

# ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

*From Where It All Began*

*... Is Happening Again*

No. 103 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

June 2020

## ***Community & Local Government Deal With COVID-19***

### **Precautions In-Place; Borough Operations Maintained**

During this time of crisis, the health and well-being of the Borough's residents, employees and community is our top priority. We understand the concern you may be experiencing surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and are committed to being responsive to the needs of our residents and employees as the situation evolves. We have taken the following precautions to keep the Borough operational and safe.



**RANDY MILLER**  
Borough Manager

The Borough offices closed to the public in March in order to protect employee and community health. The Borough continues to deliver essential services to residents throughout the response to this pandemic.

The Borough Office staff will be at the office

and is available to answer calls and messages Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. During this time, we are providing continuous operations. The following services remain operational:

- All emergency services including Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical
- Emergency response to weather events
- Refuse and recycling collection (large item pick-up has been suspended for the time being) will continue unless a warranted stoppage occurs.



*- Continued on page 2*

## **Businesses Adapt to COVID-19 Restrictions**

The Pennsylvania Stay-At-Home Order to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus has, at press time, extended now for more than two months – April 1 through June 5 in Schuylkill County.

The intent clearly is to stem the tide of the global pandemic and protect the health and safety of all residents until a treatment and future vaccine can be developed.

But it sure has put our normal lives and business economics into a tailspin, hasn't it?

Many businesses, deemed non-life sustaining, were forced to close. Some, in order to continue serving the public, were forced to modify operations and to realize a greatly reduced volume and lesser income to cover expenses.

Public schools, colleges, and universities scrambled to establish "distance learning" when required to close their doors to prevent people-to-people contact. Parents were forced to arrange for the care of youngsters at home, if they were still able to work, and to adapt to become teachers themselves in a home-schooling environment.

Many adults were furloughed or laid off due to business closures or cutbacks. Federal economic incentives through direct payments from the IRS to taxpayers and their dependents, loans to businesses (some with payback forgiveness) through the Small Business Administration, and increased Unemployment Compensation promised some financial relief. Problems due to the huge number of applications meant that relief was a long time coming, if yet!

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## 2020 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

209 N. Warren Street  
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[www.Orwigsburg.gov](http://www.Orwigsburg.gov)

### OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Barry Berger  
Council President..... Richard Bubeck  
Council Vice President..... Rodney Schaeffer  
Borough Manager..... Randall P. Miller  
Secretary..... Sherry Edwards  
Treasurer..... Colleen Hoptak  
Tax Receiver..... Colleen Hoptak  
Solicitor..... Paul Datte, Esq.  
Borough Engineers..... ARRO Consulting, Inc.  
Entech Engineering, Inc.  
Alfred Benesch & Company  
Fire Chief..... Jesse Zimmerman

### ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Madeline Bartush • Katie Bedway  
Kerry Mariano  
Angela Hoptak-Solga • Brock Stein

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency..... Dial 9-1-1  
Non-emergency..... 570-366-3101  
John Koury, Chief  
Brandon Bayer • Robert Bechtel  
Bryce Lewis • Patrick McBreen • Tanner Noecker

### STREET DEPARTMENT

Slade Bugajinsky • Devin Deibert  
Shawn Reichart

### WATER AND WASTEWATER

David Teter

### BOROUGH OFFICE

Sherry Edwards • Kathi Mengle

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 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; the Business Meeting is then held on the Second Wednesday.

### OFFICIAL BOROUGH HOLIDAYS

Orwigsburg Borough offices and services will be closed on the following days in 2020 in observance of the stated holidays – New Year's Day, Jan. 1; Good Friday, April 10; Memorial Day, May 25; Independence Day, July 3 (observed); Labor Day, Sept. 7; Veterans' Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 and 27; Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 24 and 25.

## Borough Manager

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- Water and sewer plants will remain staffed and operational

The following facilities and operations remain closed until further notice:

- The Borough Office
- Borough parks, fields and recreation centers will be closed to external functions. As the county begins to re-open, each recreation possibility will be evaluated; however, with the Primary Election scheduled for June 2 at the Veterans' Memorial, this location will continue to be isolated until after Primary Election Day, at which time it will again be thoroughly cleaned.

We will continue to monitor the situation and take whatever steps we can to mitigate the spread and impact of the coronavirus.

### Heading into summer

As we progress into summer, the Borough continues to evaluate needed repairs and upgrades to streets, sewer, water, and stormwater systems. We have several planned projects that you will notice.

The Borough has received bids for repairs to stormwater and street surfaces in Ridgeview. We are continuing the work begun to stormwater conveniences by evaluating the work completed to date and looking to effect repairs to other areas where stormwater is an issue. We know there are many locations, and we intend to fix them.

One note though – no municipality can build a stormwater system large enough to handle everything that Mother Nature can produce. Conventional engineering designs these systems to handle storms as large as a “hundred-year” storm. In some locations, elevation, storm line depths, stream locations all preclude the design capacities.

As Schuylkill County moves into the Yellow Phase of reopening, and hopefully Green before too long, please remember that safety will remain the top concern for all residents and employees. As this occurs, the Borough will be prepared to open Borough Hall, the parks, and the Memorial Building, abiding by all requirements established by the Commonwealth, and Schuylkill County.

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# Businesses Adapt to COVID-19 Restrictions

- Continued from Page 1

The following businesses serving the Orwigsburg area replied to an **Orwigsburg Happenings** request to share how each are coping through this unusual and trying time for all.

**South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing**, designer and printer of the **Orwigsburg Happenings**, delayed this issue's publication date by four weeks due to the uncertainty how event organizers, Borough officials, and businesses would adapt to the stress and strain of these unusual times.

SSPP was deemed an "essential business" under the Governor's order due to its public communications and supply of printed materials for other "life-sustaining" customers such as food processing and pharmaceuticals. Internal operations continued via telephone and email contacts, but its doors remain locked to walk-in customers. Hands-free delivery has always been its service within Schuylkill County with commercial delivery to other areas.

**Orwigsburg Historical Society & Museum**, located at 109 E. Mifflin St., postponed its scheduled May program "Pennsylvania's History & Trivia" with Al Holliday, the publisher of Pennsylvania Magazine.

Rest assured, the Orwigsburg Historical Society is alive and well and we will all be together again, soon.

OHS president Jennifer Bowen, urges residents to check its Facebook page for vintage photos, local history trivia, and updates on the museum. She can be contacted at 570-617-7809 or by email at [peanut1212@comcast.net](mailto:peanut1212@comcast.net).

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Coming soon is an "Online Local History Scavenger Hunt" with prizes awarded. Your knowledge of Orwigsburg's (and Schuylkill County's) history will be tested.

**Argent Trust Company Office**, at 131 E. Market St. in Orwigsburg, has been closed to the public during the state's Stay-At-Home Order, but has continued servicing its clients' needs remotely. As a Trust Fiduciary, we are actively managing accounts and expect the market to rebound. Call Charlene Hoffman at 570-621-8070 to discuss your financial needs.

Argent Financial offered a "Pay It Forward" bonus to all employees to share within their communities. Locally, we colored eggs and safely re-distributed cartons to Boyer's Food Market employees (Orwigsburg), New Ringgold Fire Company's Easter Bunny Crew, and

- Continued on page 4

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# Businesses Adapt to COVID-19 Restrictions

- Continued from Page 3

many friends who needed a little color of Easter.

