in full view and legible from the street. No numbers shall be covered with any sign, drapery, or other obstruction and all old numbers shall be removed when a new number is assigned.

### *Take care of your property*

Property owners must keep all premises and exterior property free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 6 inches. All noxious weeds are prohibited.

Weeds are defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term does not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

The property owner must also maintain weeds appearing between sidewalk blocks and between the curb and the street.

### *Call before you dig!*

Contractors, service companies, or do-it-yourself property owners must call 8-1-1 before disturbing

the ground in and around their erty. Planting a tree? Building deck? Installing a fence or as simple as a mailbox, plan project in advance and call the alert number several days before starting any digging project.



811 is the phone number you call before digging to protect yourself

**Know what's below.**

**Call before you dig.**

and others from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines. There are millions of miles of buried utilities beneath the surface of the earth that are vital to everyday living like water, electricity and natural gas.

811 is the federally designated "call before you dig" number that helps homeowners and professionals avoid damaging these vital utilities. When you make the free call, you'll help prevent unintended consequences such as injury to you or your family, damage to your property, utility service outages to the entire neighborhood and potential fines and repair costs.

Tell the operator where you're planning to dig. Your affected local utility companies will be notified about your intent to dig and will send locators to your dig site to mark the approximate location of buried lines with flags or paint.

– Continued on page 14

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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 13

## Curb your animal

Borough Ordinance 299 prohibits pet owners from allowing their pets to defecate on another property without removing the feces from that property. Those violating this ordinance can be fined up to \$600.

Many residents take advantage of the parks and walking trail and are discouraged by the lack of consideration shown by some pet owners.



## Getting the word out

We use the Borough website [www.orwigsburg.net](http://www.orwigsburg.net) as a valuable tool to keep residents and property owners informed about the happenings in the Borough. Our staff will keep the home page current with news on upcoming events and information on past events in the Borough.

The website lists borough meeting schedules. Minutes from these meetings are posted after they have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate body. The subdivision and zoning codes are also available for all to view. Numerous forms can be accessed, including applications for Albright's Woods usage.

Trash day pickup changes will also be posted. Links to other websites, such as the Lions Club, library, churches and fire company are on the website.

The website also includes a link allowing residents to enter their contact information into the borough's Swiftreach 911 emergency notification system. This site allows the Borough to notify residents via telephone, text message and email of boil water advisories, weather emergencies or any other emergencies in a prompt manner.

If you prefer, you may complete the Data Update Form below and return it to Borough Hall. The office will update your information for you.



## Dumpster? You need a permit

Any resident who rents a dumpster and places it on the street is required to fill out a dumpster permit prior to dumpster delivery. Permits are available at the borough office at a cost of \$5. The permit is good for three weeks; another permit is required for additional time. Four (4) reflectors are required on each side of the dumpster, and dumpster wheels must be placed on 3/4" thick pieces of wood so as not to damage the road surface.



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## Meter reading

Many water meters are read from a remote reading register attached to the building and connected to the meter. Borough Ordinance 310 requires these units be accessible to the Borough. Landscaping around your remote reading register needs to be maintained so as to not restrict free access.

## Utility bills

As this newsletter is being published, the due date for quarterly utility bills is fast approaching. It is the responsibility of all property owners to pay their bills in full by the due date printed on the invoice.



The Borough relies on these payments in order to meet the debt service and operating costs for the water, wastewater and sanitation services. If a bill is not paid after a short grace period, collection efforts will be initiated. If efforts to collect payments are unsuccessful, additional steps could include

interruption of service and/or a lien placed on your property. Property owners are responsible for all costs incurred to collect past due obligations.

To avoid these actions and additional costs, property owners must make payment arrangements with the Borough. Have accounts up to date or a payment

arrangement in place by then to avoid loss of service.

"Mail your payment to 209 N. Warren St., Orwigsburg, or drop it off during regular hours at the Municipal Building. A "drop box" has been located at the front door for your convenience if paying after hours. Please do not include cash when dropping off your payment.

## In need of health aids?

Are you or a loved one in need of any of these items to aid in recovery from illness or surgery?

- Wheelchair
- Walker – stationary & folding
- Hospital bed – manual & electric
- Cane – single and multi-legged
- Crutches
- Shower seat
- Bedside commode/bedpan
- Over-toilet seat with handrails
- Temporary tub hand rail
- Recliner chair with auto-lift seat



The Orwigsburg Lions' "Health Equipment Loan Program" provides these items to local residents at no charge as a community service. To arrange a loan, call Larry Dagna at 570-617-6149 or Walt Schimpf as a secondary contact at 570-366-0784 or call 570-449-0659 and leave a message.

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## Message from the Orwigsburg Mayor

### Roots of Our Society – Policing and Moving the Mail

Whenever I try to figure out an issue of concern, I like to understand its origin. This edition's comments are offered, at least partially, from a post-Independence Day perspective as the roots of both items of note are basic expectations of governed society as old as, or older, than our nation.



**BARRY J. BERGER**  
Mayor

The concept of "common defense" was and remains a primary reason for people throughout time to join and cooperate with others to mutually provide a safe living environment. This security is provided in many forms — by our military and federal and state law enforcement

on the larger scale, and by our municipal police departments throughout the Commonwealth on the local front.

#### *Keeping an adequate force*

We have had the benefit of full coverage by the Orwigsburg Police Department for much of the recent past, using a combination of our full-time force with several part-time officers filling the schedule gaps. Lately, this practice has become insufficient as there

are limits to what we can require from our regular officers while still expecting effective performance. At the same time, our pool of part-time officer availability has decreased.

