



PENNINGTON BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Mayor Anthony Persichilli
Council

Joseph Lawver Glen Griffiths
Charles "Chico" Marciante Catherine "Kit" Chandler
Deborah Gnatt Beverly Mills

Fall/Winter – 2017

www.penningtonboro.org

Road and infrastructure improvements

A number of roads in town have seen major improvements this year. Upper King George Road and Park Avenue were re-paved and traffic calming speed humps were installed on both roads. A new sidewalk was added on the south side of Park Avenue. North Main Street from Rt. 31 to the downtown business district was re-paved by Mercer County. The County then assisted with the milling and re-paving of Laning and Voorhees Avenues.

The Borough Public Works crew focused their attention in August on road repairs and shade tree pruning. Using a rented hot-asphalt machine, the crew repaired a number of larger pot-holes and broken pavement areas on Abey Drive, East Welling Avenue, Baldwin Avenue, Burd Street and other areas throughout town. These repairs will minimize the need for extensive cold-patching this winter and will lengthen the life of roads before major road reconstruction is required.

The Borough coordinated utility upgrades with road reconstruction on King George Road and Park Avenue and the parallel roads now have larger capacity water service lines. Similarly, the water main and service lines on East Curlis and Weidel Avenues will be replaced this year with funding from the New Jersey Environmental Trust and road reconstruction will take place during the summer of 2018 with funding from the NJ Department of Transportation. Last year, the Borough secured state funding for Burd Street reconstruction and

plans are underway to implement that project in 2018 or 2019. This fall, the Borough will apply for state funding targeted for improvements on Abey Drive and adjoining cul-de-sacs. The final scope of the project will be determined once funding is in place.

Shade trees

Unfortunately, there are a number of trees throughout the Borough that are suffering from Bacterial Leaf Scorch and Emerald Ash Borer. Pennington is committed to maintaining healthy shade trees. With valuable support from the Shade Tree Committee, the Borough secured a grant from the State of New Jersey to remove a number of diseased trees this year. Tree crews from Mercer County have also been at work over the summer to prune or take down a number of hazardous trees in the County right-of-way.

Arboretum at Toll Gate

The woods behind the Toll Gate Grammar school playground are overgrown and thick with invasive plants. Volunteers on the Environmental Commission will start work this fall in partnership with the Shade Tree and Open Space committees to implement a plan for an arboretum that will showcase native species. The arboretum plan is funded by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. Volunteers are welcome to join the project team.

Volunteers needed! There are many opportunities in town. To learn more visit www.penningtonboro.org

New Housing Development

Construction is underway on Phase 1 of a new housing development in the Borough at Franklin Avenue and Knowles Avenue. “**Heritage at Pennington**” by American Properties is an approved development that will consist of 19 buildings with 3 different residence styles — 32 two story villas, 32 two story townhouses, and 16 “COAH”, or affordable housing units. Phase 1 will consist of 44 units. Models are targeted for completion in the spring of 2018. New sidewalk and curbing has been installed along Knowles Avenue. New sidewalk will be constructed along Franklin Avenue when Phase 1 is more fully developed. Construction of Phase 2 is anticipated to begin when the Stony Brook Sewerage Authority plant on Pennington-Rocky Hill Road is expanded.

Solar Panels at Public Works facility on North Main Street

The Borough leased a section of the public works facility yard on North Main Street to PSE&G for installation of a solar array. In the event of a loss of power, energy will be diverted from the PSE&G grid to the public works facility for use during an emergency. An on-site Tesla battery will store energy on-site. Trees will be planted along the front of the public works facility to buffer the view of the solar panels.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police using body-worn cameras

Officers in the Pennington Borough Police Department will be using body worn cameras beginning this year. Officers will be wearing a WatchGuard Vista camera on their vests.

Speed Limits strictly enforced

The Borough purchased a solar-powered mobile traffic monitor that will be placed in various areas throughout the town. Residents are reminded to slow down and avoid cell phone use while driving. The Borough speed limit is 25 mph. Violators will be ticketed. Fines for talking or texting on a hand-

held wireless communications device can run between \$200 and \$400 for first time offenders.

Emergency Notification

Emergency communications are now available to Borough residents through Swift 911. Swift 911 uses publicly available information and most Borough residents are already registered in the system with their landline phone numbers. Please log on to the secure link on the Borough website, penningtonboro.org, to register your mobile phone and/or email to sign up for message alerts. You can download the Mobile Portal App on your smartphone “Swift 911 Public” and manage your subscription directly from your mobile device.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PLANNING STAGES

Phase 2 Streetscape Improvements

The Borough was awarded a Transportation Alternatives Program grant of \$580,000 that will fund streetscape improvements along East and West Delaware Avenue and along South Main Street in the downtown business district. The project will improve pedestrian access; enhance the town center area and support and attract local business to Pennington. Streetscape improvements will be designed to match the Phase 1 improvements that were constructed in 2013, featuring granite curbs, new sidewalk with brick border, upgraded streetlights, new trees in place of failing trees, tree guards, and benches.

Redevelopment of the former Landfill

The Borough landfill closed in 1980 and the Department of Public Works used the adjacent property for its facility operations until 2005. The landfill and adjacent property encompass just under 8 acres and connects W. Delaware Avenue and Broemel Place. In consultation with an environmental consulting firm and the Borough planner, Pennington officials will be exploring redevelopment opportunities for the property

Volunteers needed! There are many opportunities in town. To learn more visit www.penningtonboro.org