

LORAIN BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Municipal Building
503 Green Valley Street
Johnstown, PA 15902

SPRING 2018

814-535-7074 phone/fax
lorainborough@hotmail.com
Est. 1915

Property Owners Meetings for Sewage Project

Property owner meetings for the borough residents about the sewage project will be held in the borough park at 6:00 PM on the following dates:

April 30, 2018

May 3, 2018

Please plan to attend one of these dates to get answers to any questions you may have and find how what impact the project will have on you.

PARK COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Fall 2017 we had new metal roofing installed on all park buildings. (NOTE: no tax money was used in the park)

The 2018 season is booking fast. If you want to rent the park call ASAP to see if your date is open. [814-535-2256](tel:814-535-2256) after 11 am and before 9 PM no Sunday calls

When the weather breaks we will start the spring cleaning to ready the park for the summer renters.

Some wood trim will be replaced because of rotting on some buildings.

We hope to pressure wash the play ground equipment this spring as It has become dirty from the winter months.

Gary Hoffman—Park Commissioner

CODES COMPLAINTS ABOUT PROPERTIES?

The Borough council is addressing issues with properties that are an eye sore in the borough. We have formed a committee and they can be contacted by contacting the Mayor, Mike Kuharcik or Mary Heinlein We have an agency that we pay to handled these issues along with building codes and permitting. If you have a property complaint, please contact them to file a formal complaint. You can reach them personally or you can come to the borough meeting at 4:30 PM to get with one of them prior to the regular meeting

The codes enforcement agency we use is
Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency
(Cambria County Building Codes Enforcement Agency)

140 E. Carroll St. Suite 202
P.O. Box 375
Carrolltown PA. 15722
814-471-0424

<http://www.lmiagency.org/>

*******REMINDER ABOUT DOGS*****IMPORTANT*******

State Law requires that all dogs be licensed and kept **on a leash or behind a fence** at **ALL** times, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. This is an on going issue through out the borough. There are time where people are properly walking their dogs on a leash when residents dogs that are not leashed or fenced are running on to the street after those people. This is unacceptable and will be enforced heavily this year. If you are one of these folks I would advise you correct your actions and re-educate yourself with state laws. If you have a neighbor that doesn't leash or chain their dogs in their yard please notify the Lorain Borough Council or the Stonycreek Township Police Department.

Dogs running loose even in your own yard with out a fence, excessively barking and relieving themselves on other people's property is considered a nuisance and will be addressed in accordance with Ordinance #226 along with the state regulations on dog leashing. If you are out walking your dog, please remember to clean up any mess it may leave behind. We encourage all residents to report all nuisances and leash law violations to the Lorain Borough Council or contact the Stonycreek Township Police Department through the Cambria County non-emergency number 814-472-2100. Do your part to keep the neighborhood clean and keep you neighbors happy!

Mike Jacobs – Mayors Corner
388 Lunen Street
Johnstown, PA 15902
814-242-5525

Greetings Lorain Borough Residents:

On February 9th and 10th councilmen Michael Hammers, John Wolfe, John Chanda and I attended a training session, "Boot Camp for Newly Elected and Current Officials" at the Holiday Inn Express in Richland. This was a 2-day session to learn more about the borough and its role in state government.

This training session was excellently presented. I found it to be very helpful and informative for not only newly elected borough officials but also for officials who have been serving on council. It was an awesome opportunity for me as the newly elected borough mayor to get a better understanding of how borough council is expected to perform their duties. It was also a great opportunity for us to meet other elected officials from surrounding communities such as Rockwood, Ebensburg, New Florence, Ligonier Valley and Ashville. This training session was well attended.

In the coming months I will be going around the borough checking for violations of the borough's nuisance ordinance as well as other borough laws and will be taking action in enforcing those laws. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome newly appointed councilman John Chanda as well as councilman Mike Kuharcik who was elected in the fall election.

Mike Jacobs—Mayor

2018 Spring Clean Up Participation Permit Application

Friday May 25, 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____ \$40.00

NOTES: Items must be curbside by 4:30 AM the first day of pickup. This permit entitles you to up to 1 ton of waste.

NOT INCLUDED IN PICK-UP

Air Conditioners, Televisions, computer monitors, electronics, tires, paint cans, construction, demolition, auto parts, hazardous materials, batteries, major appliances.