Please continue to support all local businesses that rely on YOU to stay in business.

**Child Development, Inc. of Schuylkill County** is a United Way member. Families affected through lowered or lost income by the state Stay-At-Home order and business shutdown may qualify for free preschool education programming.

Contact Child Development, Inc. through its website, [www.childdevelop.org](http://www.childdevelop.org), or call toll-free at 1-800-433-3370, ext. 212. A member of its caring staff will help guide you through the enrollment process and answer any questions.

**Mary S. Timpany, Esq. LLC**, at 29 Scenic Mountain Rd., New Ringgold, extends thanks to all our health care professionals and first responders, grocery store, postal and other workers of life-sustaining vocations who have continued to work despite the risks to themselves during the state Stay-At-Home order and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mary has continued to service her clients in matters of mediation, estate planning, family law, deeds, contracts, and dispute resolution via email, telephone, and video conference. While temporarily suspending in-person consultations, she continues to file necessary documents for her clients through the county courthouse. She can be reached at 570-504-8582 or through her website at [www.timpanylaw.com](http://www.timpanylaw.com).



**Phoenix Rehabilitation and Health Services**, with offices in Orwigsburg, Pine Grove, and Pottsville, is open for physical therapy! We offer in-clinic visits, in-home outpatient therapy, or tele-health therapy.

In-home outpatient therapy allows you to have physical therapy in the comfort of your own home. Tele-health therapy gives you the opportunity to seek care for your injuries in a virtual environment. We are committed to providing care in a safe, clean environment. Call us to learn more about what type of visit best meets your needs.

Located in Orwigsburg at 705 W. Market St., call 570-968-2131; Pine Grove at 29 Tremont Road, call 570-915-4160; and in Pottsville at 870 Gordon Nagle Trail, call 570-399-5331.

Staff members of **Spotts Insurance Group**, with local offices in Schuylkill Haven and Pine Grove, have been working from home during the state's Stay-At-Home order, protecting the health and safety of its clients, staff, and their families while still servicing its customers insurance needs.

The staff has been operating at full capacity during regular business hours and has been reaching out to all clients to ensure they are doing well.

Thank you to our clients for their understanding regarding the closing of our offices. Spotts Insurance Group would also like to thank all healthcare workers, first responders and essential workers for keeping our community running during this difficult time.

In Schuylkill Haven, call 570-385-1911. Readers in the Pine Grove area, call that office at 570-345-3252. Get more information at its website, [spotts4insurance.com](http://spotts4insurance.com).

**Hamilton-Breiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services**, S. Liberty Street, has had to institute protections while comforting families and conducting its services.

Funeral Director Kenneth Breiner said, "We are doing what we can to comfort families in their time of need while following all guidelines. Our hairstylist made black masks for our staff. All seating in our home is kept more than six feet apart and there are plenty of signs reminding visitors to respect each other's health by following guidelines."

"We now offer drive-up acknowledgements and viewings, should it help a family during these trying times. People can safely pay their respects from their vehicle while the family we are serving acknowledges

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## Businesses Adapt to COVID-19 Restrictions

their presence. While using all precautions, they can sign a guestbook and receive a memorial card.”

**Pine Grove Pharmacy** – Pharmacist Alyssa Neidlinger shared, “The health and safety of our customers and employees have always been top priorities. The COVID-19 virus situation only emphasized what we have been practicing. We have been wearing masks, regularly disinfecting, had a splash guard installed at the register, and placed 6-foot spacing markers on the floor in order to reduce the potential spread of germs.

“Also, we have been encouraging our customers, especially those of high risk, to take advantage of the curbside pick-up and free delivery services that we offer. During these challenging times, we received several donations and thank you cards from customers and local businesses. We’re thankful to be a part of a community that cares about us as much as we care about them.”

**VFW Post 2198** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2198 Orwigsburg, organizers of the annual Memorial Day remembrance program and parade in Orwigsburg, regrets these had to be cancelled for 2020 due to the risks posed by the COVID-19 virus.

Post 2198 hopes that the remembrance of those who have served this great country could go on for families while keeping them safe during this pandemic. Fly your flags at your residences. Most of all, remember those who have served and died for this country.

**Orwigsburg Service Center Inc.**, 712 West Market Street in Orwigsburg, extends wishes for good health and safety to all in the greater Orwigsburg area. To those not so fortunate, a speedy recovery and prosperous times ahead. During this unique time of social distancing and modified business operations, OSC has closed its lobby to customers and is conducting transactions via phone or at safe distances outside. We remain open to serve our loyal customers and welcome new ones as well. Contact us at 570-366-4600. Thanks again to our customers and employees. Please, all take care.

**Schuylkill County’s VISION** office, located at 11 E. Main St. in Schuylkill Haven, made sacrifices and figured out how to continue its programming in a “no contact” way.

VISION executive director, Jeanne Elberfield, says “Although COVID-19 threw us a curveball, Schuylkill County’s VISION continues to connect resources, people, and ideas in the creation of innovative, engaging programs for a better tomorrow.”

Programming shifted to virtual platforms including its Move More Month – a movement challenge and self-directed scavenger hunt; Circle Time with preschoolers; COVID-19 Victory Gardens; Schuylkill Drums (drumming circles); Trauma-Informed information sharing; Stigma and Bias professional development program; and others.

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# Businesses Adapt to COVID-19 Restrictions

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We are looking forward to the day when we can once again gather to resume work at the Haven Community Garden, local agencies, and attend meetings in person. Be well.

**KJFP, Inc.** - Kathleen J. Farr-Parker and staff, with offices at 250 E. Market St., extend their gratitude to the essential workers who have continued to provide for the community during this time.

"We have all made changes to how we live and provide. Like us, many businesses have had to work from home. We continue to provide our services and assist individuals with their health and life insurance needs. We are here to answer your questions by phone at 570-366-8943 or email at [kjfpinsurance@comcast.net](mailto:kjfpinsurance@comcast.net). Please stay safe and support local businesses. They need you now more than ever!

**Good Shepherd Physical Therapy**, 1260 Centre Turnpike, Orwigsburg, provides safe, compassionate care. Understanding rehabilitation's importance to overall health, Good Shepherd offers in-person and virtual outpatient therapy to match patients' needs.

Virtual visits allow patients to connect with Good Shepherd therapists and physicians via smartphone, tablet or computer from their home. Medicare and most major insurances cover virtual visits.

To learn how we can help, call 1-888-44-REHAB or visit [GoodShepherdRehab.org](http://GoodShepherdRehab.org).

Good Shepherd adheres to high safety standards

for cleaning and disinfecting patient rooms, therapy equipment, tables, common areas and high-touch surfaces. All patients, caregivers and staff are screened and masked.

**Gabriel Chamber Ensemble** - The COVID-19 virus has impacted the Gabriel Chamber Ensemble and its Gabriel Youth Orchestra just as it has disrupted the many events and get-togethers of all of us. First came the cancellation of our Grand Finale Concert celebrating our 30th anniversary season followed by the need to cancel our Gabriel Youth Orchestra's Spring Concert at the end of April.

