

ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

From Where It All Began

... Is Happening Again

No. 95 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

May 2018

Look Inside – 2018 Guide/Map & Survey Results Summary

People Make Orwigsburg a Great Community!

This Double Bonus issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings* is jam-packed with “news you can use.”

Not only will you find updates from all corners of the Borough, including upcoming community offerings to plan your spring and summer, this issue has two “pull-out-and-keep” inserts you will want to read now and then save for future use.

Our Town – Orwigsburg!

The 2018 version of the Orwigsburg Community Guide and Map is the third of its kind. Originally printed in 2012, it was updated in 2016 and now again brought current following a significant number of changes to start this year.

These changes include current elected and

appointed Borough officials, services, taxes and fees, and a new location for the library. Steward Warner, pastor of Salem UM Church, provided the front cover photos. Aptly named, he can be found with camera in-hand at most area events and is a true “steward” of community values.

Our town’s business community was again eager to be a part of this 2018 Guide & Map, fully supporting its production/distribution to every household through their advertisements. This product is a service to the residents and visitors of the greater Orwigsburg area and was provided at no cost to the Borough. Its distribution will continue in the coming years through the Borough Office and at public locations.

This is Our Town . . . no, Your Town – Orwigsburg! Support your town. Think of your town first and patronize these local business advertisers when you shop for items and services.

Greater Orwigsburg Town Survey

The results are in! You spoke; town leaders are listening!

This past November, Orwigsburg households were encouraged to complete a rather comprehensive survey of how they view many facets of our town’s ser-

– Continued on page 2



SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

Sat., May 19 – Orwigsburg Community Yard Sale; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; register your location in advance to get listed on the yard sale map.

Sat., May 26 – Children’s Fishing Rodeo at Fisher’s Dam; starts 9 a.m.; children 15 and under.

Sun., May 27 – All are invited to enjoy a free Patriotic Concert held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.

Mon., May 28 – Memorial Day Parade/Service/BBQ; It’s a “Decoration Day” tradition in Orwigsburg! Honor all fallen military service personnel, veterans, and those presently serving this country with the Memorial Day parade beginning at 8 a.m. followed by the service “on the square.” Then enjoy a chicken barbeque dinner (eat in or take out) at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mon., May 28 – Orwigsburg Fire Dept. “Hero Hustle 5k” Run – Noon; runners will be seen on a town route.

Thurs., June 14 – Square Time “Family Funfest” featuring fun, games, and food for all ages; 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Thurs., August 9 – Square Time “Farm to Square” where wine, farmers and artists meet; 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Sun., August 26 – Free Block Party hosted by Salem United Methodist Church; 3 to 7 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 8 – Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Council Vice President..... Susan Murphy
Borough Manager..... Robert A. Williams
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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; the Business Meeting is then held on the Second Wednesday.

OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Orwigsburg Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2018 in observance of the stated holidays – New Year's Day, Jan. 1; Good Friday, March 30; Memorial Day, May 28; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, September 3; Veterans' Day, Nov. 12; Thanksgiving, Nov. 22 and 23; Christmas eve and day, Dec. 24 and 25.

It's A Great Community!

– Continued from Page 1

vices, quality of life, and future needs.

The results have been compiled and are in final review. The Borough received 377 responses – more than 20% of all households – mostly on the paper form but also via an identical online version. Quite evident was the time and careful thought that nearly every respondent took to provide this valuable information.

DOUBLE BONUS INSIDE Guide Map • Survey Summary

A 4-page summary sheet has been inserted in this issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings*. Public comment and discussion has been scheduled for the May 16 meeting of the Planning & Zoning Commission that will begin at 7:30 p.m. and held in the Council meeting room on the handicap-accessible second floor of Orwigsburg Borough Hall, 209 N. Warren Street.

The final 76-page report of the Greater Orwigsburg Town Survey will then be posted for public access on the borough's website *Orwigsburg.net*. The survey asked residents for specific comments on 17 different categories on the survey. The Borough received 2,020 comments, all of which have been captured and included in the final report.

One of the items summarized in the full report detailed responses to "How do residents want to find out about Orwigsburg happenings?"

In this age of social media, Facebook, and the Internet, those three categories were well down in the ranking. Not surprisingly, the most chosen source for local news was this newsletter with 45% of the 377 respondents listing it as their top choice. Newspapers were a distant second with 24%. This and dozens of other topics gauge the town's opinions.

For those who value their town of Orwigsburg – and it's obvious that number is many – the enclosed Summary and that of the full report make for very interesting reading.



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Message from the Council President

Building Community Needs You ...You ...and You!

As many of you know, our town recently undertook the process of conducting a community-wide survey that will help shape the future direction of the Borough. The response rate was fantastic and is obviously a reflection of our residents who take a vested interest in our little town, both now and looking to the future.

But what does it truly mean to be part of a community? To take an active role in one's community? Consider this graphic that seems to capture the essence of community.

While many of the items on this list may seem elementary to many, to others it may be a new way to look at things. In this day and age of technology with families overrun with their children's extra-curricular activities, it's easy to take for granted or to ignore the importance of being a part of one's community.

After all, the goal of many parents is that their children grow up and lead meaningful productive lives. And yes, while having a great job and making money is part of a productive life, couldn't the same be said about someone who gives back, is a part of something bigger, who is invested in their community?

Also, what about those parents who are so busy with their offspring? Eventually, they will fly the nest



and parents will not have those activities to fall back on. What better time for folks to look within, to see the value of their community, and make a concentrated effort to give back.

So how can one give back by getting involved in their community? There are a lot of ways, but here are just a few:

Get involved

Now that spring has finally sprung (or at least we hope), there are so many community events and activities filling the calendar with excellent opportunities to build our community.

Have you ever considered attending one of the many Square Time events the Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association coordinates during the summer months?

What about the community-wide Yard Sale coming up? We all have lots of stuff that we need to get rid of, so why not sign up and participate in this event, get rid of some items, and earn some change?

Want to get the kids involved? The Fisher's Dam fish rodeo is coming up in a couple weeks. Or you can run as a family in the Friendship Fire Company's "Hero Hustle 5K" to be held on Memorial Day.

Give back to others

This one is easy! Many borough residents do give back, but you might be surprised to see how this helps to build a community. There are folks from all walks of life living in Orwigsburg and many out there have needs beyond their own ability to satisfy. I bet you know someone who could benefit from your willingness to offer a lending hand. Have you ever donated to the local food pantry or offered to assist in its distribution?

What about helping at the Orwigsburg Library? It recently moved and continues to grow its programs

– Continued on page 6

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Message from the Council President

– Continued from Page 4

to our residents. Lots of fundraisers need volunteers to assist, not to mention day-to-day activities at the library.

Several senior living centers are located in Orwigsburg. I guarantee just your presense, a smile, and a kind word would be welcomed with open arms. Their residents would be thrilled for the visit.

Care about the community

This is another easy one to get you active in your community; but, it is often the one most overlooked. Orwigsburg continues to thrive as a valued community when our residents take pride in their town. Do your part to keep your property maintained and, if you can't, reach out to a neighbor for help. Plant flowers, pick up litter when you see it, and pick up after your pets. Do you greet people with a hello when you walk around town or is your head buried in your phone? Get out there; meet your neighbors; and make an effort to say hello!

Support your community

Yes, I have touched on some events and activities that are a way to get involved while supporting your community; but, this one goes a little deeper than that.

Do you shop locally for groceries? Use a local doctor or beautician? If not you should, because growing our business community helps improve our town and

helps to keep your taxes low – something everyone wants. We have a vibrant business community that is expanding every day. Many of these businesses are located in our downtown area, a walkable distance for many who live in town.



MICHELE RUDOLFF
Council President

Supporting one's community doesn't just mean supporting local businesses; it includes the non-profit organizations as well. Do you give back or support local fundraisers? From the Orwigsburg Lions Club to our fire company and to the churches, there are always opportunities to help and support their fundraising efforts both with dollars and with manpower.

Plan for your future; honor your past

One of my favorite parts of "community" is the respect we show our glorious past and how we honor it as we grow. Orwigsburg has a rich history. We were the first county seat of government. Our manufacturing industry from yesteryear may have faded, but we still find ways to honor its importance to the community.

Let's not forget our veterans who paved the way for our freedom. All of the events on Memorial Day revolve around one thing – honoring our veterans. I commend the VFW for undertaking an effort to bring "Heroes Banners" to town as a visible reminder of some of our community's finest and bravest.

The Orwigsburg Historical Society also continues to play an important role in preserving our past. And, we can't forget the amazing work undertaken by the Veterans Memorial Task Force in renovating and breathing new life into our town's Memorial Building.

I can't imagine living any where other than Orwigsburg because of the sense of community I feel from this wonderful little town. If we want to make it even better, I hope you will join me in giving back.

So, when you come to that next town function, put your phone away and get to know your neighbors. I guarantee that afterwards you will feel even better about this great place we call home.

– Michele Rudloff, Borough Council President

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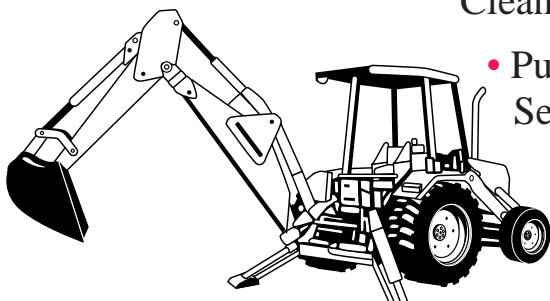
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Proclamation from the Orwigsburg Mayor

Deadlines & Taxes – Ain't That A "Kick in the Pants"

Throughout my life, it's been a fact that I am never an early responder to any event or deadline. My grade school was 75 yards to the west on Mifflin Street, but still I ducked in the door as the last bell rang.

