



The **CRAFTON** Courier

CRAFTON BOROUGH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2025



2024 SHADE TREE PLANTING

Crafton has been a Tree City USA for 35 years! A community must fulfill several requirements in order to retain this designation, one of which is a commitment to planting trees. That is because the tree canopy must consistently be replenished as older or unhealthy trees die off. Crafton does just that with its shade tree program.

The Borough used to plant new trees in residential "tree lawns", those narrow, curbside grassy strips. However, growing conditions there are very harsh, and trees are much more susceptible to damage and tend to have shorter lifespans. A few years ago, the Borough transitioned to planting in front yards for several reasons. In this larger growing space, trees tend to be healthier and live longer. As they mature, they provide privacy and shade for homeowners, enhance the streetscape, and provide much-needed shade for our sidewalks.

People get much more than a free tree! With the motto "choosing the right tree for the right place" and under the guidance of the Shade Tree Commission, homeowners get a free shade tree species appropriate for their yard. Public Works professionally plants 2" caliper ball and burlap trees, stakes and mulches them, and installs deer protection. Tree care is up to the homeowner - a couple of summers of regular, supplemental watering, replenishing mulch (this is free from the Borough and is available in a bin



at Crafton Park), and keeping those deer guards on until the bark thickens up. If your house is sited on an embankment, don't worry. They will hand dig and plant a slightly smaller tree. Is your front yard quite small? We will do our best to find the right size tree for your yard.

This year, nine homeowners signed up to receive a front yard tree. On December 12th, our planting crew – the entire Public Works department – braved freezing temperatures and expertly planted beautiful specimens of oak, serviceberry, maple, yellowwood, and tulip trees. A huge shoutout and warm thanks to our great Public Works crew: Tyler Albert, Bill Finlay, Billy Francis, David Killen, Ray Murrman, Andrew Rutherford, and Matt Schaldenbrand. You couldn't ask for a finer planting job than what they provided for our community.

We are deeply grateful to Shade Tree Commission member Mary Luxbacher and former member Susan Mucha for the many hours they devoted to coordinating this year's planting.

Would you like to have a free shade tree planted in your front yard next fall? We are starting our list, and numbers are limited. Contact the Borough at: craftonclerk@craftonborough.com or 412-921-0752 x10. Please include your name, phone number and address in your message.

100 STOTZ AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15205

412-921-0752 | www.craftonborough.com

Get Back to Normal

without medications, injections or surgery

Who needs to register for this FREE WORKSHOP?

This is for you if:

1. You find yourself taking pain medications to get through the day (TYLENOL, ADVIL, ALEVE).
2. You are afraid to move because you fear your knee "may give out".
3. You have changed the way you do everyday activities, such as getting in and out of a vehicle, going up and down stairs, etc.



What will you get out of this FREE workshop?

1. The #1 single biggest mistake that knee pain sufferers make that can lead straight to surgery.
2. Save time and money and learn how to get your life back and choose the correct treatment for the cause of your pain.
3. What successful treatment and permanent relief look like without the side effects of unnecessary medications, injections or surgery.

By request, we are hosting the **KNEE PAIN WORKSHOP** here at Hess Physical Therapy.

Thursday, March 20th, 6:00 p.m.

CRAFTON OFFICE, 37 Foster Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Call 412-453-2200 to reserve your spot.

Due to the interactive nature of this workshop, we are limiting attendance to only 20 spots.

CALL NOW!
Only 20 spots available!



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Council President’s Message

After an excellent 2024, the staff, council, and volunteers have been working hard on 2025 goals and projects. Since the last newsletter, we had quite a few accomplishments including:

1. **Garbage/Recycling Contract** – With the expiration of the Waste Management contract in December, Valley Waste began services in January after a thorough evaluation process including important community input. With a change in pickup days for some residents, service levels have been great with a slight price increase for the 5 year contract.
2. **Stairs Projects** – All three sets of stairs were opened after extensive repairs utilizing grant funds obtained by State Rep, Dan Deasy.
3. **2024 Year End Financials** – Crafton finished the year with a small budget surplus (that will be transferred to our reserves) through continued fiscally responsible spending.
4. **2025 Budget** – Council approved the 2025 budget with community input in the December meeting. The new budget includes several infrastructure projects with grant and bond funding, in addition to no tax increase for the 5th year in a row!
5. **Shade Tree Planting** – Maintaining our Tree City USA designation, 15 trees were planted in resident front yards in December. Crafton added 37 total new trees to our Borough in 2024!