It is my belief that our community is best served by our own local police. I am committed to restoring our department to a full and effective contingent. The process of doing so requires considerable time for approvals, testing and hiring. Your patience during this process will be appreciated. Let me know of any concerns or issues as we work through this matter.

#### *Mail delivery still crucial*

The second item of note relates to the original "information highway," not the internet but the postal service. Benjamin Franklin was the first U.S. Postmaster General. Before the Declaration of Independence was signed, Franklin oversaw the secure transfer of communications through the colonies in revolt.



Scenic travels along the coast from New York to Boston to Maine will put you on Route 1A, frequently marked as "Old Post Road." That tombstone-like marker on West Market Street indicated the mileage to Reading, the next "Post" along the King's Highway from Philadelphia to the frontier at Fort Augusta, now Sunbury, on the Susquehanna River.

When our local post office was moved from the Orwigsburg Square to its current quarters in 1960, it would have been difficult to imagine effective conduct of commerce and communication without the U.S. Mail.

One of my first jobs as a youngster was to take the day's outgoing mail from our shop on Washington Street the full half block to the mailbox at East Mifflin. Operating the post office box combination lock was the reward for being "first" to lay hands on it, kind of a set up for the taller cousins.

From the daily level of traffic and activity observed at our post office, it is not difficult to believe that continued operations are justified. Although electronic communications have reduced business mail volume, some things just need to go by mail.

A public meeting will be held at the Memorial Building at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18. Take the time to communicate your concerns to the U.S. Postal Service and to your elected federal officials.

– Barry J. Berger, Mayor

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### SPREAD THE WORD


Interested in submitting an article for next quarter's issue of **Orwigsburg Happenings**? We welcome community service and non-profit organization information. Please contact Kathi Mengle at 570-366-3103 or [kathi@orwigsburg.net](mailto:kathi@orwigsburg.net)



# Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

What a summer it has been for the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library! Thanks to the community, all of the summer reading programs were a huge success.

So much is happening every week at the library. Stop in and see what it's all about. We're at 214 E. Independence Street, call 570-366-1638, access us through the borough website at [www.orwigsburg.net](http://www.orwigsburg.net), or follow us on Facebook at OrwigsburgAreaFreePublicLibrary to find out more. There are programs and services for all ages.



Book Club meets monthly on Monday evening at 6 p.m. Knitters and crocheters gather on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to play or learn the game of Mahjongg on the first, third, and fifth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Thursday evenings feature family programming beginning at 6 p.m.

The second Wednesday of each month is Lego Club at 5:30 p.m. Builders of all ages are welcome to be part of the fun. Tuesday mornings feature Mrs. Robin Price who conducts Story Hour for youngsters (and moms and dads) younger than school age.

Cookbook Club is just now forming. Join others from the community to share recipes and a love for cooking. The first meet will be at the library on Thursday, Aug. 26 beginning at 6 p.m.



## Special events upcoming

What's going on besides the library's regular weekly and monthly events? Lots!

A dine-out night supporting the library will be hosted at Roman Delight on Thursday, Aug. 20.

Want to learn Spanish? Italian? Language lessons will be offered. Meet at the library on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. to get all the details.

Enjoy running, jogging, walking? A "Run for the Books" 5K race will be held Saturday, Sept. 5 in support of library activities.

In conjunction with the Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 12, the library will hold its "Blow-out Book Sale." Fit as many books as you can into a bag for \$5 at the library from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Halloween Bash is planned Saturday, Oct. 31; a Comedy Night yet to be scheduled in November; and the annual Orwigsburg Area Holly Trail is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5.



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# Message from the Council President

## Inquiring Minds Want to Know – Maybe This Will Help!

For this quarter's article, I reached out to residents through Facebook to see what questions they had about the borough. I promised to answer as many as possible, space permitting, so here it goes.

**Q: Can you discuss the borough's finances? Debt, reserves, etc.**

**A:** Currently, the only significant debt the borough owes is from the recent bond issue in the amount of \$7,485,000. This bond paid off three



**BUDDY TOUCHINSKY**  
Council President

outstanding loans for previous water and sewer upgrades as well as helped finance the current Liberty Street sewer project.

The annual repayment of the bond varies in amount and interest rate each year, ranging between .25% and 3.1%. Payments are about \$550,000 per year and are incorporated into the annual budgets of the water and sewer funds, except for a couple hundred

thousand dollars that will fall under the general fund. The Borough has separate annual budgets for water, sewer, sanitation, and general/streets services.

The bond is scheduled to be paid off in its entirety by 2029. Our current annual operating budget across all services is approximately \$2.7 million. Our current total reserves across all services is approximately \$1,640,000 Overall, the borough's financial situation is considered in very good shape. This year Moody's, an independent credit rating agency, awarded the borough a AA- rating.

**Q: Speeding is an issue in town. Is anything being done about it?**

**A:** This is one of the most common questions/complaints I hear. The short answer is yes, it's on the radar of the mayor and police department. They have increased the frequency of speed traps and have been searching for grants to be used for speed control devices and other non-enforcement speed control methods such as signage.

**Q: I heard that we currently do not have 24/7 police coverage. Is this true?**

**A:** Unfortunately, yes. We have had two full time police officers go on extended leave and our pool of reliable part-timers to fill shifts has dwindled, thus creating some periods lacking local coverage. When this occurs, we notify state police and any emergencies are referred to them.

