



Willow Street Playground to Reopen Spring 2026

Designed for Youngsters of All Abilities, Ages 5-to-12

This spring, the Borough of Schuylkill Haven will proudly reopen the Willow Street Playground, welcoming families back to a safe, attractive, and inclusive neighborhood play-space designed for children of all abilities. Located on Willow Street, the newly upgraded playground features a cohesive design highlighted by gold and navy color accents that show our school pride and enhance the visual appeal of the park.



**Jessica Seiders
Borough Admin.**

The re-imagined playground includes modern equipment designed for children ages 5 to 12, with a capacity of up to 100 users. Signature features include a 100-foot zip line, two new play structures, and a Loop Slide that combines climbing, transferring, and sliding.

Additional amenities include a three-bay arch swing with tot and belt seats accommodating up to six users, as well as an inclusive spinner that encourages cooperative and social play.



Together, these features create a balanced mix of high-energy activity and shared play opportunities in a safe, age-appropriate environment.

This playground improvement project was made possible through more than \$170,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and administered through Schuylkill County. Convenient parking is available in the Willow Street municipal lot. The Borough looks forward to welcoming residents and visitors back in spring 2026 to enjoy a safe, affordable, and beautifully designed playground for the entire community.

In addition to the Willow Street Playground improvements, the Borough has recently resurfaced the basketball court at Saylor Street, plans to add two pickleball courts, and will be updating Saylor Street Playground equipment later this year as part of its continued investment in recreation amenities.

Are You A Savvy Citizen?

The January snow emergency was a true test of our Borough’s communication system... and our residents really stepped up!

Schuylkill Haven now relies on SAVVY CITIZEN as its primary way to share emergency and important community alerts – and it’s working!

During the January snow emergency, the Borough saw a spike in SAVVY CITIZEN participation, with difference downloads climbing to over 1,100 users. That means more residents than ever are getting timely, accurate information straight from the Borough.

We also officially discontinued the previous phone alert system and used SAVVY CITIZEN exclusively during the storm. Thanks to your participation, this transition was smooth and effective.

Real-time alerts make a difference

January’s weather event showed just how valuable
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Schuylkill Haven Lions Club – We Serve!

The Schuylkill Haven Lions Club had a successful 2025, providing needed services to our community bolstered by the kind support of residents and businesses of the greater Schuylkill Haven community.

Current officers of the club are Jake Whetstone, president; Gerry Reichert, first vice president; Harry Rubright, secretary; and Nicole Bensinger, treasurer.

If you are looking to serve your community, make new friends and have fun at the same time, this is the club for you. Join us for dinner and a meeting to learn more. Dinner is on the Lions Club! Anyone interested to learn the impact the club has locally, contact Jake Whetstone at 570-990-6821.

Meetings are held the first and third Monday each month at Friedensburg Restaurant. Summer meetings are held at Bubeck Park. A Board Meeting is held on the first Monday and an informational program is presented on the third Monday. Prospective members are always welcome to check us out.

Sight preservation has always been “in focus” as a key part of the Lions mission. Members collect used eyeglasses, forwarding them to Lions International for repairs and repurposing for those in need all over the world. Last year we collected over 1500 pairs.

Donations of used glasses can be dropped off at the following convenient locations – Dr. Ann Marie Roberts’ office (100 E. Main St.) and Dr. Machamer’s



office (31 Parkway). The drop box inside the Schuylkill Haven Free Public Library is currently out of service being refurbished, but should be available later this spring. Any Lion member will gladly accept them, also.

Our annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Memorial Day, May 26, from 7 to 10 a.m. in the cafeteria of the Schuylkill Haven Area High School. This fundraiser supports youth activities in our community. Come out for an all-you-care-to-eat breakfast and a good time prior to going downtown to enjoy the parade and service.

Bubeck Park upgrades were completed during 2025. Supported by the Lions Club, The Boy Scouts constructed a new bench and a children’s reading library. New grills were installed at both pavilions in the park.