Saint John's Church was a block down Sherman ... and I eased into our pew just in time to sing the first note of the processional hymn. Midnight curfew during my teen years? I was turning the kitchen doorknob as the clock struck 12.

For whatever reason though, I usually need the pressure of a deadline to help generate a decent product. Something inside me requires that "kick in the pants" provided by the threat or anxiety of failing.

So, there's my alibi if this installment isn't up to par. A planned visit with our daughter in Massachusetts will have us out of town during the due date weekend (my extension, not his editorship's). Consequently, I'm drafting this communication nearly a week ahead of schedule on the eve of our Federal and PA Income Tax filing day.

Thankfully, our tax preparer does not share my

foot dragging characteristics. We've known for several weeks that, by tomorrow, we have to write that check and get it in the mail. It is a pain that time does not heal well.

I've said before, while we have little say in the disbursement of our federal and state tax dollars, virtually every tax dollar collected by the Borough provides benefit to Orwigsburg. A safe community with functional streets, sewer systems, and water supply can best be funded by an adequate revenue stream.

As very few items of value decrease in cost, we can expect continuing increases in the level of revenue required to sustain and improve Orwigsburg. While we prefer that funding be generated by an increased tax base, we cannot afford to ignore issues that need to be addressed in the meanwhile.

In some cases, the deadline has passed.

– Barry J. Berger, Mayor

p.s. – To those who have asked, Maggie appears to be winning the "War of the Back Yard" – our sod survival rate is at about 52% in patchy areas. But the forsythia lives!



BARRY J. BERGER
Mayor



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Orwigsburg Police Department

Your Police Officers Are A Part of Our Community

Within the last year, the Orwigsburg Police Department has undergone a number of personnel changes resulting in a new Chief of Police and two new officers. All of us in our department enjoy the opportunity to get to know our residents on a casual basis, but we can reach out to many more of you through *Orwigsburg Happenings*.

Here's your opportunity to get to know a little more about each of us.

Chief John Koury



CHIEF
JOHN KOURY

Chief Koury is a graduate of the Reading Police Academy, joining the Orwigsburg force in 1988. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1996 and, last year, upon Stan Brozana's retirement, was named Chief of Police, the fourth officer to hold that position.

Prior to law enforcement, John worked as a dispatcher for the Schuylkill Haven Police Department and served as an EMT with the Schuylkill Haven Ambulance. Chief Koury is certified by the Pennsylvania State Police as a shotgun and handgun instructor and

serves as his department's Firearms Training Officer. He is also a certified Glock Armorer and oversees all departmental weapons.

John attended SWAT instruction school in 2006. His hobbies include watching baseball and volunteering with Team Orwigsburg. He especially enjoys spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Officer Brandon Bayer

Having graduated from the Lackawanna College police academy in 2007, officer Bayer was originally employed part-time by the Williamstown Borough Police Department in Dauphin County before starting his full-time career with the Mechanicsburg Borough Police Department in Cumberland County.



OFFICER
BRANDON BAYER

Brandon was hired by Orwigsburg Borough in January of 2011. He holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security from Columbia Southern University. Additionally, he is an instructor for Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and serves as the department's instructor for CPR/First Aid.

Officer Bayer is certified through Safe Kids Worldwide as a child passenger safety technician. In his free time, Brandon enjoys spending every minute with his wife and four children and getting far away in his RV.

Officer Robert Bechtel

Police officer Bechtel joined the Orwigsburg Police in 2013 following graduation from HACC Police Academy. He is a 2011 graduate of Millersville University where he holds two degrees in Government and Communication and a minor in Emergency Management.

Robert holds certifications as a Police Bicycle Officer and also as an instructor for taser, handcuffing,

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Orwigsburg Police Department



**OFFICER
ROBERT BECHTEL**

baton, and OC. He is an active member of the Orwigsburg Fire Department and serves as the Friendship Hose Co. treasurer.

In his spare time, Officer Bechtel enjoys going to concerts and shows with his wife. He is an avid fan of the Bucknell Bison, University of Pennsylvania Quakers, and the Pittsburgh Steelers. You may recognize his voice as BTI from his time working at WPPA 1360 and T102 from 2009 through 2012.

Officer Tanner Noecker

Police officer Noecker is a 2015 graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice and a minor in Sociology and is a 2015 graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy.

Tanner was previously employed by the Lower Merion Township Police Department in Montgomery County, Tamaqua Police Department, and the Rush Township Police



**OFFICER
TANNER NOECKER**

Department. He was sworn into the Orwigsburg Police Department in March of 2017.

Officer Noecker is a certified Standardized Field Sobriety Test Practitioner and serves as the department's Glock Armorer maintaining all handguns.

In his free time Tanner enjoys target shooting, hunting, and taking walks with his wife and Duke, his dog. Duke serves as the unofficial OPD mascot.

Officer Bryce Lewis

Orwigsburg Police Department's newest officer is Bryce Lewis, recently hired full time in November 2017. Prior to that time, Bryce worked for both the Reading and Pottsville Police departments.

Officer Lewis graduated from the Lackawanna College Police Academy in 2015. He is certified in Mental Health First Aid trained to identify and understand signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. He is also certified as a standardized Field Sobriety Test Practitioner.

Bryce spends his free time outdoors. He is an avid hunter, often times hunting right before and right after working. During deer season he travels to Tioga County.



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Orwigsburg Business & Professional Assoc.

"Square Time" Events to Highlight Summer Celebrations

A Florida Vacation Raffle connects the three "Square Time" events this summer and helps to connect our community. These themed occasions, coordinated by many active members of OBPA, attract residents and visitors with varied interests, giving the perfect opportunity to be outdoors spending time with friends/neighbors in a relaxed atmosphere ... all in the heart of our beautiful downtown.

But first, you should know that OBPA is much, much more than just an event planner. Your active business association takes great pride serving our young adults. For each of the past three years, OBPA has given a \$500 Graduation Award to a Blue Mountain High School senior essayist on the subject how growing up in a small community helped to shape his/her initial career path.

OBPA's annual Meet and Greet Mixer brings present and potential members of the business community face-to-face with local, county, and state "movers and shakers" to discuss issues and exchange ideas

and needs important to the future of Orwigsburg and surrounding communities. This year, a turnout of more than 75 people got the chance to do just that with OBPA board members, State Senator David Argall, State Representative Jerry Knowles, Schuylkill County Commissioner and announced U.S. Congress candidate George Holcavage, Chamber of Commerce Vice President Monica Walborn, Orwigsburg Chief of Police John Koury, Mayor Barry Berger and several members of town council.

Square Time events and Vacation Raffle

Now back to that vacation raffle and those events ...

At each Square Time event and Heritage Day, residents and visitors will have an opportunity to win a 7-day stay at a Florida resort, near

Disney, plus some spending cash to enjoy it even more. Be sure to stop by the OBPA booth to purchase your raffle ticket!

It's easy to mark your calendar for the Square Time events! They are purposely scheduled on the "Second Thursday" of May, June, and August – 5:30 to 9 p.m. – and can always be found in the center of





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www.SouthSchuylkill.com

Orwigsburg Business & Professional Assoc.

beautiful town square, hence the name.

YAPPY HOUR – Back by “pawpular” demand, Yappy Hour just kicked off the outdoor season on May 10. What great fun it was as four-legged friends and those who enjoy them came out to mix and mingle. But, you didn’t need a pet to join in the fun.

Vendors showcased both pet and people-friendly items while live music helped “soothe the savage beast.” Yappetizers and a pet-themed Chinese auction, fun demonstrations, and a pet parade capped off the activities.

FAMILY FUNFEST – Welcome summer with Family Funfest on June 14, featuring crafts, a bounce house, games, treats and vendors galore to put you in the summer spirit! Come one, come all – there will be lots of fun, food, and something for all members of the family to enjoy.

FARM TO SQUARE – This event is where wine, farmers, artists and visitors/residents who enjoy them all can meet on August 9. OBPA has combined previous year’s Square Time events of the June Jamboree with the Farmers Market to bring the public a huge event. Sample libations; buy from local farmers; and be amazed by local artists while mixing and mingling with your neighbors.

Want to be part of these great events?

While OBPA is proud of the success of Square Time to date, we’re always in need of more volunteers and fresh ideas as we look to keep improving these town happenings for the coming generations.

Getting yourself involved on this local level will have a great impact on your quality of life and on the lives of others you know. Come and join our efforts by contacting Pat Falco at orwigsburgbusinesspa@gmail.com; check out the OBPA webpage at Orwigsburgbusiness.org, or find us on Facebook.