The music scene, depending so much on a live audience, is being hit hard, with no end in sight. However, the Gabriel Chamber Ensemble is planning its next season and looks forward to seeing its beloved patrons, hopefully soon. We wish everyone to stay healthy.

**Thomas Pharmacy**, located at 101 W. Market St., has been fortunate enough to continue to operate with regular hours, but with a few additions - masks, a plexiglass shield at our register, 6-foot markers, as well as an enhanced cleaning regimen. Curbside pickup has been added and our home-delivery service volume has increased.

We require all of our customers to wear masks in our store, protecting our employees as well as other customers. We offer cloth masks to customers who may not have any to wear.

Thank you to our wonderful customers for bearing with us through this difficult time and thank you to fellow healthcare workers, grocery store employees, and all essential employees for continuing their hard work through this pandemic.

**Kimmels Church**, 179 Pine Creek Drive, has adapted to stay-at-home orders by offering all services and ministries virtually. The church office remains open.

During this stressful time, we have seen a huge increase in participation in all of our services broadcasted live on Facebook. People all over Schuylkill County and abroad have been "virtually" worshipping with us each week.

Small group classes have continued online using Zoom technology. Church members deliver 50 hot meals each week to needy families. We personally invite you to join with us online and/or in person when we open back up; hopefully by the time you are reading this article.

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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 [kmengle@orwigsburg.gov](mailto:kmengle@orwigsburg.gov).



## Message from the Council President

### Managing Uncertain Times; Come Out Bruised, But Safe

Fellow residents of Orwigsburg, the coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed everyone's life in so many ways. It's affected everyone financially, socially, and personally.



**RICK BUBECK**  
Council President

No one could have been prepared for such a devastating and dreadful pandemic. This virus might be the one time that brings us all together and unifies us like we haven't been in a long time.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. That light will build on the values that keep us vigilant, united, strong, and safe.

The word "quarantine" became a daily word in everyone's vocabulary. For six or seven weeks, the professionals told us to stay home, wash our hands, and practice social distancing.

During these uncertain times, Orwigsburg's Council and the Borough Manager made the decision to protect staff and maintenance crew from having close contact with the public while still keeping our Borough running. Our staff is working and performing their daily duties and servicing our community.

With the demands put on everyone by Pennsylvania Governor Wolf, our employees, by working limited hours, were able to keep the Borough's water and sewer plants running efficiently.

Hopefully, we can put all this (chaos) behind us and get back to our normal way of life at some future point.

On the positive side, the weather is getting warmer. Put your walking shoes on and take a stroll around town. Fill up the mower and relieve your pent-up energy by cutting your lawn and enjoy doing some gardening.



Don't forget the many people we can thank for helping us to get through this health and economic crisis. Take the time to say "Thank You!" to those who helped us each day.

One final thought - like many of us, I can't wait to get my hair cut and watch the Phillies on television. Be safe, healthy and thankful.

- Rick Bubeck, Council President



**Jeff Spotts**  
President



**Mike Sterner**  
Managing  
Insurance Advisor

**We hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy during this difficult time.**



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# Proclamation from the Orwigsburg Mayor

## Collateral Damage – Let's get the bat off our shoulder

When I first became Mayor, I was told that my role in writing this column was to act as Orwigsburg's "cheerleader." I'll try my best to keep that notion to the forefront as I continue.



**BARRY J. BERGER**  
Mayor

I write this note as Schuylkill County's unilateral move to Covid-19 "Condition Yellow" has been retracted rather than risking the threatened consequences of defying the Governor's orders.

It's also four days past Mother's Day, my first in 65 years without being able to celebrate it with my mother.

The toilet paper market is starting to loosen up. We all have crazy mask stories to tell. There is nothing social about staying six feet away from everyone. Walmart, CVS, Lowe's, Target, McDonald's, Rite-Aid, Home Depot, Burger King and scores of other national businesses are doing pretty damn OK while giving lip service to "guidance."

Small businesses, particularly those deemed "non-essential," are stressed beyond limits worrying if they will be able to outlast the arbitrary goalposts placed

by our elected leaders and their advisors.

My father is a medical inmate at Luther Ridge, arguably for his own good. Statewide restrictions prohibit outside contact, depriving him of our weekly dinners and play dates with Maggie (our Lab, his spoiled brat). Dad's tolerance of technology expired when he learned how to find the Golf Channel with the TV remote. He enjoys FaceTime when it's set up for him, but a phone call is as far as it goes for him on his own. A room with a very limited view is not very fulfilling for someone who deserves to enjoy his retirement.

While I'm seeing the positive signs of family activities and unstructured play, our youth are being deprived of valuable educational and social exposure. Video gaming and "Zoom" schooling are poor substitutes for sliding in to third base, getting a teacher's personal help in understanding a problem, or interacting with their peers to achieve a goal. They need things to remember and celebrate.

### *Do! But be safe and responsible*

I believe I am capable of interpreting honest data, drawing my own conclusions, determining what risks I'm willing to accept, and conducting myself in a safe, responsible manner without jeopardizing other community members.

If someone feels that their best approach is to lock themselves in an underground bunker until the "all clear" is sounded, be my guest with my blessings. I don't think I'll be joining you, though.

By the time this issue is distributed, we will have recognized those who have fought and died to preserve our nation and its ideals with a condensed Memorial Day observance. We will have celebrated our power of consent through a postponed primary election, complete with a new voting venue and new voting equipment.

It may not sound like it so far, but I am an optimist at heart. I hang on to what I hope will be the truth until every last glimmer is gone. To me, that means that the only acceptable "normal" is what has always been normal. "New normal" does not and will not exist in my current consideration.

I made prior mention of my mother's passing for a very specific reason. Her coroner's certificate stated "Failure to Thrive" as her cause of death. I can't help but feel that the longer we remain static, the more difficult it will be to recover.

As a Little Leaguer many years ago, my father told me he'd rather see me "strike out swinging than looking for a walk with your bat shouldered." I don't think that's bad advice for anyone at anytime.

I think it's great advice for us all under our current circumstances. Let's fight this through and strive to thrive once again.



– Barry J. Berger, Mayor

**Orwigsburg  
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Sat. by Appt.




# Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

## Though Closed, Online Reading Services Are Plentiful

Hello, Orwigsburg! The Library has missed you so much!

Although the library staff has not had the joy of seeing your faces, we all have remained busy - reading stories on YouTube and Facebook, providing challenges on Facebook to keep you engaged, distributing reading materials to as many as possible, and thinking up fun and crazy things to do and share.



Summer is right around the corner. The library hopes to open its doors again soon, but our activities will need to be conducted differently. The library plans to continue to read stories and post them online for your at-home enjoyment. Our library staff is going to create different themed story bags/packets for distribution.

Who knows what surprises will be provided?

Harry Potter fans ... watch for the Orwigsburg Library's Harry Potter Book Club activities. We would like everyone to read "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone." Harry will be 40 this year on Friday, July 31. Happy Birthday Harry!

And, we encourage everyone to, literally, Read

Across America! A list of more than 300 titles has been posted so readers can choose a story based in every state across America.

Don't forget that e-books are 24/7. Your library has more than 4,000 book titles waiting to be read and listened to.