By the time this article is published, we

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Aug 20 – Bay Lighthouse Cruise.....	\$109
Aug 24 – Loretta Lynn @ American Music Theatre .....	\$95
Sept 5 – Baltimore Inner Harbor Free Day .....	\$38
Sept 9 – Farm to Fork Tour .....	\$75
Sept 10 – "Over the River and Through the Woods" @ Rainbow Playhouse .....	\$63
Sept 10 – Sands Casino \$35 FSP <i>Orwigsburg Pickup</i> .....	\$24
Sept 12 – Bronx Zoo.....	\$60*
Sept 12 – Doo Wop Cavalcade @ AMT (8-groups) .....	\$70
Sept 12 & 19 – Feast of San Gennaro in Little Italy.....	\$39
Sept 13 – York Fair .....	\$25
Sept 14-22 – Arizona & Utah .....	\$2,979 p/p dbl
Sept 19 – American Girl Place .....	\$75
Sept 19 – Gourmet Shopping in NYC.....	\$40
Sept 19 – National Zoo, Washington, DC.....	\$43
Sept 20 – Tom Sadge as NEIL DIAMOND .....	\$69
Sept 20 – Haunts & Hex Tour plus Lunch .....	\$70
Sept 20-24 – Outer Banks, NC .....	\$619 p/p dbl
Sept 22-24 – Rail, Sail & Cooperstown.....	\$489 p/p dbl
Sept 23 – 'Live at the Sands' Frank, Dean & Sammy <i>Orwigsburg Pickup</i> .....	\$76
Sept 27 – Mason Dixon Wine Trail .....	\$82
Sept 27-Oct 1 – Moose & Mountains (New Hampshire & Maine).....	\$815 p/p dbl
Sept 29 – "The Van-Dells" @ Penn's Peak <i>Orwigsburg Pickup</i> .....	\$72
Sept 30-Oct 1 – Delaware Beer, Wine, & Spirits Tour .....	\$233 p/p dbl
Oct 4 – Nascar @ Dover .....	\$85

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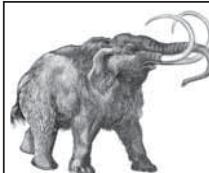
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## Message from the Council President

hope to have both officers back on full time. Additionally, we are considering adding another full time officer, but this could take several months. In the mean time, police officers that are interested should contact the borough to inquire about being added to our roster of part-time help.

This situation is a matter of having enough help vs. having funding. We simply do not have the officers to fill shifts and there is only so much overtime that is appropriate for our current officers to take on.

**Q: Is there anything being done about the sidewalks in town?**

**A:** If speeding is not the most common complaint I hear, it's sidewalks. Again, the short answer is yes. We know it's a problem. Finding a solution is more difficult.

Many people are not aware that the sidewalks, though open to the public, are the responsibility of the property owner. Orwigsburg currently has no ordinance mandating sidewalk repairs or replacement. That said, should someone be injured due to the conditions of the sidewalk, the liability is most likely that of the property owner. The Borough encourages all property owners to make sure their sidewalks are in good working order.

**Q: What housing or commercial developments are currently in the process of having plans approved in the borough?**

**A:** Residential development include Pine Creek located across from the former Madeline's Restaurant, The Villas located near Cresswell Acres, and the Forino development that borders Ridgeview. The only commercial development at this time is Dollar General to be located near Seton Manor Drive on the west side of town.

**Q: Are there any committee openings or other ways to get involved?**

**A:** Yes, there are several ways to get involved. In local government, there are committees such as the municipal authority, planning and zoning board, and zoning hearing board. Positions are through appointment and done so on an annual basis or as seats become vacant. If you are interested, contact the borough. Outside government, the community has several very active organizations such as the Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association, Orwigsburg Lions Club, Team Orwigsburg, our local food pantry, area churches, etc.

Keep an eye out for events sponsored by these organization and speak to the members about joining. They can always use more helping hands.

– Buddy Touchinsky, Council President



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# Orwigsburg Historical Society

The Orwigsburg Historical Society invites residents and visitors to explore its collection of Orwigsburg's past at the headquarters located in the historic, original Friendship Hose Company firehouse at 109 East Mifflin Street.

The society headquarters is open only Thursdays from noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Group tours can be scheduled. Membership support of the society's mission is encouraged. Additional information on membership, the society, and specific upcoming programs can be obtained by calling 570-617-7809.

The public is encouraged to attend monthly programs and special events planned at the society's headquarters. All programs are free and open to the public with light refreshments served. The September meeting of the society is set for Thursday, Sept. 3 beginning at 7 p.m.

## Heritage Celebration

Orwigsburg's Community Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 12 is a big day for the historical society. Society volunteers will be on duty to assist in the museum area and to answer questions.

The town's jail from long ago, located at the alley rear of the headquarters, will be open as well. The "jail keeper" will be present to give narratives and provide visitor information.

In the Community Room of the society, historian and local archaeologist, Francis J. Burke will be on

hand to discuss many of his artifacts now housed in the society's showcase. Burke will assist in identifying visitors' "finds" and will sign his book, "Schuylkill County's Buried Past."

## Cigar heritage virtually unknown

The next monthly program hosted by the society will be Wednesday, Sept. 30 beginning at 7 p.m. "Cigars: Past, Present and Future" will be presented by Bryan Ott and Jeffrey Kocher of Cigars International. This program promises to be very entertaining and informative.

Many people don't know that Orwigsburg was once famous for the many brands of cigars made in the town. In fact, it was the cigar-making capital of Schuylkill County, producing thousands of cigars per month. Fascinating is that a tiny town of 3,000 people was able to produce many of the cigars consumed in Schuylkill County at the time. Amazing!

Come learn about the history of cigar making, as well as the future of making cigars.