SPECIAL ITEMS *Perfect for* **GRADUATION AND CONFIRMATION / BAPTISM** **ASK US ABOUT OUR BAKER'S DOZEN FUNDRAISER**



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Orwigsburg Street Tree Inventory Project

Planting/Maintaining Trees Benefits Our Town

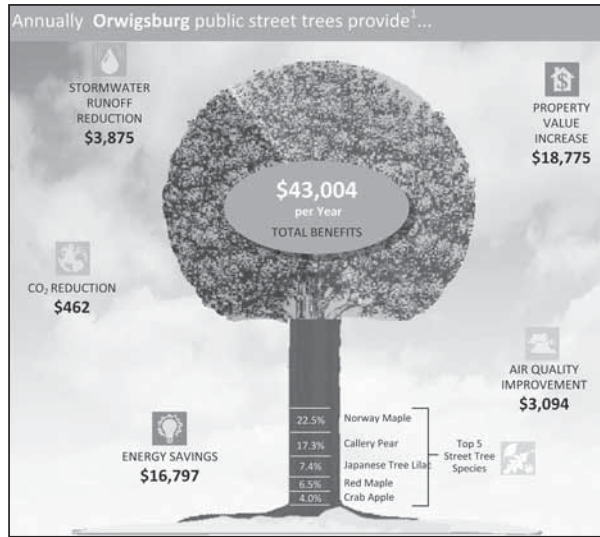
Tree-lined streets in Orwigsburg provide an estimated \$43,000 in annual benefits to the community. This is the finding of a group of volunteers who conducted a street tree inventory, totaling 323 specimens, over the past year.

Each tree immediately adjacent to the street was examined to determine the species, trunk diameter, tree vigor and condition. In addition, 139 potential planting sites were identified for future plantings.

The tree inventory utilizes a free online software program maintained by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry.

Orwigsburg street trees provide thousands of dollars of environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits to the community. It is important to provide periodic tree care and plantings to ensure that future generations enjoy healthy and vigorous street trees.

Diversity of a town's tree species population –



no more than 5% of any one type – is important to guard against significant loss due to insects, diseases, and environmental stress that may attack a certain genus of tree. The inventory found that Norway Maple and Callery Pear trees are over-represented on Orwigsburg streets.

For additional tree inventory information and an opportunity to volunteer your help, contact the Orwigsburg Borough office at 570-366-3103 or stop by in person.

Trees enhance property values and aesthetics, provide wildlife habitat, improve

human health/wellbeing and learning/concentration, and reduce noise.

Over their lifetime, street tree benefits exceed the costs of planting and care, representing a 300% return on investment. These benefits increase over time encouraging, not only the value of planting trees but, their ongoing maintenance and protection.

– Frank Snyder, District Forester (Retired)

R&J TOURS – 2018 HAPPENINGS

Call for Dates – NYC Free Day	\$42
Call for Dates – Phillies Games	Call
Call for Dates – Gourmet Food Shopping	\$43
Call for Dates – Washington DC Free Day	\$46
Call for Dates – Baltimore National Aquarium	*\$70
Call for Dates – 911 Memorial & Museum	*\$65
May 31 – Ride the Rails in the Poconos	\$89
June 2 – Medieval Times	*\$84
June 6 – The House is Rockin (Hunterdon Hills)	\$92
June 15 – Cape May Zoo & Dolphin Watch	*\$90
June 16 – Doo Wop Cavalcade	\$73
June 16 – Game Masters The Exhibition	*\$56
June 19 – Adventure Aquarium & Zoo	\$67
June 23 & July 28 – Ocean City, NJ	\$45
June 24 – PA Wine & Food Festival	\$55
June 27 – Bobby Rydell	\$85
June 30 – Tomb of Christ	\$51

OVERNIGHTS

Call for Dates – Dover Downs	\$125 p/p DBL
Call for Dates – Turning Stone	Call for prices
June 11-15 – Virginia Beach	\$529 p/p DBL
June 17-21 – Maine Lighthouses & Lobsters	\$922 p/p DBL
June 21-23 – Sip & Savor Fredericksburg	\$553 p/p DBL

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

The place to be on Memorial Day

It's a Memorial Day tradition in Orwigsburg!



The town's VFW Honor Guard visits area cemeteries and fires volleys over veterans laid to rest at each. Family members, neighbors and friends line the town square and along the parade route to herald town and region dignitaries, members of the American Legion and VFW, civic and social organizations, emergency services, and others marching in

order to honor the day. The parade steps off at 8 a.m.

The Memorial Day service will again be held on Centre Square following the parade amidst the many monuments honoring all service personnel who served this country in time of war.

Continuing the annual tradition, the Orwigsburg Lions Club will fire up its barbeque pits, cooking half-chickens on the spot and serving up a full meal indoors at the beautiful Veterans Community Memorial Hall at Grove and North Washington streets.

Beginning at noon will be the "Hero Hustle 5K" run taking place in proximity to Memorial Hall and on a route through parts of Orwigsburg. This inaugural Memorial Day run brings back a tradition honoring the day from decades ago. It is organized by and benefits the Orwigsburg Fire Department, honoring

service personnel, police, and firefighters of our area.

It's a full day of activities. Make Orwigsburg your place to celebrate Memorial Day with family, friends, and neighbors.

Your patriotism will be uplifted

Get in the spirit of Memorial Day by enjoying the annual Patriotic Concert held Sunday evening, May 27 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 215 N. Warren St. The event starts at 7 p.m. and will feature the Patriotic Festival Choir and Blue Mountain High School Octet singing groups. It's free and open to the public ... a great way to start your Memorial Day holiday.

Community-wide yard sale

Uptown, downtown, and all-around the town, every resident and business is encouraged to have a yard sale as part of the 7th annual Orwigsburg Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Due to advance planning and promotion, the show will go on rain or shine.



Register your sale by calling Orwigsburg Borough Hall at 570-366-3103 or email Michele Rudloff at rudloff1313@comcast.net. The Borough will post a final yard sale map and list of locations that day on its website www.orwigsburg.net and Facebook page.

– Continued on page 16



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**90 South Tulpehocken Street
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Auto Home Life Business Farm Retirement

Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 15

Fishing Rodeo

The 28th annual Orwigsburg Children's Fishing Rodeo will be held Saturday, May 26 for children 15 years of age and younger, beginning at 9 a.m. at Fisher's Dam at the base of S. Washington St. The dam will be stocked with fish and there will be prizes for tagged fish caught. Each child participating will receive a hot dog and drink.

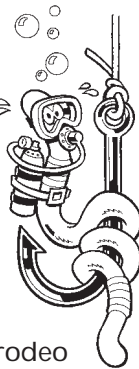
The successful continuation of this rodeo relies on donations from community members and local businesses. For more information, email orwigsburgfish@yahoo.com.

When is Square Time? Heritage Day?

Not sure when the next "Square Time" community event will be held? Organized by the Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association (OBPA), Square Time is always slated on the second Thursday of the month beginning in May through August.

"Yappy Hour" for pet owners and pet lovers was just held May 10. "Family Funfest" is coming up June 14 and "Farm to Square" will be enjoyed on August 9. All activities begin at 5:30 p.m. "on the square" at the M&T/Community Parking Lot area and continue until 9 p.m. No event is planned for July this year.

Orwigsburg Heritage Day, also coordinated by



OBPA, is always held the Saturday after Labor Day ... this year on September 8.

One other summertime community event that has become very popular is the end-of-summer Community Block Party, hosted by Salem UM Church, always held on the last Sunday in August ... this year it is on August 26 from 3 to 7 p.m. Church activities throughout the year raise the funds allowing this event to be completely free of charge – food, games, and entertainment – for all to enjoy.

Golf tourney raises funds for OFD

The public is invited to play golf at the Schuylkill Country Club through the Orwigsburg Fire Department's annual golf tournament on Friday, June 15. The cost is \$90 per golfer that includes greens fees and a shared ride-on cart, entry gifts and on-course prizes, coffee and donuts before the 9 a.m. "shotgun start," unlimited beer/soda/water, food on the course, and a steak buffet meal following the day's golf.

All proceeds from this tournament benefit the Orwigsburg Fire Department.



Team Orwigsburg back home

Just back from its latest out-of-state work/mission trip, the 25-person field crew of Team Orwigsburg, a local faith-based mission team, spent 11 days building bridges and repairing homes in an area of West Virginia hit hard by floods two years ago. Details on their work will be featured in the August issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings*.

Team members extend a huge "thank you" for all the community support. In addition to their once-per-year distant work trip, the volunteer group completes numerous local mission/work projects. The local work is very rewarding, but the group doesn't release names or addresses of families assisted.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the fellowship hall of Salem United Methodist Church. New faces are always welcome. Phone Susan McCartney at 570-943-2103 with questions or additional information.

Postal workers collect food donations

The National Association of Letter Carriers, supported by the U.S. Postal Service, celebrate Stamp Out Hunger national food drive each year in May. It is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. This year the collection will be on Saturday, May 12.

The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, operated from St John's United Church of Christ at 232 E. Market St., benefits directly from the local efforts of your town's postal workers food drive.

Residents are asked to place non-perishable food donations in a plastic bag at your mailbox for your carrier to col-




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THE GREATER ORWIGSBURG TOWN SURVEY

Conducted
Fall of 2017

How you are living, working, shopping and enjoying life in Orwigsburg is important to borough officials who make daily decisions and plan for the future of your town.

One of the tools guiding these officials is a master plan for your community, known as the Orwigsburg Borough "Comprehensive Plan." This Plan undergoes a review and revision every 10 years to assure the town's direction and goals remain current with the thoughts, desires, and demands of its residents, business and property owners, and of regional trends for controlled growth, economic prosperity, and valued quality of life.

Many residents and visitors will remember last spring a "Quick Survey" was conducted in focus groups and at local restaurants by use of a drink coaster asking just three simple questions – (1) What makes Orwigsburg great?; (2) What is missing?; and (3) What needs to be improved?