ALL APPLICATIONS AND PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Friday May 23, 2018... NO EXCEPTIONS



MESKO & ASSOCIATES, INC.
1790 GOUCHER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15905
PH (814) 255-6901-FAX (814) 255-6902

April 23, 2018

LORAIN BOROUGH SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Lorain Borough's sewage system serves about 350 Lorain Borough residential homes and small businesses. The sewer system was constructed and expanded over the last 75 years. Originally, untreated wastewater from the sewer system was discharged directly into Sam's Run. However, as the sewer system expanded the flow was directed to the Johnstown Treatment Plant at Dornick Point for treatment.

Since 1988, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has required Lorain Borough and surrounding municipalities to implement corrective action plans to eliminate Inflow and Infiltration into its Sanitary Sewer System. Lorain Borough has complied. Despite the system wide smoke and dye testing, the inflow and infiltration has not been reduced. Buildings sewers and sewer mains are not water tight. By letter of April 16, 2008, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) mandated that the 20 municipal sewer systems that contribute sewage flows to the Johnstown Wastewater Treatment Plant eliminate Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO's) by no later than 2022.

Lorain Borough's system, like the other municipal systems, admits more rain and groundwater than it can convey to the Treatment Plant. Further, the Treatment Plant is receiving five to ten times the amount of flows than it was designed to treat. During heavy rain events, the Johnstown Treatment Plant could not treat all the sewage/wastewater that was conveyed to it by the contributing municipalities, like Lorain Borough and other municipalities and municipal authorities due to the deteriorating sewer systems that serve those municipalities. As a result, untreated sewage/wastewater was discharged into the Stonycreek and Conemaugh Rivers. Because of these untreated sewage/wastewater discharges, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) ordered that the excess inflow and infiltration (I&I) conveyed to the Johnstown Treatment Plant by the surrounding municipalities or municipal authorities be reduced to 625 gallons per day per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU).

To avoid costly fines and/or litigation, Lorain Borough entered into a consent order and agreement (CO&A) with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to reduce sewage/wastewater flows to the mandated limits noted above. The mandate consists of the following:

2008 Phase I – Sewer System – evaluate and repair

2011 Phase II – Measure flows and discharges (intermunicipal flow metering)

2013-2017 Phase III -- Design and construct new or expanded conveyance, equalization and treatment facilities.

DEP reserved all legal, equitable and administrative rights to require compliance with the mandate, including the right to abate the SSO's as nuisances and to assess civil penalties (by Complaint) for the SSO violations. Lorain Borough has done everything in its power to insulate its residents from said punitive actions.

Lorain Borough has completed Phases I and II and has diligently sought low interest financing for Phase III. On January 25, 2018, Lorain Borough received a Pennvest Grant in the amount of \$2,689,705 and a loan at 1% for 360 months in the amount of \$3,560,495 to rehabilitate the system and laterals within the public rights-of-way at the customer property line and will include the installation of viewports. Closing on the transaction will be scheduled within the next several months. Construction will commence thereafter and is anticipated to continue for 18 months.

The Sewer Rehabilitation Project is anticipated to be minimally invasive, with the majority of the work to be in the form of slip-lining or bursting the existing sewer mains and laterals within the public rights of way at or near the property lines. Damage to yards and roads will be restored.

Upon completion of the project Lorain Borough will assess the progress made during the municipal project and take further action as may be required. Any inflow or infiltration into a customer's lateral is a violation of Lorain Borough Ordinances. Further, said violation can also result in fines, costs and discontinuance of service in accordance with the Lorain Borough Rules and Regulations. The Rules and Regulations also require air or water pressure testing upon the sale, transfer or financing of any property connected to its Sanitary Sewer System. Upon successful testing, a Certificate will be issued to the Customer/Occupant verifying the same. The customer shall bear the cost of required testing and compliance. The Johnstown Redevelopment Authority, owner and operator of the Dornick Point Sewage Treatment Plant, intended to impose a treatment surcharge on customers within the municipal sewer system which have excessive flows. The surcharge was scheduled for the March, 2015, treatment billing. The Lorain Borough entered into a Consent Order Agreement with DEP to mitigate the surcharge imposed on Lorain Borough customers. The Consent Order ratifies all measures taken to comply with the 2008 SSO mandate but includes deadlines for Lorain Borough and customer compliance for inflow and infiltration elimination.