## Bottle collecting hobby

James E. Fritz, Lake Wynonah, has been collecting bottles since the mid-1970s and gained a fascination with bottles made in New York and New Jersey between the 1840s and the 1920s which were commissioned by bottling companies in Pottsville.

He has amassed a collection of 114 Pottsville bottles, many of which he will bring to the historical society for display on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The public is encouraged to hear Fritz talk about his collection and the history of local beer and soda bottles in a presentation beginning at 7 p.m.

## Membership reminder

Past members supporting the historical society who have not renewed for the 2015-2016 member year are urged to do so. Non-members who would like to take an active support role in preserving the community's past are asked to consider becoming a member. Stop by the headquarters or call 570-617-7809.

Wayne Hamilton of Hamilton Funeral Home wins the prize for being the first to renew his 2015 - 2016 membership. Wayne will receive an OHS commemorative mug.

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# 2015-16 Orwigsburg Historical Society Membership Form

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership (Please Check One): ☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Family \$25 ☐ Corporate \$50

All Corporate/Business members will be recognized as such and will be included in special promotions.

I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of ☐ \$20 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All current members receive invitations to special programs, reduced admissions to special events, and a 10% discount on museum store purchases! Please mention membership at time of purchase.

The Orwigsburg Historical Society has numerous volunteer opportunities. Please indicate areas of interest, below. I am interested in volunteering in the following areas:

☐ Membership & Community Outreach (Includes Speaking Engagements for the Community)

☐ Genealogy & Historical Research

☐ Museum Display Design & Implementation

☐ Keeping the Museum Open for Visitors

☐ Web Site Design & Mastering

☐ Guild (Events, Fund Raising, etc.)

☐ Special Events

Please return this form, in an envelope, along with a check made payable to the:

Orwigsburg Historical Society  
109 East Mifflin Street  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

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# Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association

## Join the Fun; Be Part of Something Special



JUNE JAMBOREE HELD JUNE 25

A waterproof crowd and group of hearty vendors weathered the rainstorms and together created a successful evening of music, artwork, food and wine tasting at the June Jamboree held "on the square" as part of this summer's monthly activities.

Organized by the Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association (OBPA), every Square Time enjoys growing community support and participation. Business owners, employees, and individuals are encouraged to join. Professional associations with fellow members and joining together for the betterment of our community are just a few of the rewarding out-

comes. Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month and all are welcome.

Meeting places rotate among many of the local business members' facilities. The next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 3 will be held at 4 p.m. at Healthy Habits on Rt. 61. The October 1 gathering will be hosted by J. Bertolet Volkswagen, also on Rt. 61. Meetings focus on ways to create a better community and business environment in town. New faces, new ideas, and opinions are always welcome. Recent past business hosts were The Arts Barn, Orwigsburg Historical Society, 3 C's Restaurant and Hamilton Funeral Home.



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# Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association

## *Current projects and initiatives*

Working with other service organizations, OBPA is committed to help redesign and replace the four existing "Welcome to Orwigsburg" signs by 2016. With the help of various sponsors and Bartush signs, this project estimated to cost \$20,000 will be funded without taxpayer dollars.

Using local resources, OBPA is developing a new, functional, fun and informative website. Look soon for a high quality Orwigsburg t-shirt, designed by OBPA to promote both the community and our local businesses.

OBPA is dedicated to maintain and keep current its Facebook pages for both the organization and for the Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration. Please "Friend" or "Like" us to get all the updates.

The group will support all business and professional members by recognizing each with a renewing, framed membership certificate for display at all of their locations.

## *Sponsored events this year*

For a quick look back, this year OBPA sponsored events including the June Jamboree and a concert featuring Auburn's rising star on the national country music scene, Chad Rehnert. In August, Family Fun

Fest featured children's musician Dave Fry, Mr. Mike's Dino Tour, and caricature drawing by Missi Allen along with a bounce house, games, food and a lot of fun.

With half the year remaining, exciting events are still to be enjoyed. Orwigsburg's 24th annual Heritage Celebration will spring to life "on the square" Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Honor the past and embrace the future with this fun-filled day of history, music, crafts, demonstrations, artists, great food, and much more. The show will go on rain or shine.

Chili and Chills Cook Off will be held October 17 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. in the Veterans Community Memorial Hall. Last year's wildly successful inaugural event will only get better as local amateur chefs provide everyone a chance to sample and select the best tasting local chili of 2015. It being the Halloween season, all are encouraged to come in costume to add to the fun and spectacle. This year's Orwigsburg Art Auction will also be part of this event.

Help your community and help the OBPA! We welcome volunteers young and old. As a 401c3 organization, any volunteer work done in cooperation with OBPA can help high school students earn credits toward their graduation project. For those just a bit beyond high school age, it's just plain fun.

– Patricia Falco, President

Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association



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## State Senator David G. Argall

### Budget Debate Rages; Strong Winds Behind Tax Reform

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a balanced budget that reflects the fiscal realities of the state and the taxpayers. Unlike our federal counterparts, we must pass a balanced budget every year.

The residents of Orwigsburg have told me loud and clear they would rather see the state use its current revenues before we turn to the taxpayers and ask them for more money. The Senate and House-passed budget reflects those demands.



**SENATOR  
DAVID ARGALL**

The state budget boosts spending for education by \$370 million, including an additional \$100 million for Basic Education, \$20 million for Special Education and \$30 million for early childhood programs.

The budget drives out money to public schools based on a new formula that was developed by the bipartisan Basic Education Funding Commission. The budget plan also includes a much-needed initiative to provide school districts with reimbursements for construction projects.

Because state Governor Tom Wolf vetoed the entire state budget – for the first time in over 40 years

– critical state programs and services are now at risk, especially as the new school year begins.