Last year, our club awarded seven college Student Scholarships to help with educational costs. Applications for this funding in 2026 can be obtained by contacting any club member or your counselors at your local high school or the Schuylkill Community Foundation. These scholarships are open to all students residing in the Schuylkill Haven Area and Blue Mountain School Districts and is available yearly.

The Lions also provided funding in support of the Main Street Children’s Christmas Stroll in December.

More information and planned activities can be found on the Schuylkill Haven Lions Facebook page.



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Yes, It's Tax Season; Here's What to Know!

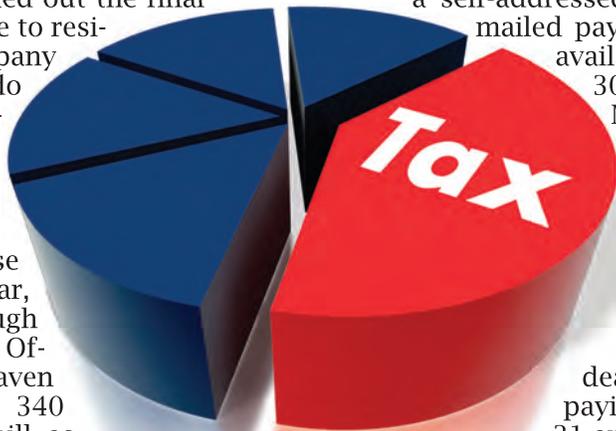
2026 Schuylkill Haven Borough Real Estate and Per Capita tax bills will be mailed out the final week of February. A special note to residents - if your mortgage company pays your property tax, they do not pay your Per Capita Tax. Every resident - property owner or renter, 18 years of age and older - is responsible for paying this tax.

Questions regarding these taxes that are due this year, should be directed to the Borough Tax Collector, Jake Whetstone. Office hours at the Schuylkill Haven Recreation and Senior Center, 340 Haven St., are listed on the bill as follows: March and April - 12 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; May and June - 12 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; July, November, and December - by appointment. Before taxes are due at the end of the calendar year, the office will be open December 28 thru 30 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Call 570-385-1313 during office hours or leave a message. Hours are posted on the Borough website - schuylkillhaven.org and will be on the digital sign of the Recreation and Senior Center building.

We encourage payments be sent by mail to expedite the collection process. Pay bills by check or

money order only. If a receipt is requested, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your mailed payment. A 2% discount period is available if paid March through April 30, 2026. The face amount due is May through June 30, 2026. A 10% penalty is in effect on payments made July through December 31, 2026.

Note: there are no exceptions to these rules. If mailing for any of the above periods, your payment must be postmarked by midnight of the deadline period for which you are paying. Taxes not paid by December 31 are turned over to tax claim.



Postal Service caution!

At the recent PA State Tax Collectors Educational Seminar, an update was given to caution taxpayers who wait until the period deadline to mail their payment.

CAUTION: When mailing your payment, it may take **two days or more** before it is received at the postal system location where the cancellation takes place.

When dropping your payment envelope into a blue postal street box or even the slot inside a post office, it may take several days to travel from these locations before reaching a central distribution hub where the "date cancellation" is done, thus causing a possible late postmark.

All payments mailed at the end of discount, face or penalty periods that are mailed must be postmarked by the last day of that period. Tax Collectors are not permitted to accept payments with late postmarks.

Taxpayers would be wise to mail payments at least one week in advance to ensure proper postmark. Or, if mailing at the last minute from the Post Office, get the clerk to hand cancel the envelope. This red ink postmark will have the actual date the taxpayer mailed their payments.

Notes concerning the Per Capita Tax

Per Capita Tax updates need to be provided to the tax collector. If you or someone you know has moved out of town, is recently deceased, or in a nursing home, contact the tax office right away so they can be removed from the tax rolls. A proper ID showing your new address is required before removal from the PCT list. The Borough/County bill must be paid in full when due. No installment payments are permitted.

If you have any questions on the Borough/County Tax, call the office at 570-385-1313 or 570-990-6821. I can be reached by email - taxcollector@schuylkillhaven.org. Any question you may have regarding your School Tax, contact Berkheimer or the Schuylkill Haven Area School District at 570-385-6705, Ext. 201.