*John Oliverio
Council President*

We are working on the following projects:

1. **Crafton Website** – A new website is in production with updated online forms, current events, and resources in an easy to find format. Look for a spring launch.
2. **Trails Study** – With grant funding, 16 residents were selected (out of 30 applications) to focus on the Chartiers & Bakers Acres trail study, including feasibility for development of the trails and a roadmap for development.
3. **Board/Commission Vacancies** – For 2025, we only have a few opportunities available with expiring terms. Check out the Crafton website to submit an application to get involved.
4. **Ewing Road Closure** – The Infrastructure Committee is meeting with our Engineers to review options for the unstable road.

Our future projects include:

1. **Broadhead Sewer Separation Project** – This is a major project that will improve our sewer systems (as required by Alcosan consent decree) in addition to fixing the corresponding roads with \$7M in grants awarded. Work will begin this year.
2. **C-20 Sewer Separation** – Alcosan accepted the major project, and the application for additional funding to meet the consent decree has been submitted.
3. **Linden & Steuben Light Signals** – Funded by a GLG grant from PennDot (and a 20% match), work will begin this year to replace the traffic and walk signals. Supply chain issues with the poles have delayed the project to this Spring.

As a reminder, Council meetings are open to the public, and I encourage residents to attend (2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM) in person or via Zoom to keep up to date on what is happening in our community. If you have questions about the agenda or items in the community, please feel free to reach out to me.

It was good seeing many of you at the Celebration of Lights, Holiday House Tour, Native Seed Sowing, and Valentine’s Day Murder Mystery. The Recreation Board is planning activities for the year including several traditional favorites. I hope everyone is staying warm and looking forward to Spring right around the corner. I continue to appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Respectfully,
John Oliverio, Council President

A Message from Mayor Coletta Perry



Coletta Perry
Mayor

I'm excited to share that last November, Council finalized the appointment of Richard Ford as Crafton's next Police Chief, set to take office this July. Current Chief Sumpter has graciously agreed to stay on until Chief Ford officially assumes the role, and the two will be coordinating transition meetings in the coming months.

Chief Ford has dedicated 25 years to the Pittsburgh Police Department and currently serves as Assistant Chief of Operations. His ties to our community run deep—his family are members of St. Philip Church, and he has coached local sports teams for years. He describes Crafton as a second home to him and his family.

Chief Ford has pledged to be as hands-on and engaged as Chief Sumpter has been throughout his tenure.

Plans are already in motion for a well-deserved retirement celebration for Chief Sumpter, with details to be announced as the date approaches. Additionally, we will organize several meet-and-greet events for the community to welcome Chief Ford.

I want to extend my gratitude to Council Members Mike Hough and Colton Chandler, who served with me on the selection committee, as well as the entire Council for dedicating significant time to interviews and deliberations for this critical decision.

A special thanks also goes to the Pennsylvania Police Chiefs Association for their exceptional work in facilitating a highly professional and impartial hiring process. Their dedication and expertise were evident during their two-day visit to Crafton.

Lastly, I want to recognize and commend our Crafton Police officers who applied for the position. Each of them demonstrated unwavering commitment and passion for our community in an extremely competitive selection process. We are fortunate to have such dedicated individuals serving our town, and I am honored to be the Mayor of such an outstanding department.

Coletta Perry
Mayor

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Borough Engineer's Update

Hello Crafton Residents!