The governor continues to trumpet there is public support for his budget. However, when the House of Representatives put up his plan for a vote, including temporary school property tax relief through his proposed tax hikes, the plan failed by a vote of 193-0. Not one member supported his plan. The governor is suggesting \$12.7 billion in tax hikes over the next two years, with only \$3.6 billion providing temporary relief for property owners and renters.

While some will say that the governor's election last November was a "mandate," that same election saw historic Republican gains in the Senate and House of Representatives. We need to find a way to work together. None of us can achieve our goals without working with the other side. The voters clearly elected a divided government, but they certainly don't want a dysfunctional government.

One of the major issues to emerge from the debate over the state budget was the need to address school property taxes. All agree we need to do something with spiraling school property taxes in Pennsylvania.

The plan I'm sponsoring in the Senate has strong support. The plan would eliminate school property taxes in Pennsylvania by providing a dollar-for-dollar shift to an increased Personal Income Tax and an increased and expanded Sales and Use Tax. I'm thankful the governor wants to address this issue, but we disagree for now, on the approach.

The people of Pennsylvania want meaningful property tax reform and controlled spending through our state budget. I am optimistic, with strong public support and growing legislative support, that we can agree that eliminating school property taxes should be a priority during the upcoming debate on finalizing our state budget. The message I've heard from Orwigsburg residents and all across Schuylkill and Berks counties: The sooner, the better!

President Ronald Reagan's desk in the Oval Office featured a plaque containing a quote by Father Strickland, a Jesuit Priest, "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." That should be our goal.

## Strouse Brothers, Inc.

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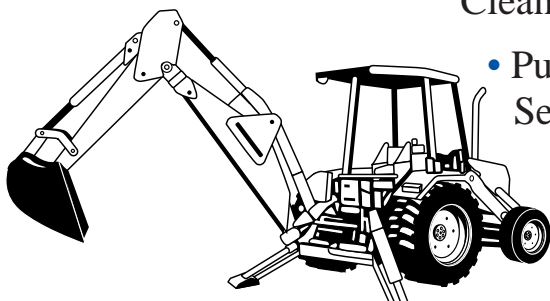
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## News from State Rep. Knowles

### Working With Children? Background Clearances Clarified

Clarification changes have been made to the state's new law regarding background clearances for employees and volunteers who have direct and routine contact with children.



**Representative  
Jerry Knowles**

Governor Tom Wolf signed House Bill 1276 into law bringing more clarity to the 2014 Act 153 requiring additional and periodic background checks for both employees and volunteers who are directly involved with children. The changes take effect immediately.

We have heard from many people who were confused about the new laws. These changes provide some clarifications and convenience for volunteers and employees who routinely work with children."

Under the new law, volunteers must obtain the clearances if they have direct volunteer contact, meaning they have care, supervision, guidance or control and routine interaction with children. This is the standard that will apply to determining whether an adult volunteer must get the background checks. Also new is that all employees and adult volunteers

subject to the background check clearances will be required to recertify all of those clearances every five years, instead of every three years.

This new law makes a number of clarifications with respect to the cost, portability and recertification of the two main clearances – the Department of Human Services child abuse clearance and the state police criminal background check.

As lowered by the administration and by legislation, the two \$10 fees are waived for volunteers and are reduced to \$8 each for employees. Under the new law, though, the volunteer clearances cannot be used for employment.

Additionally, the deadline for new volunteers to obtain their clearances has been moved from July 1 to Aug. 25. All other deadlines remain the same – Dec. 31 of this year for existing employees and July 1, 2016 for existing volunteers. New prospective employees must obtain the clearances before starting employment.

The Department of Human Services website lists additional information about Act 153 and the other new laws resulting from the child protection package and is available at [www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov](http://www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov).

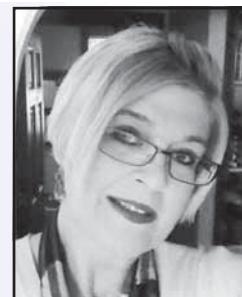


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# Single-Stream Recycling

○ *Circled days indicate biweekly curbside recycling*

AUGUST 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Shaded days are trash collection days

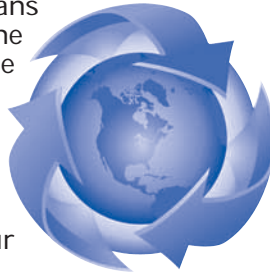
Tuesdays – Market Street and north; Fridays – south of Market Street

Large item collection, once per month

Convenient, single-stream curbside recycling is available to residents every two weeks on the designated trash pickup day. Recyclables should be separated from other household trash and placed in the container provided by the Borough and Kreitzer Sanitation, or in a container of the property owner's choice clearly designated for recycling.

Single-stream recycling means items can be co-mingled in one container/recycle bin without the need for separation.

Materials for recycling are collected curbside every two weeks on your designated trash pickup day (see calendar schedule above). Simply place your



recycling bin beside your other trash containers and yard waste.

Use the following guidelines to prepare recyclables for pickup:

- Newspapers and mixed paper should be bundled or placed in a paper or clear plastic bag in order to keep them secure.
- Cardboard should be flattened and bundled.
- Take steps to ensure paper, cardboard and plastic, etc. do not blow around to neighboring properties or streets.
- Glass food and beverage containers are recyclable and include items such as glass soda, beer, wine, liquor, ketchup or juice bottles, and glass food containers. Metal caps and lids should be removed, but labels can remain.