- Jake Whetstone, Tax Collector



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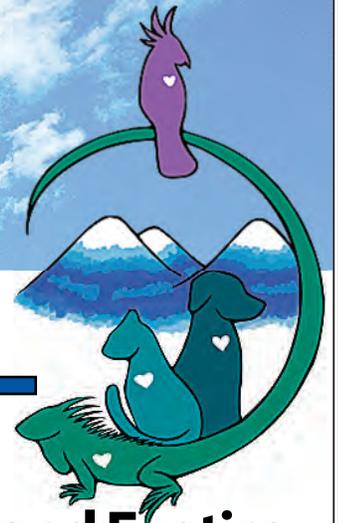
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Shelters Need Your Help Now... Like Never Before!

“Nothing in an animal shelter is normal anymore. Adoptions are down, donations have slowed, and every shelter is full. That is why donating all year long is more important than ever. Every can (or bag) of food, every container of kitten formula, every blanket, and every dollar helps them to continue our rescue mission,” reports Hillside SPCA.

Some animals have been waiting years to find their forever homes... particularly larger dogs and older animals. Also, the number of calls and emails they receive about “strays” or pet owners looking to surrender a pet has been overwhelming with an average 5-10 rehoming calls a day. Animals are rarely spayed/neutered, microchipped or vaccinated and some are in need of immediate medical care for injuries or serious health issues. Hillside currently has 30 big dogs, 20 small dogs, 10 bunnies and over 100 cats.

Char-Wills German Shepherd Rescue took in more than 460 German Shepherds in 2025. Their kennel capacity is 14 dogs and, most recently, they had 13 others in foster care or in socialization programs. With an average of eight adoptions per week, the Rescue receives as many as 15 calls or emails per day about surrendering the caller’s dog(s).

Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA reports much the same. Like Hillside and Char-Wills, they are seeing a large increase in animal “dumpings” (abandonment). These animals are most often in dire need and are found in horrible circumstances.

Our local shelters receive no government funding. They are nonprofit organizations, so monetary donations are tax deductible... the simplest and fastest way to help.

Shelters also are in need of folks to adopt, foster or volunteer. Every shelter has a “wish list” of items they need. Call and ask how you can help. Each shelter has needs that may differ from another, but every shelter will be happy to share their wish list with you.

The phone numbers and addresses of Hillside SPCA, Char-Wills German Shepherd Rescue, and the Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA are included in our full-page ad which is printed on the facing page of this editorial. Please call and ask them what they need. If you reach a recording because they are tending to their animals, please leave a voicemail and they will return your call.

Our local animal shelters and rescues need us more than ever.

*Sponsored by
Ralf and Diane Bzura and their shelter dog, Beezer*

Help for Heating Costs!

Residents struggling to pay home heating bills can apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) now. This program runs until April 10, 2026.

The federally-funded LIHEAP program helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance cash grants sent directly to your fuel/utility provider. The program includes crisis grants should there be an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel, or termination of utility service.

The income limit for an individual is \$23,940; for a couple, the limit is \$32,460; and for a family of four, it is \$49,500. Other family sizes have income limits, as well. The grant award amounts vary from \$200 to \$1,000 depending upon income, fuel source, and household size.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online or by contacting the county assistance office.



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Performed by
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Agnés Maurer, Renee Warnick, Viola
Ai-lin Hsieh, Sara Male, Cello

Made possible in part by a grant from the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation

“LAVISH HARMONIES”
SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 – 3 p.m.
Music of Rossini, Mozart and Vaughan Williams

Performed by
Dana Allaband, Simon Maurer, Violin
Agnés Maurer, Viola • Sara Male, Cello
Domenick Fiore, Bass



Concerts at Jerusalem Church, 252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven

Gabriel Chamber Ensemble received funding from Pennsylvania Creative Industries, powered by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more info: online – www.gabrielensemble.org;
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OUR 3 LOCAL SHELTERS REPORT "WORST CONDITIONS, EVER!"