We are excited to share some fantastic updates that are making Crafton an even better place to live. Thanks to the hard work of our local government, Public Works team, and community input, we've made significant strides in improving infrastructure across the Borough. Here's a look at some of the recent and upcoming enhancements you'll notice around town:

New Stairs for Safety and Accessibility

We've installed brand new stairs in key areas to improve accessibility and safety for everyone. These upgrades ensure that residents, especially those with mobility challenges, can more easily navigate our hilly terrain. We appreciate your patience during construction and are thrilled with the results that are now ready for use!

The newly constructed stairs include:

- Walnut to Crafton and Crafton to Clearview
- Fountain to Promenade
- Belvidere to Afton (New handrails only)

Retaining Crafton's Historical Charm with Updated Street Signs

Crafton's streets are now easier to navigate with the installation of new, historic street signs throughout the community. These signs are not only more visible but also reflect the Borough's charm by retaining its new, appealing design. Whether you're a long-time resident or a new neighbor, these updates will make it simpler to get around town. Be on the lookout for Public Works to replace all the remaining, green-faced signs with new ones this year!

Sewer System Improvements

Our ongoing commitment to maintaining a strong infrastructure has led to several updates to Crafton's sewer system. In addition to ensuring compliance with ALCOSAN's consent order, the recent repairs and upgrades are aimed at preventing flooding and ensuring that our sewage system operates efficiently for years to come. These efforts help safeguard both the environment and the health of our community. A reminder that the following sewer projects are scheduled to take place this year:

- **C-20 Sewer Separation** – Steuben St. and Linden Ave. – Estimated construction to begin Spring 2025
- **Broadhead Sewer Separation** – Belvidere St., Broadhead Ave., Crennel Ave., N. Emily St., N. Linwood Ave., Coulter St., Parke St., Warren St., and Crafton Blvd. – Estimated construction to begin Summer 2025

New Public Works Building

The Public Works Department has a new home! A new, modern facility has been scheduled to be completed this year and will be used to better serve the Borough's needs. This building will house essential equipment and provide

a central location for all Public Works operations, making it easier for crews to respond to maintenance needs and keep the Borough looking its best. Construction of the building began in 2022 with the exterior shell and half the concrete floor completed but unfortunately remained in that condition since then. The remaining build out design is close to being finished with final construction to start later this year.

Freshly Paved Roads for a Smoother Ride

If you've been out on the roads recently, you've probably noticed that several of our streets have received a fresh coat of asphalt. The newly paved roads ensure a smoother, safer ride for everyone in Crafton. Whether you're commuting to work or out for a walk, we hope you enjoy the improved drive and pedestrian experience. In addition to newly paved roads resulting from the upcoming sewer projects, Crafton is pleased to announce that the following roads and alley ways will be paved this Spring:

- Home Avenue
- Sterrett Street (Areas from last summer's PA American Water work)
- Rush Way (From Perrine Street to Sterrett Street)
- Neville Way
- Prince Alley
- Locust Street (End of 2025 by PA American Water)

Linden and Steuben Intersection Updates

In partnership with an awarded grant from PennDOT's Green-Light-Go program, the intersection of Steuben Street and Linden Avenue will be getting a major facelift this year. Some of the improvements include new traffic signals and mast arms, pedestrian signalization, pavement and crosswalk markings and ADA ramps. These improvements will increase the overall safety of the intersection for both motorists and pedestrians accessing the park, mini golf and the Crafton-Ingram shopping center.

Looking Ahead

These improvements are just the beginning of our ongoing efforts to make Crafton an even better place to live. The Borough Administration and our dedicated Public Works team are already planning for the next phase of updates, focusing on continued infrastructure improvements, trail development, and community beautification.

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we work to enhance our community. Together, we are building a brighter, safer, and more connected Crafton!