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**Orwigsburg  
Heritage Celebration**  
September 12 - 9 am to 3 pm

**Harvest Family Festival**  
October 3 - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Community Veterans Day Service**  
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November 8 - 10:00 am

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# Single-Stream Recycling

- Glass items such as mirrors, ceramic cups and plates, crystal, clay flower pots, light bulbs, window glass, drinking glass and heat-resistant ovenware are NOT recycled by glass container plants and should not be mixed in with container glass.
- Aluminum beverage cans should be rinsed and crushed. Steel cans need only be rinsed. Leave labels in place.
- Plastic soda bottles and milk jugs should also be rinsed and crushed.
- Be considerate of the streetscape view in your neighborhood; store your recycling container to the side or back of your property or residence.

After following these instructions, combine all materials in one recycling container and place curbside after 6 p.m. the evening before pickup. Recyclables must be in their special container separate from household trash because a separate collection truck is used.

Given the convenience of single-stream recycling, the number of occupants in your household, and the volume collected for recycling, residents may find the need for a smaller or larger container. The borough has two sizes available.

Contact the Borough Office at 570-366-3103 during phone office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to arrange for a different recycling container or for additional information.



## Single-Stream Recycling

### Yes

 Plastic Containers #1 through #7 (No Styrofoam)	 Aluminum, Steel & Tin Containers	 Glass Bottles & Containers
 Newspapers *bundle or place in paper bag	 Corrugated Cardboard & Boxboard	 Mixed Paper



### No

 Paper Towels, Facial Tissue & Toilet Tissue	 Plastic Bags & Packaging	 Wax-Coated Paper Drink Containers	 Food & Wet Waste	 Paper, Plastic & Styrofoam Serving Items
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More "No" Materials: ceramics, dishes, coffee mugs, drinking glasses, light bulbs, Pyrex, flammable, toxic, hazardous, medical waste and syringes

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# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

## St. John's UCC

Saint John's United Church of Christ, 232 E. Market St., has stood proudly on the main street of Orwigsburg since 1907, but its roots date to 1831 when the first St. John's was built on N. Washington Street. The present congregation continues the foundation laid by the earlier church members but includes a current day spirit describing itself as "traditional worship for contemporary souls."

Summer worship is held Sundays at 9 a.m. with communion served the first Sunday of each month.



Fall worship times will begin September 6 with the service at 10 a.m. and the return of Sunday School classes for youngsters from four years old through sixth grade on September 13 beginning at 9 a.m.

Pastor John Steitz is the interim pastor and welcomes each attendee with a warm greeting prior to the beginning of the service. The music director, Trena Murphy, plans meaningful music with St. John's choir and guest musicians throughout the year.

St. John's sponsors many community activities throughout the year and is a meeting place for Girl

Scouts, Cub Scouts, area quilters, yoga classes from September through July, a senior exercise program, Team Orwigsburg dinners, hosts Orwigsburg Senior Citizens, blood drives two times a year, and much more!

The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry is housed at St. John's with eight area churches participating in the collection and distribution of food. The large fellowship hall may be rented for personal gatherings. Presently there is an apartment above the fellowship center for rent. Phone the church office for information on activities or apartment rental at 570-366-2255.

St. John's annual Apple Fest will be held Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in conjunction with Orwigsburg's Heritage Celebration. Homemade apple pies, dumplings, and apple crisp will be featured for sale in addition to breakfast breads, and soup by the quart. A light lunch will be available.

The Pennsylvania German specialty of Schnitz and Knepp will be served from 10:30 a.m. until sold out. A handmade Christmas quilt measuring 92" x 97" will be the top prize in the annual quilt raffle. Additional prizes will be awarded. Tickets can be purchased via church members in advance or at the church Fellowship Hall during Apple Fest. Two other hand-stitched quilts will be for sale with a minimum bid of \$400. A yard sale will also be held in the church alley on the same day.

## Salem UMC

Salem United Methodist Church, 133 S. Liberty St. "where Liberty meets Independence," will again present many community-wide activities in the coming months. Additional information can be gained by calling the church office at 570-366-0201, email at [office@SalemUM.com](mailto:office@SalemUM.com), or on its website [www.SalemUM.com](http://www.SalemUM.com).

Everyone is invited to enjoy and take part in the annual Salem Church Free Block Party! This year the date is Sunday, August 30, more than a week before Labor Day, from 3 to 7 p.m. All activities are free, a gift from the church back to the community. Details of the day and of the OrWINGSburg best recipe contest are listed earlier in this newsletter. It all takes place in and adjacent to the church on West Independence St.

In September, Salem Church will bring back the Pancake Breakfast to get your day started right for

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 North Warren Street • Orwigsburg  
570-366-2316

[www.stpaulsorwigsburg.org](http://www.stpaulsorwigsburg.org)

Pastor: Rev. Lee A Diefenderfer

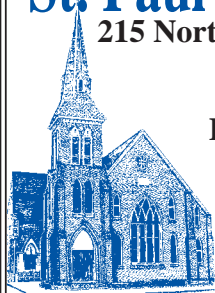
### OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Summer Worship

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:15 a.m.



Handicap Accessible

**Beginning Sept. 13,** Sunday worship services are again at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.; Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m.

Also on Sept. 13, a new Bible study will begin during the 9:15 a.m. Sunday School hour.

**St. Francis Sunday** – Bring your pet to church and receive a blessing from the pastor  
Sat., Oct. 3, 5:30 p.m. & Sun., Oct. 4, 8 & 10:30 a.m.

**Faith Always in the Heart – Support Group**  
Will meet 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
1st meeting will be September 28th.