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So many **DOGS** and so many **CATS** and not enough room...



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Our local shelters get **NO** government funding – **NONE!** The only help they get is from **YOU!**

Our local shelters are **"no kill"** shelters, so animals stay with them until adopted or fostered – **sometimes for years!**



PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL SHELTERS TODAY AND ASK FOR THEIR WISH LIST OF NEEDED ITEMS. THEY ARE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL!

Hillside SPCA

51 SPCA Rd. (just off Gordon Nagle Trail and Cressona Rd.), Pottsville, PA 17901
P.O. Box 233, Pottsville, PA 17901
570-622-7769
www.hillsidespca.com
Open 11 AM to 3 PM daily



Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA

18 Wertz Drive, Pine Grove, PA 17963
P.O. Box 332, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-345-3540
www.rmsmpca.org
Open M-F by appt.,
Weekends 10-3PM (no appt. needed)



Char-Wills German Shepherd Rescue

Mailing Address:
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www.charwillsrescue.com
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Always **REPORT** any **UNREGISTERED** and **UNLICENSED** backyard or farm-house breeders (and that's most of them) to the **PA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: 866-601-7722.** Immediately report ANY farm or domestic animal abuse to the PA State Police. **ANIMAL ABUSE IS A CRIME.**

This request to adopt or foster a shelter pet and to provide desperately needed financial support is sponsored by: **Ralf and Diane Bzura** and their rescue dog **BEEZER**. Email: beezerandco@comcast.net

Schuylkill Haven Borough News

Your town's new mayor... John Williams

Greetings residents of Schuylkill Haven! I am deeply honored and humbled to begin serving as your mayor of this great little town. Thank you to former Mayor Mike Devlin for the 14 years he served.

I am looking forward to the next four years to keep things moving forward. My goal as mayor is simple... to help this town grow stronger, safer and more prosperous for everyone who calls it home.

True progress only happens when we work together. That means listening to one another, even if we disagree. It means getting together to solve problems instead of pushing them aside. And, it means remembering that, despite our differences, we all want the same thing - a town we are proud to call home.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns. I was elected to serve every resident, not just those who supported me. This town belongs to all of us and the future will be built by us.

I believe the best days of our community are still ahead. As my late father told me before I got elected to Borough Council, "No matter how good something is, there is always room for improvement." With hard work, honesty and shared sense of purpose, we can build a brighter future and better place for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve. I look forward to working with you to make our hometown the best it can be.

Borough Office holidays

The Schuylkill Haven Borough municipal office and employee operations will be closed in observance of the following holidays in 2026: April 3 (Good Friday), May 25 (Memorial Day), July 3 (Independence Day, observed), September 7 (Labor Day), November 11 (Veterans Day), November 26 and 27 (Thanksgiving), and December 24 and 25 (Christmas).

Be a part of our Community Garden

Interested in planting, tending, and harvesting your own fresh produce this summer? The Recreation Department will host a Community Garden meeting at the Rec. Center, 340 Haven St., on Wednesday, March 11. Sign-ups begin at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m.

Are You A Savvy Citizen?

- Continued from Page 1

quick communication can be. There were several occasions when the Borough needed vehicles moved within a few hours so snow removal could be completed safely and efficiently.

Using SAVVY CITIZEN alerts, we were able to notify residents quickly, clear streets in time for plowing, and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians. Your prompt response made a real difference. Thank you to everyone who took action so quickly.

No smartphone? You can stay connected

Residents and business owners who don't use a smartphone can still receive SAVVY CITIZEN notifications by email. When you sign up, simply choose the email option instead of the mobile app, and you'll receive important Borough updates right in your inbox.

To get started, (1) visit schuylkillhaven.org or download the SAVVY CITIZEN app on your smartphone. It's free to use! (2) Create an account and select Schuylkill Haven Borough as your community. (3) Choose how you'd like to receive notifications (app alerts and/or email).

By signing up, you'll receive timely information about snow emergencies and parking restrictions, road closures and detours, public safety notices, community updates, and other important Borough news.