*"Libraries always remind me that there are good things in the world."*

*- Lauren Ward*

### Thanks for your contributions

The Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library extends its appreciation for all the needed financial support during this time when we were unable to be open. Our annual fund drive appeal will be mailed shortly. The library is so grateful for all the support it receives.

When the library's doors open once again, the Board, Director and Staff will make every attempt to maintain a safe community experience. Watch for announcements on our website: [www.orwigsburglibrary.org](http://www.orwigsburglibrary.org) and Facebook page for news and upcoming events.



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### BUSINESS HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY  
7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SAT.: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUNDAY: CLOSED



# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

## *Bear Creek Festival cancelled*

The Schuylkill Conservation District is sad to announce that the 2020 Bear Creek Festival has been cancelled. We held out hope that perhaps by early June we could all emerge and enjoy a gathering, but after discussion with our staff and board of directors, it does not seem like it will be an appropriate time for this type of event.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 6, 2021! We will continue to plan for the 2021 festival with extra eagerness to once again celebrate all things environmental, outdoors, natural, and agricultural in Schuylkill County.

## *Schuylkill County Fair*

Still on for 2020 (as of press time), this year's Schuylkill County Fair - themed "Making Memories - One Fair at a Time" - will be held Mon. through Sat., July 27 to August 1 at the Fairgrounds.

Featured entertainment will include the New Individuals on Monday; Sapphire on Tuesday; Hooligan on Wednesday; the Mudflaps Reunion on Thursday; and Amish Outlaws on Friday - all performing two shows each at 7 and 9 p.m. Two entertainment headliners will be featured on Saturday - the Hannah

Violet Trio at 7 p.m. and country star John King at 9 p.m.

The fun and unexpected antics of Hogway Speedway will be featured all week long at the amphitheater with shows at 6 and 8 p.m. daily plus an extra matinee show at 2 p.m. on Tuesday and Saturday.

Truck and tractor pulls will again be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with an additional admission charge at the Ag Museum Track. The Schuylkill County Fair Corn Hole Tournament will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday. Two-person teams can register from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

## *Celebrating Easter remotely*

The usual Easter egg hunts, sunrise church services, and holiday meals with family and friends were cancelled or held virtually in some form or fashion this Holy Week season due to precautions to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Salem UM Church Lay Leader and artist, Brenda Binns, shared her Easter lily and draped cross "chalk art" with Orwigsburg area residents on the sidewalk of Salem Church at South Liberty and West Independence streets.



## *Team Orwigsburg*

Team Orwigsburg, a local volunteer mission team, has been in existence for over 14 years. The team continues to do local volunteering and this spring had to cancel its planned trip out-of-state due to the pandemic. The Team voted to donate funds to the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry as its way of giving back to the community since we could not travel this season.

Team O urges everyone to stay safe and adhere to the guidelines being set by the CDC. Monthly meetings are on hold until further notice.

## *Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry*

Jeb and Edna Hart, coordinators of the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, sincerely thank all generous donors for this quarter's donations.

The pantry exists on private and corporate donations and is very grateful for the community generosity. Many area churches, civic organizations, private individuals, schools, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are generous throughout the year.

Distribution is the third Saturday of every month



Are you worried about your child's preschool education?  
Wondering how you can afford to pay for a quality program for your child?

Child Development, Inc. is continuing to provide connections to our families and children during this difficult time. We are also connecting with families to enroll their preschool children for the upcoming school year.

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or you can see more about Child Development, Inc. preschool programs by visiting our website at [www.childdevelop.org](http://www.childdevelop.org)  
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**Child Development, Inc. (Schuylkill County, PA)**

You will also find great resources and activates for your child.

Proud member of the Schuylkill United Way 



# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

at St. John's United Church of Christ from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. However, until further notice, distribution will be made by drive-through only. Please wear a mask.

## Don't flush sanitary wipes

When store shelves became empty of everyday items, such as toilet paper, use of "flushable" wipes, disinfection wipes, paper towels, and other cleaning supplies have been put into service during the health crisis.

Orwigsburg Borough wishes to remind all that wipes – even the ones that say "flushable" – and paper towels do not break down like toilet paper does in water. These items should never be flushed down your toilet; but, rather, should instead be thrown away with the trash.

Flushing of wipes and paper towels can cause raw wastewater back-ups in your home or neighborhood homes by wrapping around broken or misaligned drain pipe joints, thus forming a clog. If these items do pass through the system, they end up at the sewage treatment plant, causing mechanical breakdowns.

Flushing of wipes and paper towels has become a significant concern in recent times due to the shortage of toilet paper and the potential need to utilize alternate means combined with increased cleaning/disinfection recommendations by the CDC for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings.

Only flush toilet paper and human waste down your toilet. All other items should be thrown away with your solid trash.

## Borough holiday schedule

The Orwigsburg Borough office and employee services will be closed in observance of these upcoming holidays – Independence Day, Friday, July 3

(observed); and Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7.

## Refuse/recycling collection

The Borough contracts with County Waste for the weekly refuse and biweekly recycling collection. Curbside pickup is on Tuesday for properties on Market Street and north ... and on Friday for properties south of Market Street.

Keep Orwigsburg beautiful! Residents are asked to be considerate of the "streetscape" in front of their properties. Store your refuse and recycling containers to the rear or side of your building.

## How do holidays affect trash/recycling?

County Waste, observes six major holidays – Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day – that may change the normal Tuesday/Friday collections.

Here are the simple Holiday Schedule Rules:

- If the holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday, trash/recycling pickup will be delayed one day for every household ... Tuesday pickup will move to Wednesday; Friday pickup will move to Saturday.
- If the holiday falls on Wednesday thru Friday, the Tuesday pickup will not be affected; but, the

- Continued on page 12



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 11

Friday pickup will move to Saturday.

- If the holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday, the normal Tuesday and Friday pickups will not be affected.

Since July 4 - Independence Day - falls on a Saturday this year, normal Tuesday/Friday collection days will not be affected.

## Recycling electronics

Federal law prohibits landfill disposal of desktop computers, laptops, monitors and peripherals, and televisions. These electronics must be recycled during special collection events. County Waste will not take these in normal refuse or recycling collection.

## Large item disposal

One large item may be placed at the curb beside your regular trash once per month. The large item collection was suspended in April and May due to COVID-19 precautions. The Borough website [Orwigsburg.gov](http://Orwigsburg.gov) will post a public notice if this suspension will be extended for June and beyond. Regular trash consists of up to six bags of garbage and up to ten bags of leaves.

| Month | Tues. | Fri. |
|-------|-------|------|
| June  | 9     | 12   |
| July  | 14    | 17   |
| Aug.  | 11    | 14   |

### LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES

## Curb your animal

The Borough Office has received numerous complaints of pet owners walking their dogs and failing to clean up after defecation on both public and private property. Property owners, also, are reminded to pick up the feces of their own pets from their property within a reasonable time.

Both are public health violations as stipulated in Borough Ordinance 299 and subject to a fine up to \$600 for each offense.

The Orwigsburg Police Department has been made aware of this growing problem by inconsiderate residents. Neighbors and property owners witnessing these violations are urged to call the police at 570-366-3101 and file a complaint.