**St. Paul's Annual Bazaar** – Sat., Oct. 3.  
Chinese auction of theme baskets, soups, baked goods and several vendors.



## St. John's United Church of Christ

232 E. Market St., Orwigsburg • 570-366-2255

*Traditional worship for contemporary souls*

**Sunday School 9 a.m. (Beginning Sept. 13)**

**Worship 10 a.m. • Communion First Sunday**

**APPLE FEST SAT., SEPT. 12 – 9 a.m. to Sold Out**

**Apple Pies, Dumplings, and Crisp**

**Light Lunch, Schnitz and Knepp.**

**Drawing for Handmade Quilt at 1 p.m.**

# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches



the Community Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 12. A hearty breakfast will be served from 7 to 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

October is right around the corner. All children (and parents or guardians) of the community are invited to join the church contingent in the Halloween parade and will receive a "bigger than fun-size" candy bag. Prizes will be awarded in several costume categories. Pre-registration begins October 1 at [www.AWholeNewBoo.com](http://www.AWholeNewBoo.com) or call the church office.

The 10th annual Holiday Stop and Shop will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Up to 17 franchise owners of popular products will be part of the event for your holiday shopping plus Team Orwigsburg will host a soup and bake sale. Support two great causes while you get an early start to your Christmas shopping.

Throughout the fall and winter months, community spaghetti dinners and family movie nights are planned. The church website and flyers on local business bulletin boards will announce each event.

Numerous small group opportunities are scheduled throughout the week at different times begin-

ning in September. They include SUMO youth fellowship, women's small group studies, Bible study with the pastor, Team Orwigsburg adult/youth missions, UM men, and scrapbooking. A number of music ministries include senior and children's choir, the God Squad handbell choir and Praise Singers.

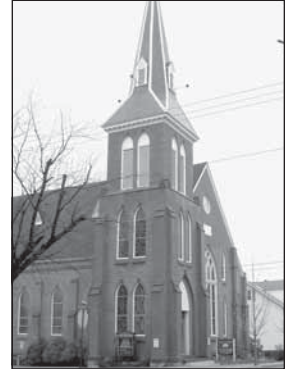
## St. Paul's Lutheran

Located at 215 North Warren St., St. Paul's Lutheran Church welcomes all to worship and to be a part of the church family. The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and can be reached by calling 570-366-2316. Additional information can be obtained at [www.stpaulsorwigsburg.org](http://www.stpaulsorwigsburg.org).

Worship services, led by the Rev. Lee A. Diefenderfer, are held each Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and two Sunday opportunities at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school begins at 9:15 a.m. This schedule begins Sunday, September 13 following a summer schedule of just one Sunday worship service at 9:15 a.m. and no Sunday school.

Also beginning September 13, a new Bible study will begin during the Sunday school hour.

– Continued on page 30



## Newsletter Particulars

"Orwigsburg Happenings" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Orwigsburg distributed to 1,400 households within the borough.

The newsletter is designed and printed by South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing  
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E-mail: [printing@southschuylkill.net](mailto:printing@southschuylkill.net)  
[www.SouthSchuylkill.net](http://www.SouthSchuylkill.net)

Publication dates for the next three issues are November 6, 2015; February 12 and May 13, 2016

## News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Kathi Mengle in the borough offices, three weeks prior to the publication date.

## Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Orwigsburg are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Orwigsburg.

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*Caring for Families since 1755!*

## EVERY SUNDAY:

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School will resume September 20

**RALLY DAY – Sept. 20**

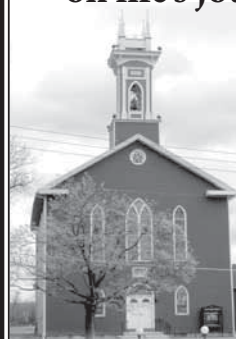
"God's Work, Our Hands"

**WORLD COMMUNION – Oct. 4**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

*See our article for more details!*





# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

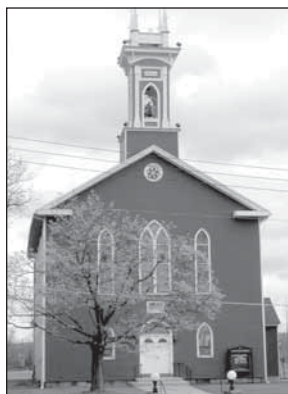
– Continued from Page 29

St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, will be celebrated with a special pastoral blessing for all pets brought to the Saturday and Sunday worship services October 3-4.

Church support group, Faith Always in the Heart, meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m., starting September 28.

St. Paul's Fall Bazaar will be held Saturday, Oct. 3 with soups, baked goods, merchandise displays, and a Chinese auction of themed baskets.

## Zion's Red Church



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Zion's Red Church, 1287 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61 and Brick Hill Road)! Our mission is to welcome, strengthen, and bless . . . welcome all with God's love, strengthen individuals for life's journey, and bless our wider community.

Summer Sundays are casual, so come as you are. Sunday worship begins each week at 10:30 a.m. with creative, interactive elements to focus on weekly scripture readings. Sometimes

a member will share their faith story how God has made a difference in their lives.

Sunday school resumes after a summer absence on Rally Day, September 20 at 9:15 a.m. The worship service at 10:30 a.m. will focus on "God's Work, Our Hands."

October special services will include World Communion on October 4 and Harvest Home on October 11 with worshipers asked to donate one or more non-perishable food items to benefit the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry.

World Mission Sunday will be observed October 18 beginning at 9:15 a.m. with a "It's a Small World" theme. Activities and a world craft market are planned. The month ends with Reformation Communion on October 25.

All Saints Sunday is November 1. Members and friends who have passed away in the past year will be remembered.