An overwhelming response to this, along with data from the previous town questionnaire of 2004, became the basis of The Greater Orwigsburg Town Sur-

vey distributed to every household in Orwigsburg Borough and beyond in the Fall of 2017.

Again the response was extraordinary as 377 official questionnaires, representing more than 20% of households, were received via paper ballot and by identical online survey. The time, careful thought, and heartfelt critique was evident in nearly every response.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Residents have spoken. Borough officials will use these results to amend the Orwigsburg Borough Comprehensive Plan that guides the future of the town for the next decade and beyond.

Following is a 4-page summary of the survey results. The complete survey response (nearly 70 pages) with all comments submitted is available in electronic format through the Orwigsburg Borough website:

www.Orwigsburg.net

As part of the survey, residents' specific comments were solicited. The Borough received 2,020 comments on 17 different categories. Below is a brief summary of the major categories and each major comment in the category.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

The majority of comments state the streets, sidewalks and storm drainage areas need to be better maintained for residents to walk safely. Residents also would like to see handicap accessible areas.

"Some sidewalks in the borough are not easy to walk on and are even a little dangerous."

"Very hard to find handicap parking in square."

"Poor sidewalks"

"Storm drains cleaned more often."

"Street condition/maintenance"

"Traffic patterns"

IN-TOWN BUSINESS SERVICES

The majority of comments state a gas station would be really appreciated in town. The community wants to keep the small-town feel with quaint stores instead of chain restaurants.

"A gas station would be spectacular!"

"Mix of small town feel is good - no need to solicit grand scale stores."

"Local gas station is desperately needed."

"Keep chain restaurants out. Mom and pop stores add to the small town feel."

"Gas station needed by far - every resident has to leave town to buy fuel"

EMERGENCY SERVICES – POLICE

The majority of people state the department is doing a good job but there needs to be 24 hour coverage.

"We need 24 hour service."

"I wish we could have 24 hour police."

"With the addition of full time police, things would get much better."

EMERGENCY SERVICES – ORWIGSBURG FIRE POLICE

The majority of the comments mention no complaints and others feel the department can be improved.

"Do a good job, but not enough volunteers."

"More volunteers to reroute during emergencies"

"We feel safe and service has been satisfactory"

THE GREATER ORWIGSBURG TOWN SURVEY
INFOGRAPHIC

In order to find out more about who lives in and around Orwigsburg, a survey was conducted in Fall 2017. A total of 377 people responded, providing us insights into who lives or works in the area, what they like about it and the things they would like to see improved.

WHO RESPONDED?

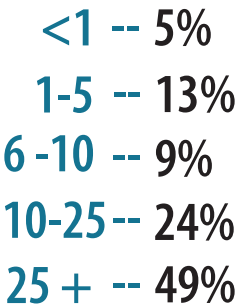
NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS



AGE RANGE

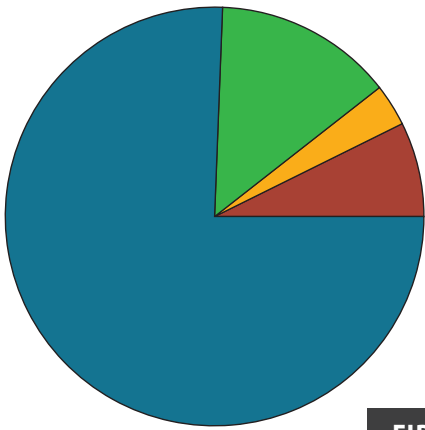


HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN PART OF THE ORWIGSBURG COMMUNITY?



COMMUNITY

"HERITAGE DAY IS THE BEST!"
"TEENS NEED A COFFEE HOUSE WITH VIDEO GAMES."
"WE NEED MORE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE AREAS FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING EVENTS."



- BOROUGH RESIDENT - PROPERTY OWNER
- BOROUGH RESIDENT - RENTER
- NON-RESIDENT - PROPERTY OWNER
- AREA RESIDENT - OUTSIDE BOROUGH

11% WORK IN A TECHNICAL JOB
8% WORK IN HEALTHCARE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

75% FAVOR REGIONALIZING VOLUNTEER FIRE POLICE
66% FAVOR REGIONALIZING LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

"PAID FULL TIME STAFF IS NEEDED."
"...RARELY STAFFED"
"THEY SAVED OUR HOME!"

AMBULANCE SERVICE

83% ARE SATISFIED WITH SCHUYLKILL EMS RESPONSE, SERVICES AND BILLING

"QUICK RESPONSE, VERY IMPRESSIVE!"

BUSINESS IN ORWIGSBURG

WHEN ASKED WHAT IN-TOWN BUSINESS SERVICES ARE NEEDED IN ORWIGSBURG, THE TOP 4 RESPONSES WERE: GAS STATION, PLAYHOUSE/MOVIE THEATRE, CONVENIENCE STORE AND FARM MARKET STORE.

70% OF PEOPLE WANT A GAS STATION

"DON'T DEVELOP THE LAND. I WOULD HATE TO SEE THE TOWN BECOME COMMERCIALIZED."

"KEEP THE GREEN SPACE!"

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

"PARKING ON MARKET STREET IS DANGEROUS. DRIVERS SPEED THROUGH TOWN AND DO NOT YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS."

"MANY SIDEWALKS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA ARE QUITE DIFFICULT TO WALK."

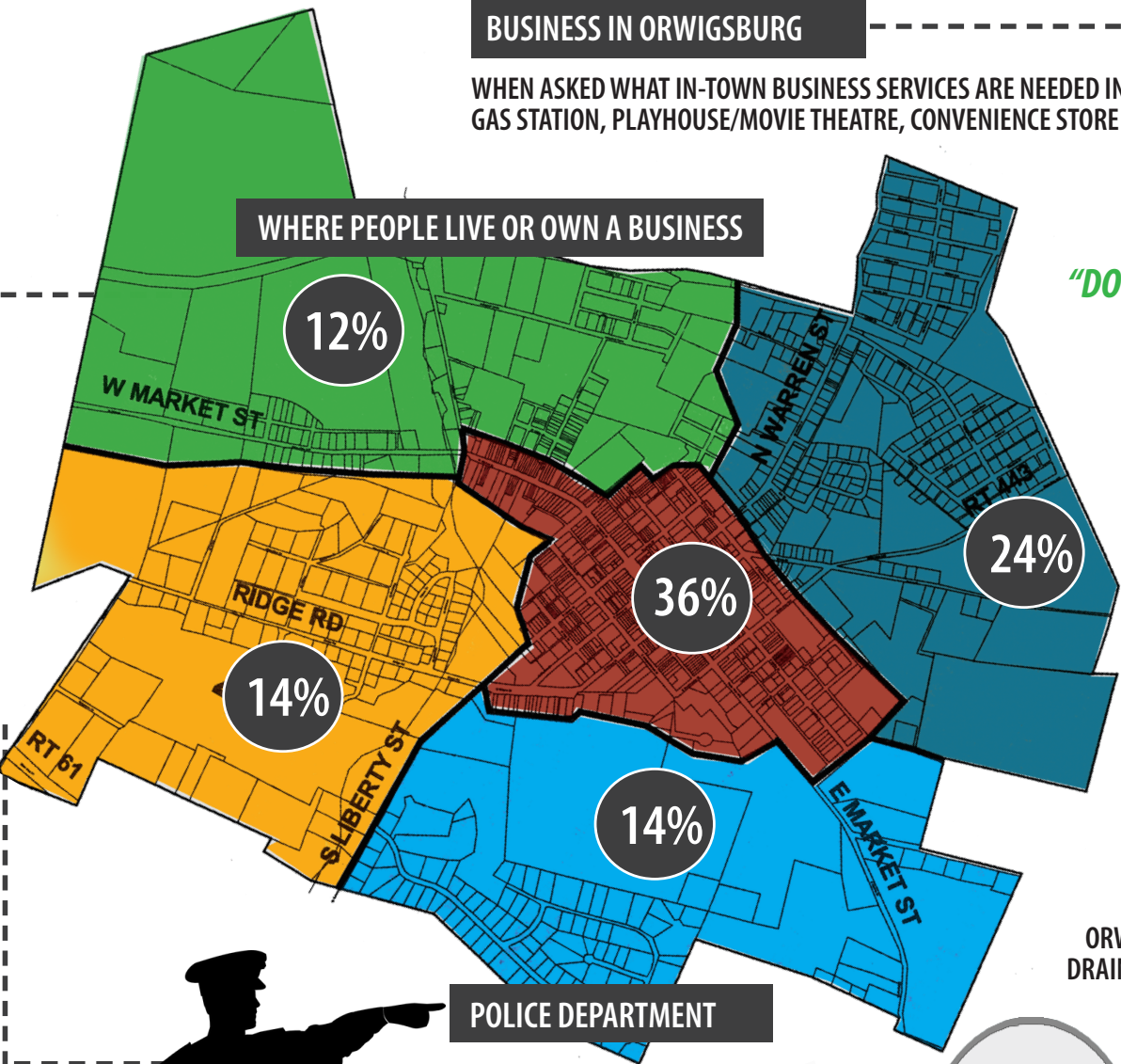
RESPONDENTS ARE MOST PLEASED WITH ORWIGSBURG'S WATER SYSTEM QUALITY, STORM DRAINAGE PERFORMANCE AND PARKING SIGNAGE.

RESPONDENTS FEEL THAT CURBS AND SIDEWALK CONDITIONS NEED TO BE VASTLY IMPROVED.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

"IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE RECYCLING ONCE A WEEK."