Warm regards,
Larry Keenan, Borough Engineer

The Crafton Volunteer Fire Department 2024 Year in Review



As we enter our 135th Year serving the residents and businesses of the Boroughs of Crafton, Thornburg, and Rosslyn Farms

2024 was one of the busiest years on record for the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department. Made up of 100 percent volunteers, the Crafton VFD answered a total of 408 calls for service in 2024 ranging in everything from lift assists, EMS assists, lockouts, vehicle fires, motor vehicle crashes, power lines down, fire alarms, structure fires, and many other types of calls for service. We saw an increase of 53 more fire related responses in 2024 than we answered in 2023. In our first due area of Crafton,

Thornburg, and Rosslyn Farms, we had two building fires, ironically just six days apart in June. A rear balcony caught fire on a commercial property on Noble Ave and damage was minimal. The most serious first due fire was a room and contents fire in Rosslyn Farms just six days later, which was also brought under control quickly after arrival. Crafton also recently assisted Carnegie with a large commercial fire that was devastating to their business district in November when Riley's Pour House caught fire. 2025 appears to be picking up right where 2024 left off as we are already off to a busy start of keeping up with our average of slightly over a call answered per day.

In existence since 1890, the approx. 40 current volunteers of the fire department just don't respond to calls. We participate in all different kinds of training, meetings, and public service details including multiple touch a truck events, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Halloween Safety Detail, and the favorite of most of our members, the Santa Claus Detail. These events have been a tradition of the fire department for many decades.

We are always looking for more members to join the ranks. Junior Membership starts at the age of 16 and no previous experience is required. We will train you, and provide all the necessary top of the line equipment to make your volunteer firefighter journey a successful one.

Our state-of-the-art building, in existence since 2001 boasts five full bays, a duty room, full kitchen, numerous offices, maintenance rooms, and a state-of-the-art gym with top-of-the-line equipment that is available to use for the members. We train every Tuesday at 7:00 PM, so stop down to check us out or reach us on Facebook page.

Finally, we cannot thank the Crafton Community, including its residents, business owners, elected officials, community groups, our mutual aid companies, and the police department, for your continued support. We could not be ready to serve 365 days a year, 7 days a week, and 24 hours a day without you, and we wish everyone a safe and happy 2025!



Come one! Come All!

Crafton Mini Golf opens for the summer season on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31.



All children will be free that weekend to celebrate the end of school and the beginning of summer fun at the Crafton Park! Parents, our \$2 golf fee is the best deal in town! We are open from 7-9 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings through the summer and again in October for our Haunted Mini-Golf extravaganza. Bring your friends, neighbors, and family or come yourself to enjoy our vintage course wonderfully sponsored by Crafton Recreation Board, and we thank the Crafton Public Library for their continuing support.

All funds stay here in Crafton to support more Crafton fun!



Crafton Performing Arts Association Update

Warmer weather will be here before you know it! Mark your calendars for our Summer Concert Series, which will run from Thursday, July 10th through Thursday, August 14th. A teaser of the groups that will be performing include Tiger Maple String Band, SpinCycle, and Street Level Band. We look forward to seeing you at our concerts in the park!



Crafton Borough Recreation Board Announces Exciting Events for 2025!

The Crafton Borough Recreation Board is thrilled to share the lineup of events planned for 2025! We've got a mix of returning favorites and exciting new activities to bring the community together.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



July 4
Independence Day Celebration
Join your neighbors to celebrate America's birthday at Crafton Park with fireworks, food, and festivities for the whole family.

September 27
Fall Fest
Our annual autumn celebration with seasonal adult and kid activities, craft vendors, treats, and fun.



December 6
Celebration of Lights
Join us at Crafton Park for a magical evening of holiday lights and cheer to kick off the season.

December 14
Crafton Holiday House Tour
Featured in Pittsburgh Magazine and Next Pittsburgh, the Crafton Holiday House Tour attracts hundreds of visitors to our community to adore and explore gorgeously decorated homes.



EXCITING NEW EVENTS IN CRAFTON!

Coffee, Creativity, and Community at the Library

Looking for a welcoming space to relax, create, and connect? The Crafton Recreation Board and Crafton Public Library are teaming up to bring you **Coffee, Creativity, and Community**—a weekly gathering designed just for you! Bring your latest project, make a cozy cup of coffee, solve a puzzle, or play a board game. Whether you're looking to meet new friends or simply enjoy a peaceful afternoon, this is your space to unwind and connect with neighbors. Let's build community together—one cup of coffee at a time!