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Bicenterquasquigenary (275th) Comes to a Close

Schuylkill Haven's milestone year of 2025 has come to a close, leaving behind warm memories of meaningful events and a renewed sense of hometown pride.

The 275th Anniversary Committee wrapped up the year with a number of wonderful activities:

- **Commemorative Postal Cancellation:** Thanks to the efforts of our local postmaster, Julie Weiser, the post office created a unique 275th Anniversary postal cancellation stamp, made available during Borough Day.

- **Time Capsule Ceremony:** On October 1st, a time capsule was buried near the old canal gate on Parkway. Former Mayor Michael Devlin dug the hole, and together with Councilman "Doc" Dress, lowered the capsule into place. In addition, the time capsule has been registered with the International Time Capsule Society (ITCS) in Atlanta, GA. Mark your calendars - the capsule will be opened on October 1, 2050.

- **The Eras Dance:** Held on October 25th at the WIAC featured The Fabulous Greaseband. The dance drew a sold-out crowd and brought generations together on the dance floor.

- **Halloween Parade winners:** Girl Scout Troop #32730 - "The Newsies" - took home the Halloween Parade Award. Congratulations to these outstanding young leaders!



- **Festival of Trees:** The 275th Anniversary Historical Christmas Tree, originally displayed for the WIAC's Festival of Trees, has found a permanent home at The Stone House Bed & Breakfast.

- **Service of Thanksgiving:** On November 16, the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches hosted a heartfelt community service featuring Jerusalem's Handbell Choir, the Schuylkill Haven Area Middle School Chorus, and combined choirs from Grace Evangelical, Jerusalem Lutheran, St. Ambrose Roman Catholic, and St. Mary's UCC.

- **Holly Trail finale:** The year concluded with the Holly Trail on November 30th, offering ten beautifully decorated stops. The final stop at the Church of the Nazarene welcomed visitors with refreshments, cookies, and door prizes.

Borough Administrator Jessica Seiders, stated: "The 275th Anniversary Celebration was an outstanding achievement for Schuylkill Haven. I commend the Anniversary Committee for their exceptional leadership and hard work in delivering events all year that celebrated our history and strengthened our sense of community."

A limited supply of 275th Anniversary merchandise is still available for purchase at the Haven Historical Society, 10 W. Columbia Street. Visit any Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon.

None of these year-long celebrations would have been possible without the support of the Borough, our local businesses, generous sponsors, and dedicated volunteers. For all of this, we are deeply grateful. Schuylkill Haven is now more connected than ever - something especially meaningful as we look ahead to celebrating our nation's 250th birthday.

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From the Code Guy

Clear snow and remove ice

It's still winter. Falls are the number one cause of injuries to adults. Reduce this risk for yourself and others in your neighborhood by clearing snow and ice from sidewalks, driveways, and walkways.

Keep these areas shoveled and free from debris. Simply clearing the snow may not be enough to keep the area safe. Ice is always a concern; so, apply sand or rock salt to slippery spots. Pay particular attention to stairs, since they can be hazardous and icy in colder months.

Borough compost area

The compost site located at the end of St. Charles Street, a short distance behind the wastewater treatment plant, is great to aid in your spring yard clean-up. Please remember, the site is for compost items only - grass, weeds, brush, leaf debris and the like.

The following are NOT permissible to be "dumped" at the compost site - trash, garbage, household items, construction material of any kind, dirt, brick, block, stone or like material.

Two services. One story.
Easter Weekend at Grace Free Church

Good Friday

Join us Good Friday for a quiet, meaningful experience as we remember the sacrifice at the center of Easter. Through live music, a short message, and communion, we'll create space to pause, reflect, and consider why this story still matters. Whether you come with questions, faith, or simply curiosity, you're welcome.



Friday, April 3rd
5:30pm & 7:00pm
gfcgoodfriday.com

Easter Sunday

Celebrate Easter with us in a relaxed, family-friendly environment with uplifting music, kids' activities, and a powerful message of hope and new life. Whether church is part of your routine or something you haven't done in a while, you're welcome here. Come as you are—you'll leave encouraged and reminded that hope is alive.