TRASH COLLECTION EXCEEDS MOST RESIDENTS EXPECTATIONS. PUBLIC RESTROOMS AND TRANSPORTATION ARE AREAS THAT NEED IMPROVEMENT.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

66% FEEL THAT BOROUGH COUNCIL SHOULD ASSURE 24/7 POLICE PROTECTION THROUGH A TAX INCREASE

55% FAVOR REGIONALIZING LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

"WE NEED TO KEEP AN OFFICER AT THE POLICE STATION 24/7."
"MORE DRUG ENFORCEMENT NEEDED!"
"POLICE NEED TO BE PATROLLING MORE OFTEN."

89%

WANT MORE PARK AREA FOR PUBLIC USE
41% ADD TO EXISTING
28% CREATE A NEW CENTRAL PARK
31% NEIGHBORHOOD "POCKET PARKS"

52% OF RESIDENTS

FEEL TEENS NEED MORE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BOROUGH

81%

CONTRIBUTE TO THE ORWIGSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

74%

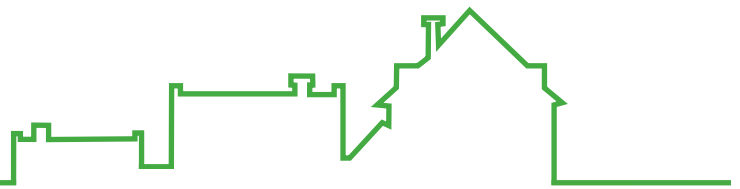
CONTRIBUTE TO THE ORWIGSBURG FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

78%

CONTRIBUTE TO THE SCHUYLKILL EMS AMBULANCE

THE GREATER ORWIGSBURG TOWN SURVEY

COMMENTS / RESPONSES



RECREATIONAL NEEDS

The majority of comments were split between people wanting a dog park and not wanting a dog park. Residents would like to see a community center. Comments also mention current playgrounds can use handicap equipment and restrooms.

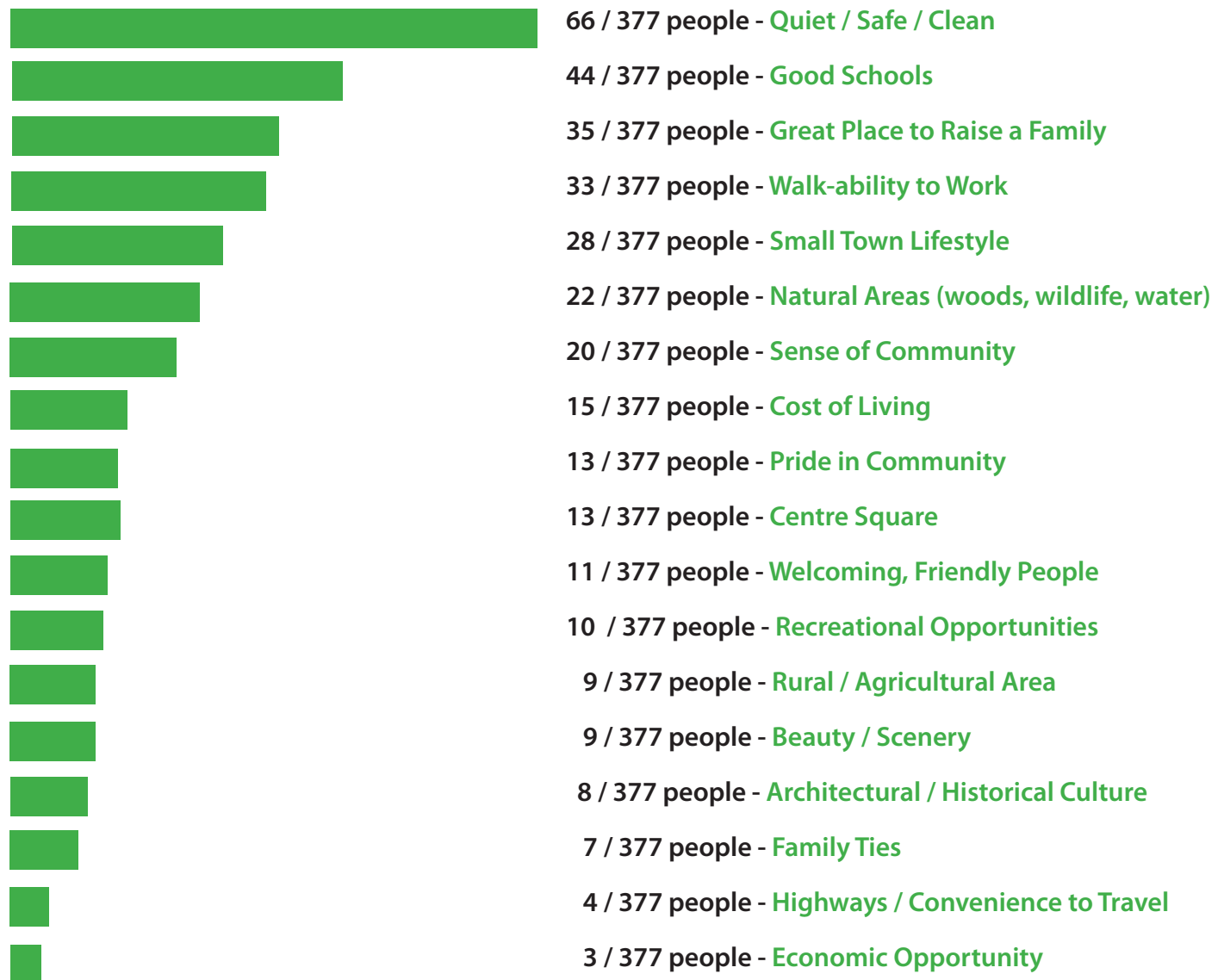
"No dog park, can't clean up after pets now - who will clean dog park."

"A dog park may bring more visitors to town. I don't think there is one closer than 30 minutes away."

"Need to have accessible restroom facilities for these fields."

"walking / biking trails throughout town and outside of town"

TRAITS OF THE ORWIGSBURG COMMUNITY THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT



Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

lect and deliver to the Food Pantry, helping those less fortunate than ourselves. It's as easy as that!

Food supplies are very low and your help is needed and greatly appreciated. The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry is now on Facebook. If you miss this special day when the letter carriers commit their time and efforts, food donations can be dropped off at the church during regular working hours and on most Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m.

Financial donations are especially appreciated, thus allowing the Food Pantry to purchase those particular items, at reduced price locally, currently in short supply. Mail a check to Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, P.O. Box 216, Orwigsburg, PA 17961.

Garden Club plant sale

The South Schuylkill Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Senior Recreation Center, 340 Haven Street, Schuylkill Haven. These are all plants grown locally and shared by members of the garden club.



Borough holiday schedule

The Orwigsburg Borough office and employee services will be closed in observance of these upcoming holidays – Memorial Day, May 28; Independence Day, July 4; and Labor Day, Sept. 3.

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

– Continued on page 18

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 17

The next major holiday will be Memorial Day on Monday, May 28. Because the holiday falls on a Monday, the usual Tuesday pickup will be delayed to Wednesday, May 30, and the usual Friday pickup will be delayed to Saturday, June 2.

Since July 4 – Independence Day – falls on Wednesday this year, those with Tuesday collection will not be affected by the holiday. Normal Friday collection, however, will be delayed one day to Saturday, June 2.

Recycling electronics

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



Staples, located at the Cressona Mall off Rt. 61, will accept many computer related electronics at no cost. For additional information, call the store or check the website.

The Bloomsburg Recycling Center, 301 E. Second St., Bloomsburg, also accepts electronics. Call 570-784-4532 for hours, directions, and acceptance of drop-offs.

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.

Month	Tues.	Fri.
May	8	11
June	12	15
July	10	13
Aug.	14	17

LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES

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 \$20 and are valid for three weeks.

Library 2018 Fund Drive

Watch your mailbox in early June! The annual fund drive envelopes asking support for the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library are being readied and will mail shortly after Memorial Day. Please consider whatever amount of money you can afford to give in order to continue the wide range of programs and services provided by YOUR library.

The solicitation request identifies the need and a brief list of the many services provided to the community, as does a feature article found elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition to your monetary donation, consider volunteering your time to assist the library in its daily or weekly needs.

Now available – Credit/debit bill pay

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.

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 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.

Questions concerning these payment options may be directed to kathi@orwigsburg.net or call 570-366-3103.

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?



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3	\$ 61,260.00
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8	\$ 123,960.00

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or you can see more about Child Development, Inc. preschool programs by visiting our website at

www.childdevelop.org

Proud member of the Schuylkill United Way



Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- 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 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.

Getting the word out

We use the Borough website 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.

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Veterans Community Memorial Hall

Financial Push Will Complete Front Entrance Veterans Tribute

Gen. George Joulwan to Keynote Special Event Nov. 10

"April showers bring May flowers." This year, April showers often times came down as flakes of snow.

Although spring is getting kicked-off a few weeks late, our baseball and softball teams hardly noticed. Thanks to the community volunteers and contributions over the past few years, the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall became the indoor training facility for many of our area youth.

We all know the value of the Memorial Hall from a user point of view. It is a great place to host a class reunion, a wedding, a fundraiser, sports practice, recreation leagues or even a random pick-up game.