When:
Saturdays,
Noon – 3:00 PM

Where:
Crafton Public Library

Date TBD

Free Shop/Swap at the Borough Building

Declutter your home or discover new treasures at this community-wide exchange event. Stay tuned for more details as we finalize the date!



Saturday, May 17 Garden Party at the Community Garden

Join us to celebrate 10 beautiful years of the Crafton Community Garden! Connect with your neighbors, enjoy the garden, and mark this milestone together. More details coming this spring!

Yoga & Meditation in the Park!

Find your balance and unwind with free yoga and meditation classes in the park, open to all community residents. These sessions are the perfect way to connect with nature, center your mind, and refresh your spirit. If you are a local yoga instructor interested in leading community classes, please get in touch with the Recreation Board at www.craftonborough.com/parks-recreation.



**SAVE THE DATES AND JOIN US FOR THESE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO
CONNECT, CREATE, AND CELEBRATE WITH OUR CRAFTON COMMUNITY!**

Betsy Martin Tree Dedication - April 26



Betsy Martin

This past year, long time Crafton resident Betsy Martin died. Betsy had many important roles throughout her life including many that impacted the Crafton community. Betsy literally wrote the book on our community, *The Story of Crafton 1740-1992*, published during Crafton's centennial birthday, and she was very active in the Crafton Historical Society. Another service to our community involved her love of trees and green spaces. Betsy was an active member of Crafton's Park and Shade Tree Commission for many years. Many of the park and street trees you see today are there because of her tireless efforts to maintain and promote Crafton's prestigious status as a Tree City USA member. During our Tree City USA ceremony on April 26, we will be dedicating a newly planted oak tree in her honor and memory in Crafton Park. All are invited to attend this ceremony and find out more about Betsy Martin and her very appreciated role in our community. Event will be sponsored by the Shade Tree Commission and Crafton Heritage. (Official time will be posted on the SavvyCitizenApp)

Community Garden Update

Crafton Community Farm is a communal garden in Crafton Park, located between the pavilions and the ball fields. The garden is run and maintained by volunteers, and we grow fruit, vegetables, herbs, and flowers all naturally, without chemicals. Each season, we harvest between 1000-1400 pounds of crops, and 95% of that fresh, delicious food is donated to the Crafton Ingram Food Pantry. There is a dedicated Children's Garden area, where young ones can grow whatever they want. Everyone can enjoy being in a peaceful, beautiful outdoor space, and can learn more about growing plants.

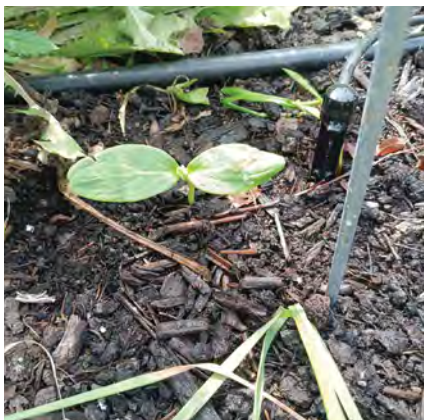
In 2024, we saved a lot of seeds from the plants we grew, and we will be sharing those with the community for free, through Crafton Public Library's Seed Library. Members of the community donated garden seating and trellises, and we received seeds, plants, and other materials through grants from Grow Pittsburgh's Allegheny Grows program, which helped us get the garden started in 2015.

We use the wonderful compost generously provided by Crafton Public Works, and Crafton Borough also allows us access to water for our drip irrigation system.

The 2025 season will start off with a planning meeting in March, some group workdays to prepare the beds and to plant spring and summer crops, and May 17 will be our 10th Anniversary Celebration Garden Party! Volunteers regularly work on the garden on weekend mornings, March through November, weather permitting.

We hope you and your family will come to experience the garden this year, whether it is to look around or to volunteer. No experience is necessary. We all learn from each other, and we have tools and gloves to share. If you are not into gardening, we also need help with social media, photography, and other skills.