Sunday, April 5th
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
gfceaster.com

Grace Free Church - 10 Hollenbush Lane - Orwigsburg



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Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

Parks and Recreation

Once again Biddy Basketball season was a busy one in Schuylkill Haven. The Recreation Department offered 290 young athletes across all skill levels the opportunity to compete and develop as basketball players.

We will be offering T-Ball in April, May and June for children ages 5 and 6. Registration will open at the end of February. NFL Flag Football will return to the Island in late spring for youngsters, 5 to 16 years old. Our Spring Trout Rodeo at Island Park is late April.

Interested in renting one of our facilities? Email us with the dates and facility you want to rent. We'll help you through the process for your event or special day.

For more information, visit our website - **Havenrec.com** - and **Facebook: Schuylkill Haven Recreation Department**. Send specific questions to our email - havenrec@comcast.net.

- Mykal and Darle with the Rec. Department

Highway Department

The 2026 Street Sweeper returns this spring with two consecutive weeks in April - Tuesday through Friday, April 7 through April 10 and April 14 through 17 - to clear away winter's dirt and debris.

After that, normal operations will be the first Tuesday through Friday each month through November - May 5 through May 8, June 2 through June 5, July 7 through July 10, August 4 through August 7, September 1 through September 4, October 6 through

October 9, and November 3 through November 6.

Hours of operation are 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. Residents should check the sign posted for the weekday on your street. Vehicles must be removed so as to not impede the sweeper. Violators will be ticketed and fined \$15.

Yard waste will be collected every 2nd Friday of the month and must be bagged. Please limit this to yard waste only! No other material should be in the bag - no dirt, rocks, animal waste or garbage.

We find a lot of items other than yard waste when collected. If found guilty of this, your curbside service will be suspended. Also, please limit the weight of each bag. Crew members must throw them on a truck.

The compost area is under video surveillance. Dumping other than compost will be penalized.

As always, we will be milling and hot patching areas of roadway. To report a pothole, call the Borough Office (570-385-2841) to report the location.

- Brian Murray, Foreman

Water Distribution / Wastewater Collection

Spring brings the first of our semi-annual maintenance tasks - flushing our water system through our fire hydrants. Secondly, as we say goodbye to the last remnants of winter's snow and ice, the spring warmth allows for the restoration of street paving dug up when making emergency repairs.

Then in late spring, we start planning and laying out the projects our Water/Sewer Department has budgeted for 2026.

Every homeowner or property owner can assist Borough utilities and emergency responders by doing these easy, but important, items.

- Make sure your building or home has a street/unit address number visible from the street.
- Make sure the Borough Office has your current land-based and/or cell phone number and current address on file.
- Also, set up your account and download the Savvy Citizen app.

All of these reminders just make life easier for everyone. Enjoy this wonderful time of the year; warm weather is on its way!

- Carter Hoffman, Foreman

Water Treatment Plant

Hello, from Tumbling Run, located at the lower end of the beautiful Lewistown Valley. If you noticed the pristine-looking water in our reservoirs, that's where Sch. Haven, Cressona and parts of North Manheim Twp. get their drinking water after treatment.

Not everyone appreciates the beauty, however. We as employees of the Borough of Schuylkill Haven, who by the way owns this portion of the valley, clean highway trash as time permits along with the volunteers of the SKIP (Schuylkill Keep It Pretty) program.

Although swimming and fishing are not allowed, there are a few people that hike and hundreds of people that like to hunt on the property. In order to keep this type of free recreation, we would hope more people would take interest in keeping it clean. If things



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Borough Utilities and Recreation Services

get bad enough, the Borough may restrict all activities.

So the next time you have a beautiful weekend and time for a drive or a hike, try the valley. Note the sign posted at the beginning and the end of the watershed area - "Water Supply Area." That's your drinking water. If you see suspicious activity or someone dumping, call 9-1-1.