It becomes the alternate venue for outdoor community events when Mother Nature decides to rain down upon us. There are very few among us who have not yet enjoyed the offerings of this building or its adjacent recreation area originally constructed and dedicated in 1950. Its physical uses and daily value to the community are quite evident.

But first and foremost, Memorial Hall was built to honor and remember all veterans when first envisioned on November 12, 1945 – shortly after the end of World War II.



Capital Campaign to restore honor

Restoration and modernization of the building have been a multi-year effort of the Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Task Force, a volunteer group seeking to restore the vision of the building's original founders. While the phases of improvements to date have been aesthetic and functional, the focus now turns to restoring the true meaning of the building – a memorial honoring area veterans of all wars.

A Capital Campaign will move into high gear this summer to raise the funds necessary to complete a space of honor, solitude and reflection as a tribute to all area veterans in the new entryway to Veterans Community Memorial Hall.

Working in conjunction with the Captain Jason Jones Memorial Foundation, the Task Force will kick off the campaign to be climaxed by a special event on Saturday, Nov. 10 (weekend of Veterans Day) featuring keynote speaker General George Joulwan, former Commander-in-Chief, United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander. General Joulwan is a native of Pottsville and husband of former Orwigsburg resident Karen Jones Joulwan.

This fundraising support will make possible the appropriate finishing touches to the Veterans Memorial Hall foyer, an entrance addition added to the building last year.

Veterans Honor Roll to be featured

Orwigsburg Borough Office continues to accept honor roll applicants for display in the completed foyer area. The form to submit an honor candidate can be downloaded from the Task Force website or by contacting the Borough at 570-366-3103. A running list of those already submitted are posted on the community bulletin board at the Veterans Memorial Hall.

To learn more about the history and purpose of this community treasure, please follow the link on our website www.orwigsburgmemorial.com, find us on Facebook, send us an email at memorial@orwigsburg.net, or reach out to a task force member for more information.

– Nick Bagdonis, Taskforce Director



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From the Desk of the Fire Chief . . .

Seasonal Change Requires Rethink on Safety

Old Man Winter just didn't want to loosen its grip on Northeastern Pennsylvania this spring! I believe everyone was eager for spring to show its face. I'm confident it's finally here. Enjoy all that spring and summer has to offer.

Residents will be out and about enjoying walks, picnics, parties, swimming and all the rest. The Orwigsburg Fire Department reminds all to be safety-minded while engaged in these fun and relaxing activities.

Summer weather means sun, heat and humidity. Prepare and protect yourself, making sure you hydrate by drinking water before and during outdoor activity or at any time when in a hot environment. Limit exposure to sun and heat if possible or take frequent breaks.

Children and/or pets should not be left alone in vehicles ... even with windows cracked. During the heat of summer, temperatures in vehicles not moving can exceed 100 degrees.

A good reminder to prevent leaving a child without realizing it is to leave something, like your shoe or cell phone, in the back seat. There are even apps now that can remind you to check on your child every time you shut your vehicle off. More information can be obtained at www.kars4kids.org.

Better yet, how about just paying attention to

what you are doing and whom you are transporting! What greater importance is human (or pet) life?

With the summer months come swimming. Always have a buddy when swimming. Under no circumstances should a child be left alone while swimming in a pool, no matter what their age or size.

As we approach Independence Day with get-togethers and celebrations, fireworks – even just sparklers – can be a danger when not handled properly or used in ways they were not intended. Children should never be lighting fireworks. Even sparklers can give off heat up to 1200 degrees. More on firework safety can be found at www.safekids.org.

Backyard barbecue get-togethers usually include some type of open grilling. With any type of heat source, never leave it unattended; never have any type of spare fuel in the vicinity; keep anything with an open flame and heat a safe distance from anything combustible; and, always have a bucket of water, hose or some type of extinguishing agent at the ready.

When any emergency arises, quick and early activation of the 911 system will get the emergency services including police, fire, or emergency medical services there faster to assist in the time of need.

On behalf of the Orwigsburg Fire Department and Friendship Hose Co. No. 1, we wish you a happy and safe spring and summer 2018!

– Jesse D. Zimmerman, Fire Chief



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Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

New Home, More Programs; Stop in Soon!

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people."

– Andrew Carnegie

Thanks to the Orwigsburg community, your Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library is busier than ever, continuing to grow with a whole host of opportunities and services.

All are invited to stop in to see our new spacious and beautiful location at 216 W. Independence St. on the first floor of the Independence Square senior living apartment building. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To find out more, visit the website www.orwigsburglibrary.org, find us on Facebook, or call 570-366-1638.

Lots to do this spring/summer

Saturday mornings have been turned over to the children. The first Saturday each month from 10 to 11:30 is a Building Block Party, inviting passive play for a little while or the entire time. The second Saturday each month, beginning at 10 a.m., features Play K for three to five year olds, geared to help prepare for kindergarten. Storytime is the highlight on the third Saturday with a traditional story and a craft project starting at 10 a.m. The fourth week is Crafty Saturday, featuring craft projects each month for elementary-age children.

"Libraries Rock" is this year's Summer Learning theme. Preschool and elementary-age children will meet every Tuesday morning at 11 a.m. beginning June 19 through August 7.

Weird and Wacky Science on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6 p.m. is a special discovery time for elementary-age children that runs from June 13 through August 1.

Elementary students can keep those math skills sharp over the summer with the library's Monday Math program from 11 a.m. to noon on June 18 & 25 plus July 9 & 16.

Special events this summer include Jay Smar performing his Coal Mining Songs program on Thursday, June 28 at 6 p.m.; "Andrew's BIG Show" features magic tricks on Thursday, July 12 at 6 p.m.; and Cameron's Exotic Reptile Show at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 1.

Family programming – Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Every week has something different for all members of the family to enjoy. Some upcoming programs include a Children's Story/Craft on Tea Time, May 10; learn basic sign language on May 17; Reading with Rabbits on May 24 brings real bunnies into the library to listen as children read books out loud; and, several Schuylkill County Master Gardeners will give tips May 31 on how to "landscape on a budget."

On June 14, meet and greet local author, Heather Christie, whose book will be featured at the Book Club meeting later in the month on June 25. A program on knowing and understanding those with Alzheimer's disease will be presented by care professionals of Seton Manor. Jay Smar will mark the 250th anniversary of anthracite coal mining in Schuylkill County with his coal history through song.

Something to interest everyone

Your Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library is a gathering place for those with similar interests to meet and share those joys – Story Time, Book Club, Knitter's Club, Mahjonn, Lego builders, Media Madness discussions, and much more.

View all that is offered at various times of the month by exploring the library's website or just stop in. Do you have an interest you would like to share with others? Come in and discuss it with librarian Claudia Gross.

Don't have access to a computer? You do now ... computers with Internet access are available free of charge at your library. The library is also a Wi-Fi wireless access spot for those who want to bring their own tablet or laptop.



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2018-2019

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Orwigsburg Lions Club – We Serve!

Memorial Day chicken barbeque

Make plans now to join your family, friends and neighbors at the annual Memorial Day chicken barbeque hosted by the Orwigsburg Lions Club.

The barbeque will be held in the Veterans Community Memorial Hall on Grove Street on Monday, May 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Each dinner includes a generous portion of delicious, freshly-grilled chicken, a baked potato, corn, coleslaw, a cold drink and ice cream from Twister Sisters. Tickets are \$9 each and can be purchased from any Orwigsburg Lions Club member. Tickets are also available at Healthy Habits Natural Market on Rt. 61.

Everyone is invited to dine in at the newly renovated Memorial Hall or take-out is available. Don't wait too long to purchase your tickets – last year was a sell-out! All monies raised are used to fund community improvement projects and assist those in need in the Orwigsburg area.

Business is picking up!

The annual SKIP (Schuylkill Keep It Pretty) Spring Cleanup took place recently across the county. SKIP's goal is to clean up the litter and educate our youth on

solid waste management, making Schuylkill County a better place in which to live and work.

As we do every year, a group of dedicated Orwigsburg Lions cleaned litter on May 5 along the main highway stretches to the Borough, from Schaeffer's Harley-Davidson to the jug handle at The Freeze. The Lions take pride in our great town of Orwigsburg and do their part to keep it looking beautiful.

Be part of something greater

Want to make an impact on your community? Join the Lions Club!

The Orwigsburg Lions have proudly served this community since 1935. According to current Lions President Rich Ryon, "Our club gives members an opportunity to advance worthy causes, serve with friends, and become leaders in the community. This club means a lot to our Lions, but it means so much more to the people we serve."

You are invited to attend an upcoming meeting to learn more about the Lions. Email Rich Ryon at rfryon@rbryon.com. The Lions meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. It's a great opportunity to get involved, meet new people, and have a lot of fun!



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Orwigsburg Historical Society

Discover Early Orwigsburg; Visit this Summer

The Orwigsburg Historical Society (OHS) & Museum, 109 East Mifflin St., is open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday each week from noon until 4 p.m. and can be made available at other times by appointment. Contact the society by calling 570-617-7809 or 570-366-8769 for more information regarding visits or services.

Tours and community room available

Individuals or groups are invited to schedule a visit to or rent the museum for private parties, educational lectures, class reunions, Boy Scout or Girl Scout merit badge work or troop field trips. The large community room is also available for family reunions or other social or business gathering.

Public invited to these society programs

What is powwowing? It is a faith healing and folk magic tradition of the Pennsylvania Germans. Find out more on Thursday, May 17 when Robert Phoenix, an author and noted authority on the subject, will present "Powwowing in the Modern Age" beginning at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the society headquarters.