Please find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/craftoncommunityfarm> or email CraftonCommunityFarm@gmail.com for more information, or to schedule a new volunteer orientation or garden tour.



Code Enforcement Update and Native Plants



Spring is a great time of year to clean-up our properties, and maybe get a jump on projects big and small. It's also a good time to prep gardens and work on landscaping projects. Working out in the yard and cutting grass can be time consuming. But what if it didn't have to be? What if there was a way to have your yard look nice with less work? Well, the answer is: you definitely can!

In Crafton, our ordinance on grass was amended to read as such:

302.4 Weeds. All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of six inches and shall be landscaped so as to have either grass or other form of approved ground cover, growing or artificial or maintained in its natural state. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other

than trees or shrubs; provided, however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens. Landscaping shall not include any plants documented on the Pennsylvania DCNR "Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania" list, including but not limited to bamboo plants. The planting of hardy indigenous species is encouraged.

Did you catch that last sentence? Indigenous plants are often also called native plants and are becoming the norm for landscaping because they require less resources and are less maintenance. There are multiple approaches to working them into your landscape plan but the main trend is to plant native trees and plants in beds and just keep grass for walking paths between the beds.

In Crafton, when one does this with indigenous plants they are within code. The areas need to have defined borders though so it's clear it's a garden. The benefits of landscaping this way are four-fold:

- Native plants are adapted to local conditions requiring less fertilizer and pesticides
- Native plants require less watering and help control storm runoff
- Native plants can help with air quality by reducing mowing and sequestering carbon
- Native plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife & support pollinators

You can even get your landscape habitat certified if you meet the criteria for certain organizations like Monarch Watch, Audubon, and the National Wildlife Federation.


As your code officer, I have been involved in native plant gardening for 16 years now and can identify most native plants and can confirm this is a fantastic way to lessen your burden and help the local ecosystems (*many collapsing*) all in one shot.

Season Ciechanowski, Code Enforcement

To learn more, scan the QR code here or feel free to contact the code office.



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Garbage/Recycle Program

The new year brought changes to the residents of Crafton, via a new Garbage/Recycle Hauler. We would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation during this transition. We all know change is not always easy but is often necessary. To help continue the ease of this transition, we would like to share these quick tips on continuing a successful first year with Valley Waste Services, Inc. Please make sure your trash receptacles are at the curb, lids securely on, by 6AM on your scheduled pickup day.



- Residents may put out one bulk item a week for pickup; however, you must notify Valley Waste at least one business day prior to your pickup.
- Residents should contact Valley Waste Services directly to report any missed pickups within 24-Hours at (724) 843-9373.
- Have more than five bags? You can purchase additional bag tags, \$10 for a strip of five tags, through Valley Waste Services and they will be mailed directly to your home.
- Recycling will be the key to keeping your solid waste to a minimum. There is no limit to the amount of recycling that can be placed out at the curb on recycle week. Recycle stickers are available in the Borough Building.

ValleyWaste Services, Inc., offers E-Waste Collection and Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Collection dates can be found below. Details can be found by following the QR Code at right.



VALLEY WASTE SERVICE, INC.

261 Wallace Run Road
 Beaver Falls, PA 15010
 724-843-9373
Crafton Borough

2025 HHW collection dates: March 4th, June 10th, September 16th & December 2nd. Must be scheduled 15 days before collection date
 E-waste collection will be the 4th Thursday each month. Please call ahead to schedule.

Recycle day is Shaded.

2025-2026 Collection Calendar

○ E-Waste Collection

△ HHW Collection

☑ ➔ OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

2025

January	February	March	April	May	June
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
July	August	September	October	November	December
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KEEP UP WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND ON SAVVYCITIZEN FOR LATEST EVENT UPDATES

WEEKLY

YOGA / MONDAYS @ 7:00 PM

For all skill levels! Each class is \$5.00. Bring water and a mat or towel & dress comfortably!

FAMILY STORYTIME / TUESDAYS @ 11:00 AM

Caregivers and little ones are invited to listen to stories and sing songs with Miss Gabrielle!