- *George Purcell, Chief Operator*

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Wow what a cold winter it has been. We have not had a winter with this much snow and this cold of temperatures in quite some time.

Running a wastewater plant in low temperatures is a very difficult thing to do. Our treatment process is a living thing that takes special conditions for it to be effective and work the way it was designed.

The microscopic organisms that help us treat the sewage thrive in warmer water and tend not to work so well in the cold temps. The second big issue with the cold, and our most frequent, is having pipes freeze. We have many pipes that run all over the yard along with water hoses and chemical feed lines that run constantly. We do our best to flush these lines regularly and this usually helps tremendously.

With warmer weather on its way, that means yard work is right around the corner. Please remember that if you have issues with the Compost Area gate, contact the Borough Office. Do not enter our gated

facility looking for someone to help with the key fob. Our facility could be a very dangerous place and we want everyone to remain safe.

- *Zack Faust, Foreman*

Electric Department

Spring is almost here! It's that time of year when the Borough's Electric Department trims trees away from wires in order to keep your lights on. When trees grow into power lines, they can cause outages and tree fires. This is why it's important the trimmers trim the trees that are under/near power lines.

The Borough's service area is divided into 3-year cycles for trimming and cutting back branches to 10 feet from primary wires (the ones at the top of the pole). Trimmers cut and trim for clearance, not beautification.

Property owners concerned for the appearance of their trees that are encroaching on the electric wires should contract with their own professionals to sculpt their trees, providing that 10-foot clearance the Borough requires. Customers having questions about tree trimming should contact Borough Hall for assistance to get the proper personnel to provide answers.

Utility customers should ensure the placement of a house and/or unit address number is easily seen from the street to assist our crew getting to your problem quickly if an emergency occurs.

- *Jim Haeseler, Foreman*



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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Editor's Note: Area churches are invited to submit news of events and services along with advertising to support this publication. Email South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing at printing@southschuylkill.net for pricing and info.

Faith Church

Even with the snow still falling and the winter lingering longer than we would like, we are reminded that spring is not far away. Beneath the cold ground, new life is already stirring.

In the same way, God is always at work bringing renewal and fresh beginnings even when it doesn't look like it yet.



At Faith Church we are always finding new ways of helping people find new understanding of our purpose and build on our spiritual gifts. We do this through our "Navigating Your Purpose with E's" program.

This is Faith Church's five-class pathway designed to help you live out our mission of Loving God, Loving

People, and Serving the Community. Through Engage, Equip, Empower, Entrust, and Elevate, you'll discover how to join the Faith family, build a strong spiritual foundation, uncover your gifts and where you can serve, and learn how to confidently share the Gospel. Classes are offered year-round, allowing you to take your next steps at a pace that works for you.

As we move toward Easter, we invite you to join us for Good Friday Service. A time to pause and reflect on the powerful sacrifice of Jesus. It prepares us for the joy and victory we celebrate on Easter morning. Reminding us that light breaks through the darkness and the new life He offers each of us.

In addition, our church continues to offer outreach ministries that allow us to serve our community. We also have small groups that create a space for deeper relationships and spiritual growth. Whatever your background or stage of life, there is something here for everyone.

If you are looking for a place to worship, grow, serve, and belong, we would love to have you join us for our Celebration Service on Sundays at 10 a.m.

- Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell

Grace Free Church

You're Not Alone in This! Life can be a lot.

Not in a dramatic, everything-is-on-fire kind of way - but in the steady, everyday weight that builds over time. The kind that comes from responsibilities piling up, expectations pressing in, and the quiet sense that you're carrying more than anyone realizes.

Most people you pass in the grocery store, sit next to at a game, or work alongside during the week are holding something... stress, grief, uncertainty, fatigue, questions they don't have words for yet. And, because life doesn't usually slow down to make space for those things, we learn to just keep moving.

But here's something worth hearing today - You don't have to carry it alone.

God has never asked us to pretend life is easy or to muscle our way through it by sheer strength. Over and over in scripture, we're reminded that His posture toward us is not distant or disappointed - but present and compassionate.