A full-time Project Manager will be on site during the construction. When the viewports are installed, you will be notified if your lateral is in poor condition; whereupon, you may elect to take remedial action before site restoration begins. Again, future (Building Sewer) lateral testing may be required including, but not limited to, physical inspection and air or water pressure testing. Customers are required to have water-tight Building Sewers (laterals). Inflow and infiltration of ground or surface waters is prohibited.

As you may be aware, Lorain Borough entered a consent order with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”), to eliminate inflow and infiltration from its public sanitary sewer system. To comply with the consent order, Lorain Borough must rehabilitate its existing sanitary sewer system.

In order to move the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project forward, Lorain’s engineer had to prepare plans for the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project. According to the plans prepared by the Engineer for the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project, either a portion of the sewer line will be located on your real estate or some construction may take place on your real estate. Therefore, our Solicitor has prepared an Easement Agreement for your review and signature. The Easement Agreement will allow Lorain Borough, its contractors or agents to enter upon your real estate to rehabilitate the sanitary sewer line that is located on your real estate.

To aid all property owners in understanding how the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project affects your real estate, members from Lorain Borough Council, its Engineer, a Notary Public, and its Solicitor will be available on Monday, April 30, 2018, and Thursday, May 3, 2018, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Lorain Borough Park to explain and answer any questions you may have about the sewer rehabilitation project. Also, an Easement Agreement for those parcels of real estate affected by the rehabilitation project will be available for review and signature at that time.

Please note that if you are married, it is necessary that both you and your spouse execute the Easement Agreement. Even if the real estate is titled in your name only, and you are married, your spouse must also execute the Easement Agreement. Therefore, Lorain Borough is requesting that both you and your spouse attend the meeting. If someone else has the power to act on your behalf, please have them come to the meeting and bring the document that gives them that power.

On behalf of Lorain Borough, I would like to thank you for your cooperation in this matter. This rehabilitation project is an undertaking for our community’s betterment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hammers", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Hammers, President
Lorain Borough Council

cc: File
Kenneth Mesko, P.E. (Mesko and Associates)
Alex L. Svirsko, Jr. Esq.

Tell us what you think...Take a survey!

We are trying to gather information from our residents about different initiatives we would like to persue. Your input matters. You can go to our website and participate in these surveys and help us better serve you!

Please visit: <http://www.lorainborough.org/resident-survey-s>

LORAIN BOROUGH WEBSITE/FACEBOOK

You can find all the information that you need on our website to include: Meeting minutes, permits, ordinances, resolutions, park rental information, sewage project information, tax collectors information and many other things. Also like us on Facebook for current borough updates.

Please visit us at

<http://www.lorainborough.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LorainBoroughPA/>

Accepting \$100 Donations for Park Benches

Lorain Borough Council is still accepting \$100 donations for park benches to be placed near the playground. Each \$100 donation allows for a personalized inscription in the back rest of the bench. Great for business advertisement, remembrance of a loved one, or for your family's name. Please mail donations along with your personalized inscription to 503 Green Valley Street, Johnstown, PA 15902. All inscriptions are subject to approval by Lorain Borough Council.

Meeting and Council Information

The monthly Council Meeting is held on the third Thursday of every month at 5:00 PM.

**Municipal Building
503 Green Valley Street
Johnstown, PA 15902**

Officers:

President of Council - Michael Hammers
Vice President - Harold Berkebile, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer - Tamra J. Ramos CCA, CMC

Council Members:

John Wolfe
Gary Hoffman (Park Commissioner)
Michael Kuharcik Jr. (Road Commissioner)
John Custer
John Chanda

Mayor:

Mike Jacobs

Engineer:

Ken Mesko and Associates

Solicitor:

Alex Svirsko

2018-19 Burn Permit Application

Date: _____ Name: _____

Amount: _____ \$15.00 _____ Address: _____

I understand that I must follow the regulations on burning outlined in Ordinance #247 as it relates to burning within Lorain Borough. I understand that obtaining a permit only allows for me to burn a recreational fire (one that may be cooked over) not to burn garbage and other hazardous materials. I also understand that Lorain Borough or the Fire Department may revoke my permit if I am in violation of any part of Ordinance #247 without a refund of my permit fee. This permit is good for one year from the issue date.



Signature _____ Date _____

Please return the application and fee to the Lorain Borough Municipal Building at: 503 Green Valley Street Johnstown PA 15902