COFFEE CREATIVITY COMMUNITY/ SATURDAYS @ 12:00 PM

Bring a project you're working on, make a cup of coffee, work on a puzzle, play a board game...
Be in community with your neighbors!

MONTHLY

NO STRINGS ATTACHED BOOK CLUB / LAST WEDNESDAY @ 5:00 PM

Read our book of the month and join us for a discussion... or not! No strings attached.

THE DINNER AT CRAFTON LIBRARY / SECOND FRIDAY @ 6:00 PM

Choose a recipe from the month's cookbook and prepare it to share it!

WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP / VARIOUS SATURDAYS @ 10:00 AM

Meet with fellow local writers to trade tips and share your work. Check website for dates.



Community Events



Celebration of Lights



First Responder Commendation



Murder Mystery Party at the Library

Planning Commission Update

Happy Spring from your Planning Commission! We spent most of 2024 reviewing the draft zoning ordinance and obtaining input from residents and property owners. We selected GRB Law as our independent solicitor to guide us through the process as we finalize a draft for Council approval in 2025. In addition to the zoning ordinance, we'll also be working on local business development and exploring options for enhancing our trails.

Planning Commission will have two vacancies opening up in April. For more information: <https://www.craftonborough.com/commissions>.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 25th at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Make sure to visit the Planning Commission page on the Borough's website for agenda packets and meeting minutes: <https://www.craftonborough.com/planning-commission>.

Contact the Planning Commission by emailing PlanningCommission@craftonborough.com.



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A Message from Congressman Chris Deluzio

IN-PERSON HELP AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS SEEKING SERVICES

I am a proud Navy and Iraq War veteran, so I take special pride in my job as our Congressman to help my fellow veterans get the services and care they have earned. Every veteran who served, gave this country a blank check. In return, we make a sacred promise to our nation's veterans that our government will take care of them when they come home. I take that promise seriously, and we have to do better.

That's why I'm glad to share that my Carnegie office has a trained and accredited Veterans Service Officer from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) available to serve you. In-person, 45-minute appointments are available on the first Monday of every month (except for federal holidays) between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. My nearest office is located in the Carnegie Office Park at 600 N Bell Avenue, Building 1, Suite 102, Carnegie, PA 15106. Call (412) 344-5583 to schedule an appointment, and we'll be glad to serve you.



Congressman
Chris Deluzio

Taking care of veterans is personal to me. Like when Caroline in Sharpsburg called my office completely exhausted with trying to navigate the VA benefits system for her mother, we were able to cut through the red tape and get her answers. Or when Elizabeth in Oakdale asked for my help getting her grandfather's 1944 Distinguished Service Cross reissued so that her grandmother could see it before she passed away—we got it done.

Stories like this are why I went into public service in the first place. My office can help with all types of veteran service requests, like getting a DD-214, securing healthcare and disability benefits, housing assistance, pension benefits, and more.

And of course, we're available to serve all Crafton residents by helping with any issues related to federal agencies. From veterans' care to Social Security to tax refunds, if my office can help you or your family, please give us a call.

Very respectfully,
Congressman Chris Deluzio

**THANK
YOU!**

Crafton Borough would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters of our community. It is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN 2025

State Senator Wayne Fontana, 42nd Senatorial District



*State Senator
Wayne Fontana*

During the 2023-24 legislative session, Governor Shapiro signed 217 bills into law, not including budget appropriations bills. The State House of Representatives passed 41% of the bills it received from the Senate whereas the State Senate only passed 28% of the bills it received from the House. Comparing these numbers to previous years, only the 1999-00 and 2007-08 legislative sessions were less productive. This can be attributed in part to the divided balance of power with the Democrats holding the majority in the House, along with the governor's office and the Republicans holding the majority in the Senate.

It is no secret that the Commonwealth is what is referred to as a "swing state" which is a state that has historically swung between voting for different political parties for statewide offices or the presidency depending on the election. The results of elections over the past decade-plus illustrate that point.

With legislative sessions in Pennsylvania being two years, the start of the 2025-26 session represents a fresh start for the General Assembly. I am hopeful that going forward the legislature can work together in a bipartisan manner so we can pass more meaningful legislation that will improve the lives of the people we serve.