On Thursday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m., "Carved in Stone: the Interpretation of Pennsylvania Dutch Tombstone Inscriptions and Decorations" will be presented by

Patrick Donmoyer of the PA German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University.

Volunteers needed

Help is needed with painting (inside and outside) at the Society. Other volunteers are asked to help in the process of cataloging and organizing a number of valuable publications for members and visitors to utilize. Topics include local history, archaeology, Native American history, architecture, American antiques, and historical fashions and accessories.

Anyone interested in assisting with either project, contact the society at 570-366-8769 or 570-617-7809.

OHS membership has many benefits

Annual membership to the Orwigsburg Historical Society brings with it access to the society's collection as well as many other services and offers:

- Free admission to the museum and "Old Jail" for you and your family.
- Use of the society's research resources – local church records, Orwigsburg Board of Health records, DAR files, tax ledgers for Orwigsburg and many southern Schuylkill County Boroughs and Townships.
- Assistance with your genealogical search.
- 10% discount on museum store merchandise, including photo reprints, year-round and notice of "Surprise Sales" on merchandise.
- Discount on rental of the "Community Center" for meetings, lectures, and private events.
- And, the joy of knowing you are helping to preserve the history of Orwigsburg & Schuylkill County.



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State Senator David G. Argall

Welfare Spending and Property Taxes – We Differ!

My recent monthly television program – The Argall Report – recaps the recent state Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearings for fiscal year 2018-19.

The committee, of which I am a senior member, is tasked to review the governor's state budget proposal each fiscal year – line-by-line, program-by-program – and to discuss key issues and concerns with each leader of the state's agencies and departments.



**SENATOR
DAVID ARGALL**

During this year's budget hearings, I asked the Governor's cabinet members a series of questions, including the future of state prison closings, combatting welfare fraud, and breathing new life into older towns through revitalization efforts. Also addressed is my top priority, finding a more equitable way to fund our public school system rather than through our current property tax system.

Unfortunately, if I had to sum up this year's budget hearings, I would have to say there were a lot of lackluster answers from agency leaders and an unwillingness to provide concrete plans on ways to save taxpayers money and better streamline state government and its programs.

Discussing school property tax elimination with Education Secretary Pedro Rivera, I was extremely disappointed the secretary said this issue was not a priority for his department.

This is, by far, the No. 1 issue residents contact me about. While this may not be a priority for the state bureaucracy, it is for thousands of homeowners across the state struggling to keep their homes.

Other state appointees were equally unfamiliar or unconcerned to tackle major budgetary impacts. The Labor & Industry Secretary was not familiar with the components of the welfare reform measure vetoed by the governor last October. The Revenue Secretary didn't know if his department had yet completed their years of computer modernization efforts to cross check data systems for welfare fraud detection. The Human Services Secretary refused to provide suggestions on getting able-bodied Medicaid recipients into the workforce. The Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth refused to comment on his predecessor's resignation. The list goes on and on...

You can watch the full program directly on my website www.SenatorArgall.com. As always, let me know what you think about these issues.

Newsletter Particulars

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

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South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing
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E-mail: printing@southschuylkill.net
www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com

Publication dates for the next three issues are
August 10, November 2, 2018 and February 8, 2019

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, kathi@orwigsburg.net 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.

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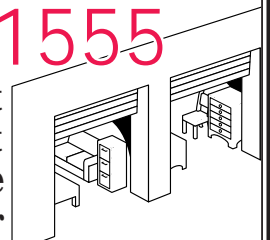
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State Representative Jerry Knowles

Tackling the Need to Improve School Security

The House Education Committee recently held a public hearing on school safety following the Florida school shooting and a rash of bomb threats at south-central Pennsylvania schools.



**Representative
Jerry Knowles**

Ensuring the safety of our school students is a needed undertaking of the General Assembly. Our Pennsylvania Constitution states, "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth."

Assuring a safe setting is not specifically mentioned, but is a given. Accomplishing that isn't without challenges – the greatest hurdle being funding. Before anyone declares money should be no object, consider there are 500 public school districts and more than 6,000 school buildings. Consolidating districts probably does little to ease the problem due to the sheer vol-

ume of students and teachers that would still exist.

During the Education Committee hearing, Central York School District's business manager told the panel he examined the system of entrance and exit protocols that are in place at nearby William Penn High School. Metal detectors at all entrances of his high school would cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per machine plus \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually for qualified personnel to operate the machines.

Volume buying of security improvements for many school buildings could conceivably reduce costs and be more manageable. Finding a one-size-fits-all solution would be difficult.

State Rep. Keith Gillespie has introduced a bill proposal to divide the state into six geographic regions. Specific school building designs would be created for each region based on energy needs for heating and cooling, building size, average school district population in the region, layout of the building (one story versus multiple stories) and structural requirements due to climatic or geographic difficulties. In other words, making school buildings as uniform as possible going forward would seemingly make that "one-size-fits-all" goal a bit more achievable.

Another on-campus issue that was discussed involved allowing teachers to carry guns. Seventeen states currently permit teachers to be armed, but on a voluntary basis when authorized by the individual school district.

Testifiers from the Blue Mountain and Indiana Area school districts referenced FASTER (Faculty/Administrator Safety Training and Emergency Response) – a program created by parents, law enforcement, and nationally recognized safety and medical experts to provide school staff with the knowledge, mindset and skills to stop an active killer and start treating the injured. The program, now in its sixth year, has trained nearly 1,100 teachers and staff from 225 districts in 12 states.

It's a fact that bullying is not a new phenomenon. The 21st century difference, however, is social media that allows online bullying beyond the school day. Parental adults must educate themselves about the technology children are using in order to effectively counsel them and monitor their activity.

School safety is something we all want. Defining and agreeing on the degree of safety we want and then figuring out how to pay for it is the hard part.

Salem United Methodist Church



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END OF SUMMER FREE BLOCK PARTY

August 26 – 3 to 7 p.m.

Bible Study Opportunities – See Church Web Page

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

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Zion's Red Church

"A country church, located in the heart of southern Schuylkill County." This is Zion's Red Church, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the United Church of Christ, 1287 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61 at Brick Hill Rd.). Worship services are held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

The public will find some unique items and delicious treats at the annual White Elephant and Bake Sale on Saturday, June 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be raffle baskets and a variety of household items, seasonal decorations, books, children's items and more. When you're finished shopping, stay for lunch. Hot food items like barbeque, hotdogs, drinks, and snacks will be available. The rain-or-shine event will be held on the church grounds.

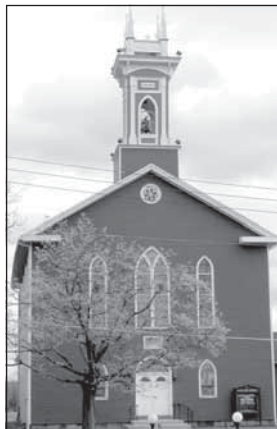
The church's website – www.zionsredchurch.com – has undergone a major update recently. It features many photos from recent events and a video flyover of the church.

Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated May 20 with a service of Holy Communion. A summer communion will be held Sunday, August 5. Beginning June 24, summer worship will be held in the chapel, located on the ground floor.

Whoever you are ... wherever you are on life's journey ... you are welcome at Zion's Red Church! Contact the church office for additional information at 570-366-1178 or visit the website.

Salem UMC

Salem United Methodist Church, where Liberty and Independence meet, offers three unique worship services each Sunday – a traditional worship at 8:45 a.m., a contemporary worship at 10:45 a.m., and the SNL Coffeehouse at 6:30 p.m. Sunday school for all ages is held at 10 a.m. with Children's Choir and Children's Church held during the 10:45 worship for grades one through five. A paid nursery attendant is on staff from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



SNL is Salem's open door, coffeehouse-style worship experience, held Sunday evenings in Sandherr Hall. In a small group setting, the good news of Christ is shared through messages, discussions and Christian films. This time of worship and outreach is under the leadership of Salem's lay speakers, with guest appearances by Pastor Stew Warner. The spring video series "A.D.: The Bible Continues" continues each Sunday through mid June. Special "meal and movie" nights are held each month beginning at 6 p.m. through the summer on June 17, July 8, and August 19.

Lay Leader Brenda Binns offers "Eat, Pray and Color" every Wednesday at 2 p.m. at The Cake Pros in Schuylkill Haven. Supplies and coffee are all free of charge. Join Brenda for an hour of fellowship, fun and food.

Scrapbooking Guild is open to all, meeting monthly on the third Friday from 4 to 10 p.m. Come at any time and stay for as long as you please.

The God Squad – the church team of bell ringers – will be performing Sunday, May 13 at both morning services ... a great way to spend Mother's Day morning. All women will receive a treat!

The ninth annual "Christmas in July" sale will be held Saturday, July 7 from 8 a.m. to noon. This is a "re-gifting" sale of new or never used goods, handmade items and more offered for whatever price the

– Continued on page 28

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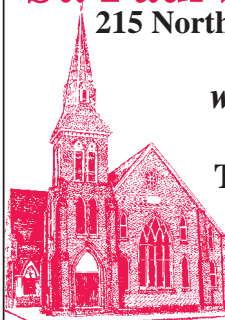
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Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.



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SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JUNE 2 through SEPTEMBER 2

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

– Continued from Page 27

buyer wishes to pay. The sale takes place on the porch of the Church Office located across the street from the church. All funds support the free end of summer Community Block Party.