The Alcoholics Anonymous group meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Zion's Red Church is a union congregation of Evangelical Lutheran and United Church of Christ denominations. For more details on these and other church activities, visit [www.zionsredchurch.org](http://www.zionsredchurch.org) or call 570-366-1178.

## Kimmels Church

A nationwide study revealed three-quarters of



**SALEM** United Methodist Church  
Orwigsburg, PA

**Welcome Home**

**133 S. Liberty St. Orwigsburg**  
**www.SalemUM.com 570-366-0201**

**– Sunday at Salem –**

8:45 a.m. – Traditional  
10:00 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 a.m. – Contemporary with  
Children's Church and Nursery  
6:30 p.m. – SNL Coffeehouse

**– SPECIAL EVENTS –**

Aug. 30 – Salem Free Block Party - 3 to 7 p.m.  
Sept. 12 – Heritage Day Breakfast - 7 to 10 a.m.  
Oct. 28 – Whole New Boo at Halloween Parade

## GABRIEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

26th Anniversary Season



Geral Hieser – Simon Maurer – Agnes Maurer  
Cello Violin Viola

All concerts at 3 p.m. – Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
252 Dock St. Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

## Sunday, September 13

Featuring 13 year old pianist Xinyue Zhang and guest musicians Barbara Jaffe, violin, and Xun Pan, piano

**Mendelssohn** Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op 49 (1st movt) – **Gershwin** Preludes for Violin and Piano – **Piazzolla** Four for Tango – **Chopin** Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat Minor, Op. 31 – **Shostakovich** Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57

Tickets \$15 / senior and \$20 / adult  
Always FREE to all students

## Gabriel Chamber Ensemble

P.O. Box 36, Orwigsburg, PA 17961 • 570-943-2558  
[www.gabrielensemble.org](http://www.gabrielensemble.org) [f](https://www.facebook.com/gabrielensemble) Gabriel Chamber Ensemble  
[gce@gabrielensemble.org](mailto:gce@gabrielensemble.org)

## A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

American adults feel that the presence of a church is positive to the community. Unfortunately, many of those same adults were unclear as to how churches could serve their communities. Only 21% gave a response to that question.

What would you say if asked about the positive impact of churches in your community and in what ways? Kimmels Church is dedicated to helping all have a positive view on the impact of the church through service and a commitment to loving God.

Kimmels Church will host a booth September 12 at this year's Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration. We want the residents and visitors of Orwigsburg to know we are here and we do care.

Our fifth annual Harvest Family Festival will be celebrated on October 3. Come and enjoy a full day of activities for the whole family, including hayrides, pumpkins, great food, a rummage sale, live music, jugglers, games for the kids, a bounce house and much more.

All proceeds from this year's festival will go to Group Workcamps, an organization that will bring 300 to 400 teens to our area in the summer of 2017 to complete work on 60 to 70 homes belonging to



lower income families throughout the Orwigsburg and surrounding areas. We need your support so we can bring hope to the lives of these families by letting them know they are not forgotten and a part of our community.

The church continues its 5th Quarter event following the Blue Mountain vs. Schuylkill Haven football game on Friday, Nov. 7. The night's activities, hosted at the church, provide a "safe" place for area teenagers to go and be with friends following the rival game.

A Veteran's Day community service, coordinated by Kimmels Church, will be held Sunday, Nov. 8, at 10 a.m. in the Orwigsburg Veteran's Community Memorial Hall. The public is encouraged to attend this service honoring our area veterans. Featured will be the Blue Mountain Handbell Choir, a color guard supplied by our local Boy Scout troop, and guest speaker Lt. Col. Brett Allison.

So what else can we do to help impact our community? Kimmels Church is interested in your thoughts and ideas. Send an email to [admin@kimmelschurch.org](mailto:admin@kimmelschurch.org) with ideas how God's love can be extended to our community and impact it in a more positive way.

Together we can make a difference, and we will give God the glory!

# Launching . . . September 1, 2015



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## Square Beautification Worthy of Eagle Award

### Collaborative Landscaping Project Complete by Memorial Day

Frederick "Fritz" Miller, Orwigsburg, has attained the rank of Eagle Scout as a member of Troop 621, sponsored by Faith Church, Orwigsburg. Fritz's Eagle Project consisted of designing and installing new landscaping for the Orwigsburg Borough square. The project was completed just prior to the borough's Memorial Day parade and program "on the square" this spring.

The Borough wanted to remove the shrubs on the square because they required constant pruning, and the size of the mature shrubs blocked a clear view of oncoming vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

With the help of registered landscape architect Tim Hill, owner of Season's Art Landscaping on Rt. 61 just south of the borough, Fritz completed a formal scale design of low-growing evergreen shrubs and perennials to meet the borough's need to maintain a field of vision across the two large islands in the square and also access the light posts for maintenance. Narrow curving beds link the birch trees



and widening of existing cement walkways lead visitors past memorial stones.

The Borough purchased topsoil, mulch, fertilizer and the plants. With Hill's guidance after the borough crew removed the existing shrubs, Fritz assembled a work crew and supervised the labor-intensive job of preparing and

improving the existing soil, removing remaining root systems, creating new beds around the lamp posts, and seeding grass around the existing memorial stone.

This is the third Eagle project completed for the Borough by sons of Mary Timpany and Jack Miller, Orwigsburg. Fritz's oldest brother, Christopher, completed his Eagle Scout project by readying the current site of the tank at Veterans Community Memorial Hall and repairing the public bench and planters at the Community Parking Lot. Brother Alexander's Eagle Scout project was to install a 20-foot flag pole and sign at the municipal water plant on Long Avenue.