To that end, I have introduced several pieces of legislation this session that I will work to advance through the legislative process. Some are bills that I offered in previous sessions while others are new. These priorities include:

- **Enacting Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws)**, which enables family members and law enforcement the ability to petition a court to temporarily suspend an individual's access to firearms if there is documented evidence that an individual is threatening harm to themselves or others.
- **Protecting Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Preexisting Conditions**, which prohibits health insurance companies from using an individual's preexisting medical conditions to deny or exclude coverage under a health insurance policy. Also prohibiting health insurance policies in Pennsylvania from imposing either an annual or lifetime limit.
- **Helping licensed nonprofits** like volunteer fire companies, veterans' organizations and youth sports leagues raise money by allowing for mobile payments for small games of chance.
- **Incentivizing the redevelopment of aging or deteriorating properties** by expanding the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) cap from 10 years to 20 years.
- **Requiring the installation of carbon monoxide detectors** in child care facilities, lodging establishments, college dorms, and schools.
- **Uniform Property Assessments** would require counties to conduct property reassessments on a uniform five-year cycle as well as enhance the enforcement power of the State Tax Equalization Board.
- **Green and Purple Alerts** would establish alert systems, similar to Amber Alerts, for at-risk veterans and individuals with a mental disability who go missing.
- **Helping individuals affected by problem gambling** by prohibiting the Gaming Industry from marketing to individuals on self-exclusion lists. A separate bill I've introduced would prohibit the use of credit cards for online gaming.
- **A Casino Smoking Ban Compromise** would allow a casino to choose between going smoke-free or completely enclosing a smoking area of the casino and installing an adequate ventilation system to eliminate the permeation of smoke into the nonsmoking areas.

Stay connected during the year by signing up at www.senatorfontana.com to receive my weekly E-Newsletter where I provide updates on legislative activity and other important news in the district and from Harrisburg.

Senator Wayne D. Fontana
42nd Senatorial District

BOROUGH OF CRAFTON

100 Stotz Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 | 412-921-0752 | www.craftonborough.com

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Kirsten Compitello, Vice Presidentkcompitello@craftonborough.com

Vince Ridilla, Pro Temvridilla@craftonborough.com

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Colton Chandlercchandler@craftonborough.com

Michael Hough.....mhough@craftonborough.com

Pam Pulkownik.....ppulkownik@craftonborough.com

Magisterial District Judge

Hon. Jack Kobistek.....(412) 921-5559

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Mark Sumpter

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Larry Keenan

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Mike Tedesco

(412) 921-0752 x 27, mtedesco@craftonborough.com

Administration

Police Secretary

(412) 921-0752 x 11

Borough Administration

(412) 921-0752 x 10

Code Enforcement

(412) 921-0752 x 26

Building Permits & Zoning

(412) 921-0752 x 18

Community Pool

Crafton Pool

(412) 458-0677

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Crafton Public Library

(412) 922-6877

Crafton Elementary

(412) 429-2500

Jordan Tax Service

(724) 731-2310

Crafton Volunteer Fire Department

(412) 875-0022

Valley Waste Services, Inc.

(724) 843-9373

PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION

All Borough Council Meetings are currently being held in Council Chambers. Meetings are also available live via Zoom. Log-in and Call-in information is available on the Borough's website:

www.craftonborough.com/borough-council
Council Chambers of the Community Center
140 Bradford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Borough Council Meetings ... 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7:00 PM

Meeting announcements and schedule changes are published on the SavvyCitizenApp and the Borough's website.



COUNCIL MEETINGS



Hawthorne Ave Presbyterian Church

90 HAWTHORNE AVENUE | CRAFTON, PA 15205

(412) 921-2504

Pastor: Paul Nigra

Adult Bible Study: Sunday's at 9:30AM

Worship Service: Sunday's at 10:30AM

Children's Sunday School (All Ages): Sundays at 10:30AM

www.hawthornechurch.org



Whispering Walls



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