All are invited to the annual Worship in the Woods on Sunday, July 15 beginning at 10:30 a.m. This outdoor worship will take place at Albrights Woods Community



Park with a picnic lunch enjoyed afterward.

All children from the community and beyond, age 3 through just completed fifth grade, are invited to register

for the Salem UMC Vacation Bible School program. Titled "Rolling River Rampage," the fun, food and Bible teachings will be held July 16-20 each evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dinner is offered from 6 to 6:30 p.m. This year the program offers an adult component, so bring your kids and stay to be part of VBS this year! Registration information or if you would like to help, contact Becky Netznik at bnetznik@comcast.net or check the www.salemum.com website.

Of course, the summer would not be complete without the Salem Community Block Party set for Sunday, Aug. 26 to again include the 4th annual OrWINGSburg chicken wing contest. It all takes place from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. outside on W. Independence St. and it's all FREE. Enjoy music, food and fun to celebrate the summer before it ends.

Our mission at Salem Church is TLC – Transforming Lives through Christ. If you are searching and seeking, we welcome you to visit us and learn how your life can be transformed through Christ.

Kimmels Church

People are talking! Summer is just around the corner! That means many people are looking forward to the change of pace that it brings. Whether you have big plans far away, or not-so-big plans close by, why not consider joining us at Kimmels Church this summer?



We would love to have you, your family and friends swing on by and be our guests for the day. There are lots of things going on of which to be a part. You just might come to realize, as many others have, that you have a family here you didn't know you had.

You'll find a group of people who will accept you for who you are and welcome you with open arms. Join us for Sunday school at 9 a.m. and our morning worship service at 10 a.m. Our service is a blend of traditional and contemporary music led by our live band. Don't worry though, it's not a concert where you can't hear anything but the music. We love hearing you sing!

The message is always, as many have told us, "Just what I needed to hear!" We are not interested in telling people what they want to hear, but what God has to say through the Bible. The Bible is God's main way he communicates with us. Why wouldn't we teach

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BLESSING our wider community

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SUNDAY, MAY 20

Pentecost Sunday with Holy Communion

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

White Elephant & Bake Sale 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

Summer Communion 10:30 a.m.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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See our article for more details!

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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

what it says, and why wouldn't you want to learn from it? Our current sermon series is called "God Is On The Move: a study of God's righteousness through the book of Romans."

For parents with children under two, our nursery opens at 8:50 through the end of the worship service. Feel free to drop off your youngsters when you arrive, or if you would like, choose to keep them with you. We love to see families worship together!

Following the singing portion of the worship service we dismiss children – two years of age through 5th grade – to a special class just for them. If you prefer to keep them with you, we encourage it! There is no better place for kids/teens to learn than with their parents.

On the first Sunday of each month during the summer, we host a cookout following the morning service. We'll pull out the party grill and provide the meat and drinks; but, we ask that each family bring a side dish or dessert to share. It is a great time to get to know other people and to have some fun.

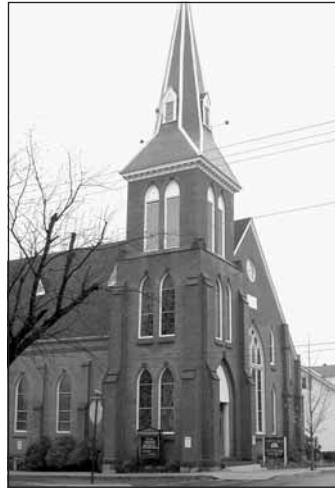
Vacation Bible School, for children four years old to those entering sixth grade, will be held July 22-27, featuring an exciting week of music, games, crafts and learning. This year's theme is "Game On!" Participants will learn how to gear up for life's big game and realize that God has given up His ultimate playbook. He want us to join His team, train hard, celebrate salvation and encourage one another.

More information can be found and registration completed on our website kimmelschurch.org. Or call the church office at 570-943-2759. Kimmels Church is located at 179 Pine Creek Drive, just off Kimmels Road on the eastern end of Orwigsburg.

St. Paul's Lutheran

Located at 215 North Warren St. in Orwigsburg, St. Paul's Lutheran Church welcomes all to worship and to be part of the church family. The church office is open on Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and can be reached by calling 570-366-2316. Find out more at www.stpaulsorwigsburg.org or on our Facebook page at StPaulsOrwigsburg.

Worship services are held each Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m. and a Saturday service beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sunday school is held at 9:15 a.m.



The summer worship schedule changes June 2 through September 2 of Labor Day weekend with services on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and only one on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. There will not be Sunday school lessons during the summer.

St. John's UCC

The public is encouraged to start their Memorial Day observance on the Sunday eve, May 27 at St. Paul's Church, enjoying a special patriotic music concert beginning at 7 p.m. The Patriotic Festival Choir and Blue Mountain High School Octet will present this concert that is free and open to all.

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THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

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Pastor Jan and St. John's offer spirit-filled worship for contemporary souls. Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. Sunday school for children in kindergarten through sixth grade is held during the worship service after the children's sermon and blessing.



The Chancel Choir sings most Sundays and the children's choir performs on special occasions. A coffee hour with fellowship is enjoyed following the service. Communion is offered the first Sunday of every month and the Lord's table is open to anyone who is seeking Jesus.

Children are able to take communion with the permission of their parents.

The pastor welcomes new and familiar faces for coffee chats at both 419 Market Café & Eatery on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and the Market Square Coffee House, 118 West Market, on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Small group study of the Bible and current events is held every Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Valenti's Italian Restaurant.

Pastor Jan will entertain the children with her

harp at the Orwigsburg Public Library from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thurs., June 26.

A yard and bake sale, in conjunction with the Orwigsburg Community Yard Sale, will be held on Sherman Street between the church and the Fellowship Hall on Sat., May 19 beginning at 8 a.m.

New this year, a St. John's marching group will participate in the town's Memorial Day parade. The second annual Picnic at the Parsonage will be held Sunday, June 10 at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Bring a covered dish for others to enjoy.

St. John's UCC hosts many community groups, including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Senior Citizens, and Team Orwigsburg. The church Health Ministry brings in programs and groups open to the community as well as church members. The Fellowship Hall is available to rent for private parties (no alcohol) during the year. Phone the church office at 570-366-2255 with any questions about programming and hall rental. Follow our Facebook page for additional activities as they are scheduled.

The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry is housed in St. John's and supported by eight area churches. Non-perishable food items or monetary donations are always needed. The number to call for the Pantry is 570-366-2255 and routed through the church office number. Distribution is made the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Lighthouse Church

The Lighthouse Church (TLC), located along Rt. 61 at 10 Hollenbush Lane just south of Orwigsburg, is gearing up for a change of season and some warmer weather.

People of every generation and background are invited to join us. The regular Sunday service begins at 9 a.m. There is contemporary worship, a children's program and a time for fellowship afterwards. Pastor Bryan Kenville is currently preaching a series called "Surprised By God."



179 Pine Creek Drive • Orwigsburg, PA

Join Us!

Special Services

Mother's Day Service, May 13 - 10:00 am

Father's Day Service, June 17 - 10:00 am

Vacation Bible School

Game On! Gearing Up For Life's Big Game!

Kids kindergarten - 6th grade

July 22 thru 27 - 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

MOPS Program

For Mothers of Pre-Schoolers - Childcare Provided

Accepting Applications For Fall Program!

Join us on Sunday mornings for our worship service at 10 am
www.kimmelschurch.org • Phone: 570-943-2759



St. John's United Church of Christ

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

Spirit-filled worship for contemporary souls

Bible/Current Events Discussion Group

5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Valenti's
Join us for Worship, Fellowship,
and Time in the Word

Church & Sunday School at 10 a.m.
Coffee hour following Communion First Sundays

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Wednesday evenings offer classes for all ages. The adult Bible study continues through the end of May exploring the book "Total Forgiveness" by R.T. Kendall. The children's program is BIG with fun activities, music and snacks.

Other special events coming up include Mother's Day brunch on Saturday, May 12 celebrating mothers, sisters, friends and daughters in our lives. June will bring summer activities including a picnic and car wash. In July we will have a fun night for children, a movie night and a youth concert.

All are welcome and invited to join TLC as we are Turning hearts to God, Loving each other and Caring for our world. Additional information can be found on the website www.thelighthousechurch.com or by calling the office at 570-366-1300.

Faith Church

Springtime in Orwigsburg is a pleasure. This quaint community is an "all in one" town offering all family needs. The beauty of the town and its surrounding area is THE place to live in Schuylkill County. Faith Church and its members are excited to be part of a group of churches doing their best to be what the residents of our area need.

Members are anxious to celebrate our moms and dads as Mother's Day and Father's Day approach. Faith Church recognizes the values of good parenting and providing our children positive parental guidance.



The ministries at Faith are reaching out to the community. Each Sunday the Celebration Service begins at 10 a.m. with a live band and an environment for learning and feeling the presence of our loving God. During the service, classes and teaching for age groups up to 18 are taking place in the various rooms of the facility.

From The Hope Initiative to Fortress and Alive to a Free Clothing Giveaway, Faith offers ministries in about 40 different areas of need. Our members give back to a community that has given them so much – a place to grow up, to play, to learn, to live. Ours is a community that protects us and allows us to be all God created us to be.

Faith Church welcomes all to be a part of our family. For more information on Faith Worship Center's many groups or to find help for your needs, contact the church at 570-366-5131 or visit the website at www.atfaithchurch.com. The worship center is located at 1168 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61).



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