Many residents take advantage of the parks and walking trail and are discouraged by the lack of consideration shown by some pet owners. Homeowners in the Borough who take great pride when maintaining their properties feel violated when having to clean feces left by a passing dog or roaming cat when their masters seem oblivious to the community responsibilities of pet ownership.

## Now available - Credit/debit bill pay

It is the responsibility of all property owners to pay their quarterly utility bills in full by the due date printed on the invoice.

Providing our residents with a higher level of customer service, Orwigsburg Borough now accepts credit and debit card payments for water, sewer, and trash service. Customers can make payments online at [www.orwigsburg.net](http://www.orwigsburg.net) or at the Borough Office with major credit and debit cards.

Customers may continue to pay by cash, check or money order at the Borough Office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, checks may be mailed to Orwigsburg Borough, 209 North Warren Street, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, or deposited in the 24/7 drop-off box located at the front door to Borough Hall.

Note: As of press time, the current closure of the Borough Office due to COVID-19 precautions has suspended in-person payment of utility bills and cash payments. Online and mail-in options are available or payment by check placed in an envelope and dropped in the "utility payment box" at the front door of Borough Hall, 209 N. Warren St.

Questions concerning these payment options may be directed to [kmengle@orwigsburg.gov](mailto:kmengle@orwigsburg.gov) or call 570-366-3103.

## Dumpster? You need a permit

Any resident who rents a dumpster and places it



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# Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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 \$20 and are valid for three weeks.

## *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.

## *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. This regulation, however, does not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

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

## *Getting the word out*

We use the Borough website [Orwigsburg.gov](http://Orwigsburg.gov) 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 tele-

phone, text message and email of boil water advisories, weather emergencies or any other emergencies in a prompt manner.

## *Single Stream Recycling program*

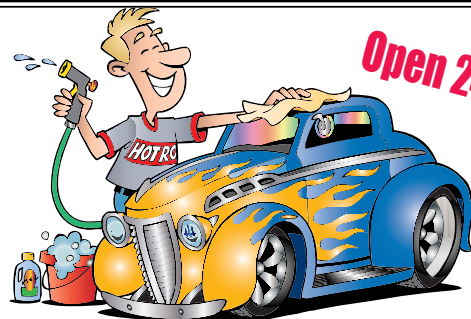
The Borough and County Waste Recycling, LLC have prepared updated definitions of the items that can be recycled in our biweekly recycling collection program.

A handy chart of typical recyclable items and a description of the overall program was distributed 18 months ago. If you have misplaced this insert or need another, printed copies are still available at the Borough Office or by viewing and download from the Borough website, [Orwigsburg.gov](http://Orwigsburg.gov).

Compliance with these changes by most residents has significantly improved the quality of Orwigsburg's recycling. County Waste has requested that we follow three of the guidelines more closely.

- All items placed in the bin are to be loose, no bagging!
- No styrofoam; it is not a recyclable in their program.
- Be careful not to accidentally put wet items, trash, or garbage in the recycle bin.

Spring and fall are good times to rinse out the recycle bin. Flush it out and let it dry before placing recyclables back in.



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# Orwigsburg Police Department

## Policing Efforts Modified Due to Health Concerns

It seems every aspect of society has had to make adjustments to operations to help combat the coronavirus. Law enforcement and the Orwigsburg Police Department are no exception.

We are still responding to calls, stopping cars, and making arrests; but, the way we handle these incidents has changed. When possible, all calls are handled over the phone. Officers will only respond to a location if it is an emergency or can't be handled via phone.

The Department has always responded to all EMS calls; however, given the current pandemic, we are only responding if it is a life and death emergency or we are specifically requested by EMS.

Officers have always had nitrile gloves and patrol gloves in the event we must search a person or otherwise protect ourselves. In addition, we were issued several N95 masks in case we have to be inside or in close proximity to another person. We also have a supply of disinfectant wipes

and sprays that are continuously used to clean our vehicles and workstations.

### *Service above and beyond*

We recognize that coronavirus affects certain demographics more than others. One way we are trying to serve Orwigsburg is to assist in delivering groceries and medications to those who may be older, immune-compromised, or otherwise unable to make it to the store or pharmacy.

During this time, Boyer's Food Market and other grocery stores have become swamped as workers try to keep the shelves filled due to increased demand. Through no fault of the stores, you may experience issues or delays if you typically have your

order delivered or picked up at the store.

If you are in Orwigsburg and are unable to make it out of your house due to coronavirus, please call the Orwigsburg Police and we will happily deliver your grocery order or medication.

In addition, thanks to the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, we have a limited number of food baskets available at our station. If you can't afford food, please contact our station and we will see that you get one.

### *PennDOT extensions*

Due to Governor Wolfe's shutdown order, all PennDOT License Centers are closed indefinitely. As a result, all licenses, photo identification cards, and learner's permits that were set to expire on or after March 16, 2020 have been granted an extension until May 31 this year. In addition, vehicle registrations and inspections that were set to expire during or after March, have also been given an extension until May 31.

PennDOT customers are reminded that licenses and registrations can be renewed online at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov). Vehicle service stations (garages) are also considered life-sustaining businesses and therefore are able to perform state inspections.

- Officer Robert Bechtel, Orwigsburg Police





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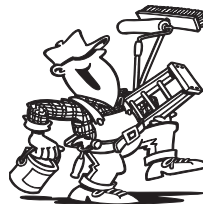
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# Orwigsburg Fire Department

## Fire Chief Urges All to Enjoy Summer – Safely!

It's time once again to finally enjoy the outdoors with warm temperatures and mild afternoons. During this time, people find themselves more involved in outdoor life.

As the temperatures climb and the grass grows, grilling outside feels like a necessity. The Orwigsburg Fire Department would like to share a few fire safety tips to help you during the upcoming summer season.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), here are some precautions to keep in mind when grilling outside:

Propane and charcoal barbecue grills should only be used outdoors. The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railing and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.

Keep the grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill. Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it and never leave your grill unattended.

### *Mowing and swimming safety*

The NFPA also offers these fire and safety tips while using a gasoline lawn mower, generator, and swimming in pools or at recreation areas.

Always be sure your mower motor is cool before

refueling and never refuel while the engine is running. Don't over fill the gas tank causing spillage on the mower.

Store gasoline in approved containers away from ignition sources and outside of your home.

Swimmers should keep a few safety precautions in mind. Don't go in the water unless you know how to swim. Never swim alone. Consider learning CPR and rescue techniques.

Make sure the body of water matches your skill level. Swimming in a pool is much different than swimming in a lake or river, where more strength is needed to handle currents.

Don't underestimate the power of water. Even rivers and lakes can have undertows. If caught in a current, don't try to fight it. Stay calm and float with it, or swim parallel to the shore until you can swim free.

Swim only in areas supervised by a lifeguard; but remember, lifeguards aren't babysitters. If a child is missing, check the water first! Never leave your child alone. If you must leave, take your child with you.

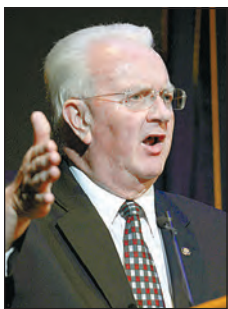
Every pool, every lake and every warm summer day holds the possibility of new, fun summer experiences. All you need to add is your undivided attention. The Orwigsburg Fire Department wishes everyone a great summer and please be safe.