One of the simplest and most grounding promises in the Bible says this... "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

That verse doesn't minimize pain. It doesn't rush healing. It doesn't tell you to hurry up and get it



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Sunday 10 a.m.

www.atfaithchurch.com

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

together. It simply reminds us that God draws close when life feels heavy.

That makes a difference.

It matters when you're tired and don't know why. It matters when you're trying your best and still feel unsure. It matters when life looks fine on the outside but feels heavy on the inside.

Feeling that way doesn't mean something is wrong with you. It means you're human - and, you're not meant to do this on your own.

At Grace Free Church, we believe faith isn't about pretending everything's okay; it's about walking honestly with God and with one another through real life. No pressure. No performance. Just people who need grace, learning to trust a God who is for them.

We also believe community matters. That showing up for one another through encouragement, prayer, and simple reminders of truth can make a real difference over time.

That's why we send a short, encouraging email each week. Nothing heavy, nothing pushy. Just a few hopeful words to remind you that you're not alone, God is with you, and grace is still at work - right where you are.

If that sounds like something you could use, you're welcome to sign up at gracefreechurch.net/encourage.

And if you're looking for a church that feels a little different - honest, welcoming, and centered on grace - we'd love to have you at Grace Free Church. Whether you're full of faith, full of questions, or somewhere in between, there's room for you here. Go to visitgfc.com for more information.

You're not alone. God is for you. And, we are too.
- Lead Pastor Josh Ott

St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church

As our country prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, St. Ambrose Parish will also be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the establishment as a parish in 1851. We look forward to sharing more information in the May issue of *Haven Highlights* - stay tuned!

This year, Lent at St. Ambrose began on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 with a Mass and distribution of ashes at 9 a.m., 4 and 7 p.m.

We welcome and invite everyone from our surrounding communities to join us on Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. for our Taize Prayer Service. This is an ecumenical service that is a night of prayer and silence. As we gather with one another and in the presence of Christ, we will sing hymns of simple thoughts and few words, allowing the mystery of God to



become tangible through the beauty of simplicity. As we gather with one another, we unite our hearts with our Savior into whose journey to Calvary we will soon enter.

For a complete schedule of services during Lent, such as: Family Friendly Stations of the Cross, Soup & Movie Night, Holy Hour for Vocations, please visit our website at: www.stambrosehaven.com or scan the QR code in our ad.

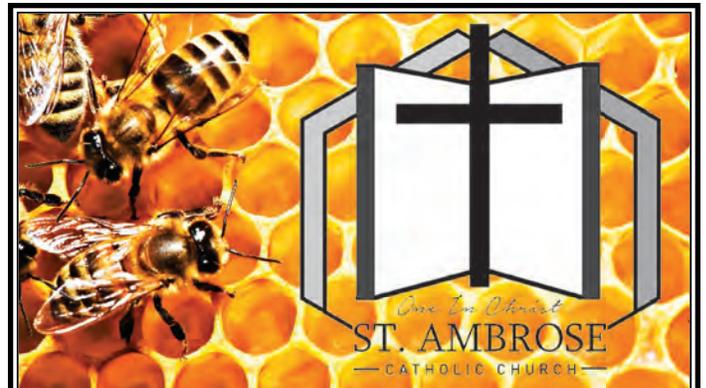
We invite you to join St. Ambrose on **FORMED.org**, that also features thousands of videos, e-books, and programs. For example, the Search area leads people to the deepest questions of the human heart, i.e. What Do You Seek? Who Are You? Why a God? to explore the meaning and purpose of life. The Search Continues answers commonly searched questions about the Catholic faith.



Scan the QR Code shown above or visit: signup.formed.org and enter our parish zip code: 17972

Don't forget to pick up your Welcome Bag when you visit St. Ambrose.

- Rev. Msgr. Edward Zemanik



Please Join Us - Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 p.m.

Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays - Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.

First Fridays 12:30 p.m.

St. Ambrose Catholic Church

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www.stambrosehaven.com

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Edward S. Zemanik, M.Div



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