– Jesse D. Zimmerman, Fire Chief

## State Rep. Jerry Knowles

### Help for First Responders

Recently, legislation that I introduced – House Bill 1189 – providing tax credits to employers who allow their employees – who are volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel – to respond to emergencies during work hours, passed the House unanimously.



**Representative  
Jerry Knowles**

These volunteers would receive no loss in pay and would not be required to use vacation time or sick time while serving their communities. In addition, the bill would impact other COVID-19 state-related issues including expiration dates for expired PennDOT documents.

People who are concerned about driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, and handicapped placards set to expire during this crisis would be extended until 60 days after the declaration is lifted. It would also extend benefits offered by the Heart and Lung Act for police and other first responders who require quarantine because of COVID-19 by providing up to 60 days of paid leave and not requiring use of sick leave or vacation.

House Bill 1189 is now in the state Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee awaiting consideration.

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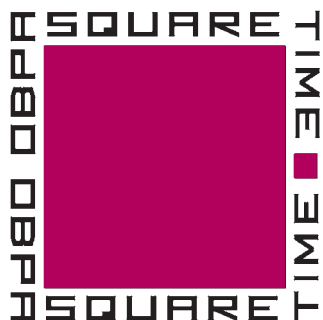
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# Orwigsburg Business & Professional Assoc.

## Together We Can Weather These Uncertain Times

Members of the Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association (OBPA) - like so many area residents and summer-time visitors - are looking forward to warm weather and activities to resume as planned.

OBPA's "Square Time" events - Farm-to-Square and Heritage Day - are currently still "on!" However, their dates and operational changes may be dependent on state approval to hold such events and any COVID-19 spread precautions that may be necessary.



We're actively planning and searching for entertainment. Vendors have been notified to "please stand by" in hopes they will join us, as in years past. A postponement from the traditional August and September months

may be needed; but, in no way are we thinking to cancel at this time.

### *New membership year starts July 1*

The 2020-21 OBPA membership campaign is on! Renewal reminders and new member invites are in the mail as this issue of **Orwigsburg Happenings** goes to press. More invites to existing merchants, presently non-members, will go out during June. Membership costs only \$55 for the year (\$50 for current member renewal). Non-profit organizations can have the OBPA affiliation at a cost of \$40.

Individuals who want to take an active part in building a stronger Greater Orwigsburg community through networking, philanthropy and event planning are welcomed, as well, at a non-business

member rate of just \$25.

Interested in joining this lively and active OBPA group? Send us an email at [obpamembership@gmail.com](mailto:obpamembership@gmail.com) with your contact information to get your own personal invite with all the information. OBPA is presently 100 members strong! Enhanced communication and member promotion are key 2020 goals.

Businesses and professionals that are presently a member of the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce (or thinking of becoming one) can elect dual membership in OBPA at no additional cost! But, you have to so indicate this to the Chamber.

Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce membership provides regional exposure, access to business training and leadership programs, and extensive networking opportunities. Call the Chamber office at 570-622-1942 for more information.

### *Improving our community for all*

Supporting other organizations, Orwigsburg Borough, and the community in general is a prime part of OBPA's mission.

In past years, OBPA has purchased sidewalk benches and trash/recyclable containers for the Orwigsburg downtown "square." The directional wayfinding sign, located at the M&T/Community Parking Lot at Market and North Warren St. was also an OBPA project.

Last year, the organization purchased an enhanced AED unit for use by the Orwigsburg Police Department. OBPA is currently working with the Borough to improve pedestrian safety in the Village District of the downtown.

New, fresh ideas how OBPA can assist with bettering the Greater Orwigsburg area are invited and encouraged. Through joint cooperation of ideas in the past, we've grown our relationship with other organizations. Your energy as a member (or as a non-member) can help build a better community. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

If only to support OBPA, maybe you'll purchase one of our unique, colorful t-shirts and spread the word about our organization. Stay up-to-date on our happenings throughout the year. Visit and "like" our Facebook page @TheOBPA.

## Newsletter Particulars

"Orwigsburg Happenings" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Orwigsburg distributed to 2,000 households within the borough.

The newsletter is designed and printed by  
South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing  
960 E. Main St. • Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725

E-mail: [printing@southschuylkill.net](mailto:printing@southschuylkill.net)  
[www.SouthSchuylkill.com](http://www.SouthSchuylkill.com)

Publication dates for the next three issues are  
August 14 and November 6, 2020; February 12, 2021

### 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, [kmengle@orwigsburg.gov](mailto:kmengle@orwigsburg.gov) or call 570-366-3103 for info, 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.



## Senator David Argall

### Memorial Day Amid COVID-19 Concerns

Under normal circumstances, volunteers across the country would honor our deceased veterans by decorating their graves with American flags prior to Memorial Day.

This hallowed tradition was threatened this year after many American flag manufacturers were deemed “non-essential” businesses by the Governor’s COVID-19 shut down order.



**Senator  
David Argall**

State Sen. Bob Mensch (Berks, Bucks and Montgomery counties) and I sent a letter to the Governor asking that Colebrook Enterprises in Berks County be allowed to open its facility completely. Colebrook was already granted a waiver to make face masks, but a full reopening would have allowed them to once again produce American flags.

Rep. David Maloney of Berks County also voiced support for this effort. The Governor declined to issue them a waiver to reopen for this purpose.

Fortunately, Schuylkill County was able to enter a co-op with Luzerne and Lackawanna counties to acquire 39,000 American flags to properly honor our veterans. Not all counties were as lucky as Schuylkill



County. I am thankful that our local deceased veterans were honored this Memorial Day.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have truly been felt in all aspects of our lives, including our traditions, our livelihoods, and most importantly the well-being of our friends and loved ones.

If you have any questions regarding the actions our state government has taken to combat the pandemic or for assistance regarding any state-related issue, please reach out to me. My toll free number is 877-327-4255. Inquiries can also be sent online at [www.senatorargall.com](http://www.senatorargall.com) or via email at [dargall@pasen.gov](mailto:dargall@pasen.gov).

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**See our article for more details!**



# Orwigsburg Historical Society & Museum

## OHS Wants to Capture Your 2020 Virus Story!

The Orwigsburg Historical Society (OHS) and Museum, located at 109 E. Mifflin St., hopes to open its doors to the public again as soon as permitted to do so by the state and by following all directives to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

### *Share your story for history's sake*

OHS wants to document YOUR story - through thoughts, poems, photos or anything that has been a part of your daily life since we have all been immersed in this pandemic. We want to document your experiences and preserve these historical memories for future generations!

Tell us in handwritten or digital words; one photo or many; perhaps an inspirational quote or Bible verse; a sketch or painting that has meaning for you. All are important to capture in one form or another. What are the thoughts and impressions from children who are unexpectedly being "home schooled" and of the parents/grandparents who have become their "teachers?" Jump in! You are a huge part of this history!

### *Upcoming OHS programs*

With anticipation that the Historical Society will again be able to hold its monthly programs in its Community Room, the following are still on, for now.

All are free and open to the public. Feel free to bring photos and artifacts on any of these program topics for



"show and tell." For additional information, call 570-617-7809 or 570-366-8769.

Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m. - "The Art of Blacksmithing" presented by David Fisher, founder and owner of Fisher Forge.

Thursday, July 9 at 7 p.m. - "Your Backyard Geology & Archaeology."

Jeri Jones, owner of Jones Geological Services, will take the audience on a journey into local geology and archaeology, focusing upon southern Schuylkill County.

Thursday, August 13 at 7 p.m. - "Keeping the Faith During the Civil War: The Life of a Civil War Chaplain." Ron Long, a Civil War living historian, will take us back to the time of the Civil War.

### *Our Garden Tour & Tea is back!*

Still currently on our schedule of events is an Orwigsburg area "Garden Tour & Tea" to be held Sunday, July 5 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Plan to join us for an afternoon filled with beautiful, creatively-designed gardens and an elegant tea, fit for Queen Victoria. As a very special treat, one of Orwigsburg's premier historic homes will invite you into their kitchen, too! Ticket price is \$25 for the general public and just \$20 for OHS Members.

**The Lighthouse Church**

Join us as we seek new  
life together!

Route 61 North  
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570-366-1300

Worship with us Sundays @ 9 AM!

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For more information visit  
[www.thelighthousechurch.com](http://www.thelighthousechurch.com)

## Who Ya Gonna Call?

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Emergency.....          | 9-1-1    |
| Non-Emergency.....      | 628-3792 |
| Borough Office .....    | 366-3103 |
| Police Department ...   | 366-3101 |
| Friendship Fire .....   | 366-1500 |
| Orwigsburg Amb ....     | 366-2331 |
| Historical Society .... | 366-8769 |
| Library .....           | 366-1638 |

# Veterans Community Memorial Hall

## COVID-19 Precautions Slow Project OK, Release of Funds

The Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce remains focused on working with the Borough of Orwigsburg for the completion of the Veterans Community Memorial renovation.

The project has two major funding streams - (1) Community Fundraising through donations, gifts and funding events; and (2) Government Grants.

A \$750,000 grant, through the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), was approved by Governor Wolf in 2018. This set in motion the creation of a Business Plan by Alfred Benesch & Co., headed by Christopher Bentz, P.E., for the implementation, planning, bidding, awarding and construction. Orwigsburg Borough has administrative and operational authority.

The scope of work, appraisal, and revised budget was submitted in November last year. Interim financing for the project was arranged by the Borough and received in late December. The state indicated acceptability in January.

Simultaneously, the Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce commissioned TMT Design Group to follow its initial concepts to design phases 2 and 3 to establish a Veterans Foyer - Hall of Honor work schedule and updated cost estimates.

### *State review goes on remotely*

In early April this year, the state confirmed the RACP grant application was submitted and in the PA Office of Budget. Its staff was continuing to work, but remotely due to the COVID-19 virus closure of state offices.

Though this update sounded optimistic, there has been no estimate of time for the Office of Budget review process nor final contract signing. The \$750,000 RACP funding is encumbered by the State. The taskforce hopes, in the context of the health crisis, this RACP will not and cannot be adversely affected.

The Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce is hoping for the reopening of the Commonwealth in June so that the State, TMT Design Group, and the Taskforce can move forward. Christopher Bentz of Benesch & Company continues to be the "point" person for the Borough and the Taskforce.

Once signed agreements are received, bid documents will follow in 4-to-6 weeks. The Borough hopes bid requests will still go out before the end of summer 2020. Construction is anticipated to be completed one year from contract award.

### *Final work to be done*

Combined project work, funded by local monies and the RACP grant, includes interior improvements to the main gym area and meeting room. Kitchen improvements will include new appliances/equipment and improved storage. The goal is to create a catering kitchen of approximately 500 square feet.

A permanent office and meeting space will be



provided in the building for the local veterans organizations, including the VFW and American Legion. The foyer will feature a Veterans Honor Board, listing all submitted and otherwise known local veterans by name and conflict era. All contributors to the Veterans Community Memorial Hall renovations since the inception of the renovation project, including individuals, businesses and non-profits, will be recognized. The original Orwigsburg Court House clock cupola, under restoration by the Schuylkill Masonic Lodge, will have a place in the foyer.

Contributions are still needed to bring the project to its successful completion. Send contributions to: Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce, P.O. Box 157, Orwigsburg, PA 17961.



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# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

## St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 East Market St., urges all members and friends to stay safe by adhering to the CDC's recommendations during this COVID-19 health crisis. Our prayers are with you all.

During this unsettling time, please join us for worship services on our website: [www.stjohnnorwigsburg.org](http://www.stjohnnorwigsburg.org).

We pray that churches across the world will be able to reopen their doors soon to the faithful members who have missed worshipping together.

Our church office is operating and can be reached at 570-366-2255. Work hours have been altered this spring, so leave a message if unanswered.

Once regular worship is able to resume, we will gather at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Communion will be offered the first Sunday each month.

May God surround you always with His unfailing



love. We are thankful for everyone who continues to help others during this pandemic.

The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry continues to operate from St. John's church. Distribution of boxes of food for those in need takes place the third Saturday of every month. The boxes are distributed via "drive through" only due to virus spread precautions.

We are grateful to the volunteers and our local police who continue to make the food pantry possible. And, thank you to all community support through these trying times and all year long. For those in need, volunteers, or contributions, call 570-366-2255 and wait for the prompt to leave a message for the food pantry.

## Salem UMC

Salem United Methodist Church - where Liberty and Independence meet - hopes to soon be able to open its doors for in-person worship. COVID-19 virus precautions will need to be observed as we return to offer three unique worship services each Sunday. Scheduling updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, and sign board in front of the church.

When that occurs, Salem will offer Sunday services with a traditional service at 8:45 a.m., a contemporary worship at 10:45, and the SNL Coffeehouse at 6:30 in the evening. Children's Time is held during both morning worship times. A paid nursery attendant is on staff from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. All are welcome at all our worship times and community events!

As of this writing (mid- May), the building is closed but our church family and faith are still here! Our church web page has a wealth of information during the current shutdown. Here you can find what we are doing in mission and ministry. Our Sunday worship is now Zoom Worship at 10 a.m. until we can be back in the building. Find the link on our webpage.

Our pastor and lay people have been putting reflections on our church Facebook page. These can also be accessed through our webpage. We haven't given up our faith or cancelled our services - We Are Online!

One of our missions during this time is to feed the hungry and help those in need. In April and coming up in June, we are the coordinating church for the Orwigsburg Food Pantry on the distribution dates. The June date is June 20. Salem continues to collect food for the Orwigsburg Pantry and have also been assisting the Salvation Army with food distribution. If you are in need, contact our church office for help at 570-366-0201.



179 Pine Creek Drive  
Orwigsburg, PA  
[www.kimmelschurch.org](http://www.kimmelschurch.org)  
570.943.2759

Join Us!

### Sunday Worship Service

Live streams on the Kimmels Facebook Page  
10 am, Sunday mornings

### Classes Available Virtually:

- Adult Sunday School - 9 am, Sundays
- Children's Sunday School - 11:30, am Sundays
- Women's Bible Studies - 6:30 pm, Tuesdays/Thursdays
- Men's Studies - 6 am, Wednesdays
- Adult Small Group - 6:30 pm, Wednesdays
- Adult Small Group - 9:30 am, Thursdays
- Teen Study Group - 8 pm, Thursdays

All classes and small groups meet using [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) - please call for additional details (570-943-2759)



# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

A new mission brought about by recent events, our Face Mask Project, is being coordinated by the UMW. This group of women have been making and donating masks. It is a labor of love and service. If you need a mask, contact our church office.

Lay leader Brenda Binns has been putting coloring pages online for adults and children to do at home.

A group of church members are available to run errands, grocery shop and assist those in need while they may be stuck at home during this time.

Do you need someone to talk to? We're here to listen! Along with Pastor Steward Warner, we have three Christ Servant Ministers available if you have questions or need to talk to someone. Call the church office or email [Office@SalemUM.com](mailto:Office@SalemUM.com). Office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## The Lighthouse Church

The Lighthouse Church (TLC) is located along Rt. 61 at 10 Hollenbush Lane, just south of Orwigsburg. Information on church activities, events, and services can be found at [www.thelighthousechurch.com](http://www.thelighthousechurch.com) or by calling the church office at 570-366-1300.

Our regular Sunday service includes contemporary worship, a children's program following worship, a message, and a time of fellowship after the service.

Watch the service online at 9 a.m. streamed live to our website, YouTube and Facebook. If people are unable to attend the service in person, they are invited to join for a time of worship and encouragement directly from their home.

Currently on Tuesday evening, we go live again with an evening of worship and prayer. People are invited to join with us from the comforts of their home and watch the service online.

In the fall we will again offer our Youth Group activities and Family Nights. Youth Group is for students in grades seven through 12. All area teens are invited/ encouraged to join our TLC youth on Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m. for a couple hours of games, good conversation, and a short lesson.

Family Nights are held Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45 p.m. There are a variety of Bible study groups available for children in nursery through grades 6th and adults.



Several family events are held throughout the year. One coming up is free and geared for the entire family. "The Story - The Musical," will be scheduled shortly and be posted/promoted on our website.

Especially during these seemingly uncertain times, community members may find themselves in need of prayer or solace. Our pastor would enjoy the opportunity to help anyone in need. If you need to just talk, seek pastoral counsel, or look for prayer, our pastor will enjoy the opportunity to find solutions and offer encouragement. Please call the church office.

## Faith Church

Faith Church, located next to Ark Rentals at 1166 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61), welcomes all as we discover how to navigate through these current and uncharted waters.

Our families are facing trials that we have never  
- Continued on page 22

## FAITH CHURCH

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Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell

1168 Centre Turnpike

(next to Ark Rentals)

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570-366-5131

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## St. John's United Church of Christ

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*Spirit filled worship for contemporary souls*

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

Check our Facebook page, website, or church sign for when we can, once again, open the church for in-person worship.

# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

- Continued from Page 21

considered possible. There are no books or people experienced in these things to tell us what to do. We hear phrases like, "We are in this together... stay safe." Some of these things we have never experienced before and they will possibly change our way of life for many years to come.



Some have panicked, some have not taken it seriously, but all are forced to deal with and all are affected by the pandemic. Churches are closed, restaurants shut down and folks are not allowed to meet.

Maybe you feel helpless, hopeless or discouraged. That is understandable; but realize, God is in control. He is still our Creator and protector and guide. He knows when this will end and He knows how it will affect us.

We at Faith Church are eagerly looking to the future with hopes of meeting again soon. As the

"Phases" open up, we will begin first by meeting in smaller groups to stay within the guidelines issued by our State government. We expect that this could be in a week or two. We are also exploring ways to bring back our larger gatherings.

When we are allowed to gather in large groups again, Faith Church will hold its "Easter" celebration and egg hunt that were unable to happen in April.

Faith's small groups have been "meeting" virtually via Zoom technology. Our outreach ministries are still active, with limits, but still seek to help those in need.

Faith has a county-wide outreach to anyone in need. We can coordinate prescription pickups/delivery or any food needs that may be present.

Many are growing weary as we face these unprecedented times. Abiding by the guidelines is easing the virus threat. Take solace that God is in control and eventually things will become more normal. Keep the faith, stay trusting, and keep your family distanced and safe.

## Zion's Red Church

Welcome to Zion's Red Church, the oldest congregation located in the heart of southern Schuylkill County. We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the United Church of Christ, 1287 Centre Turnpike (Route 61.) Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with the Rev. Ken Melber, Jr.

Due to social distance protocols the past months, public church services were suspended. Pastor Ken currently posts our Sunday service on Facebook Live at 10 a.m. and has also offered a Bible study, lectionary and hymn reflections for learning online. To view what is available, go to our sister church's website at Friedens Lutheran Church in New Ringgold and click on the NRLP.ORG link.

Also, because of the COVID-19 virus health crisis, Zion's has chosen to cancel its annual White Elephant Sale. Hopefully, we will be able to host our friends in the community at our Christmas Bazaar in early December. Rental spaces for birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, and other family events are on hold right now.

Contact our church office at 570-366-1178 for information on Sunday service, Bible study sessions, church rental spaces, online worship, and other services. Find us online at [zionsredchurch.com](http://zionsredchurch.com) or join our Facebook page.



## Salem United Methodist Church



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**<http://www.SalemUM.com>**

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ARE ON CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE**

**[http://www.facebook.com/  
salemchurchorwigsburg](http://www.facebook.com/salemchurchorwigsburg)**

**Bible Study Opportunities - See Church Web Page**



# A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

## Kimmels Church

It's that time of year again when the warm weather awakens the imagination and people begin making their big plans for the summer. This summer, however, will be one that nobody will forget, as the best laid plans keep changing.

Vacations have been cancelled, weddings postponed, camps and parties still questionable, as we wait in what feels like isolation, all because of a virus.

Many of us are feeling close to reaching our limit of staying home and away from family and friends. We'd like everything to go back to normal, but the reality is that "normal" could be a long way off. While this virus has taken the entire world by surprise, it has not caught God by surprise one bit.

It's been a very difficult time for so many people around the world, and has impacted us all in different ways. Hopefully, it has also reminded us of things that are truly important - like the gospel, family, investing in relationships, keeping our bodies healthy and, of course, our own mortality.

Jesus tells us not to store up for ourselves treasures on earth, because they ultimately do not last. Rather, store up for ourselves treasures in heaven



where they will last for eternity. God loves you and He is working through all of this. He promises to make all things work out for good to those who love him.

That is our prayer for all! Until we are able to have in-person worship and activities, join us for our Sunday worship by joining Kimmels Church on Facebook at 10 a.m., or be sure to visit our website at [kimmelschurch.org](http://kimmelschurch.org).

## St. Paul's Lutheran

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 215 North Warren Street, welcomes everyone to join them in Christian fellowship and love. Call the church office at 570-366-2316 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday for information, online at [stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://stpauls-orwigsburg.org), or Facebook @StPaulsOrwigsburg.

In-person worship services have been suspended since March 15th to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Hopefully we may again be able to open our doors with virus precautions.

When this becomes possible on or after Sunday, June 5, our summer services will be Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Please call St. Paul's church office, view our website, or see us on Facebook to confirm in-person worship times and receive additional information. Meanwhile, view worship and learn about our congregation online each week.



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