

Columbia Borough Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2012



Incredible Views from
River Park

NEW ADDITIONS TO RIVER PARK

Columbia Borough Council and staff continue to pursue available grant funding opportunities to help develop and revitalize River Park. A new pavilion and railroad fence was erected during the fall and winter months and public works crews assembled and installed new picnic tables and benches. Recycling containers are now in place and all of the street lights that were vandalized have been repaired.

The borough has received funding through the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority to complete the roadway improvements on Walnut Street from the railroad tracks to the waters edge. These improvements will be completed this summer. In addition, the borough is hoping to complete the restroom facilities and the "Trail-Head Services Building" which will include canoe and kayak rentals, an elevated pavilion, restrooms and an information services kiosk, during the summer of 2012.

NEW LOOK FOR DOWNTOWN



The Columbia Borough Highway Department employees have spent the past several months replacing old wiring and installing new energy efficient street lights in the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Locust Street for safety and security purposes. Once the street lights have all been installed, new street trees will be strategically planted to provide shade and to enhance the overall appearance of the downtown.

Beauty strips with brick inlays continue to be installed, with the help of the boy scouts and students from the Columbia High School, to give the downtown a more historical appearance.



Dates to Remember

**Yard Waste
Collection Begins**
Mondays beginning
4/09/12

**Annual Spring
Clean-up**
Friday 4/27/12 Curbside

**Earth Day - Saha
Salvage**
Saturday 4/28/12
9am-1pm

**Annual 5K
River Run/Walk**
Saturday 5/26/12
7:30am-12pm

Memorial Day Parade
Sunday 5/27/12 2:30pm

**Holy Trinity Parish
Festival**
6/6/12-6/9/12
6pm-10pm

**Crusin Columbia Car
Show**
Saturday 6/16/12
10am-3pm

**Antique, Art & Craft
Show**
Saturday 6/30/12
9am-3pm



Recycle...Recycle...Recycle



Columbia Borough Code, in accordance with Act 101, specifies that all commercial establishments must have a recycling program.

When Act 101 was passed in 1988, it mandated communities with a population greater than 5,000 residents, with a population density of 300 per square mile, to implement commercial and residential recycling programs. Having a population of approximately 10,311 residents, Columbia Borough is well within the limitations of this requirement.

Chapter 18, Article II, Section 9 of the Columbia Borough code specifies that "all persons [commercial & residential] within the borough shall source separate designated recyclable materials."

Additionally, this Chapter outlines the violations and penalties that can be issued for non-compliance. Establishing a recycling program may seem like a large task for some businesses, so the borough has designated a Recycling Coordinator to help walk individuals through this process. Please contact Ron Miller at 717-684-2654 x29.

The following items are required to be recycled:

Clear Glass, Colored Glass, Aluminum, Steel Cans, Newsprint, Yard Waste, Plastics, Tires, White Goods (large appliances), High Grade Office Paper and Corrugated Cardboard

How?

Article III, Section 11 specifies

that "each person who owns a non-residential or multifamily dwelling unit shall contract with a licensed hauler for the collection, transportation, and disposal of regulated municipal waste and designated recyclables produced at such unit to a facility and to accomplish the same shall:

-Provide recycling containers at easily accessible locations for source separation of recyclables.

Biodegradable Bags and Recycle Bins
Brown biodegradable (paper) bags are available for purchase at the Borough Office which is located at 308 Locust Street for \$.75 each or 3 for \$2.00. Recycle bins are also available for \$7.00

DID YOU KNOW???

Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority located at 1299 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17604 opened a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site in 2006.

Residents of Lancaster County can drop off household hazardous waste including but not limited to: Computers, Pesticides, Paint, Adhesives, Household Cleaners and Propane Tanks. For more information visit their website at www.lcswma.org or call 717-397-9968

COLUMBIA BOROUGH SPRING CLEANUP

Friday April 27, 2012
 Curbside Collection from 7:00am-Noon

Acceptable Items (Yellow Tag—\$20ea):

Refrigerator/Freezer (doors removed)	
Dehumidifier	Air Conditioner
Washer/Dryer	Dishwasher
Television	Trash Compactor
Stove	Double Sink
Bathtub	Sofa/Furniture
Water Heater	

Acceptable Items (Blue Tag—\$5ea):

Mattress/Box Spring	Rug/Carpet
VCR Stereo	Microwave
Grills (no gas tanks)	Toilet
Tires (pair)	Push/electric Lawnmower

Unacceptable Items:

paint cans	shingles	engines
gas tanks	vinyl flooring	bricks
yard waste	garbage	concrete blocks

TAGS ARE REQUIRED AND MUST BE PLACED ON THE ITEMS TO BE REMOVED. TAGS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BOROUGH OFFICE 8am-4:30pm

NOTICE:
MUNICIPAL TAXES

Beginning April 2, 2012 Municipal Tax payments will be collected at the Borough Office at 308 Locust Street. Checks should be made payable to Columbia Borough. Office hours are Monday thru Friday 8am to 4:30pm.

CODE DEPARTMENT NEWS**Cats and Dogs**

According to Borough Code, it is unlawful for the owner of any cat or dog to allow such animal to run at large upon the public streets of the municipality or upon the property of

others unless accompanied by the owner.

No person owning, harboring, keeping or in charge of any cat or dogs shall cause or allow such animal to defecate upon any other person's private property without the permission of such other person or upon any public property. Where such person shall immediately remove all feces deposited by the animal and dispose of the same in a sanitary manner.

Trash and Refuse

-No person shall permit any refuse to accumulate within a building or structure or anywhere on the property for a period of longer than seven days.

-No person shall deposit, throw or place refuse on the property of another without the consent of the owner.

-Persons owning, renting and/or occupying property in the Borough shall keep the sidewalks in the front, rear and side(s) of their premises broom clean and free of litter and refuse.

-No empty boxes, barrels, appliances, furniture, household fixtures, commercial fixtures or any other refuse of any kind shall be left upon any pavement, sidewalk, street or alley within the Borough

BUDGET INFORMATION

Real Estate Millage of 8.0 remains in effect for 2012
(1 mill = \$1.00 for every \$1,000 of assessed value)

Revenue for the General Fund is projected at \$4,728,871.

The majority of the revenue stream comes from three sources:

- 58% from Real Estate Taxes
- 15% from Earned Income Tax
- 27% realized through licenses, fines, interest, rentals and inter-governmental revenue

Operating Expenses for the General Fund are projected the same for a balanced budget and include the following:

- 51% is attributed to police
- 15% covers insurances
- 13% is devoted to public works
- 21% is attributed to administration, solicitor, general government, municipal buildings, market house and community Investment.

LERTA Ordinance 803 (Residential)

The Borough enacted this ordinance in 2009 in conjunction with the Columbia School District for tax exemptions from real estate and school taxes for improvements to deteriorated dwellings located within the Historic District of the Borough. The ordinance remains in effect until June 2014. For more information please contact the Borough offices.



RAIN is important for replenishing drinking water supplies, recreation, and healthy wildlife habitats but can become a problem when pollutants like pesticides, organic impurities, asbestos, chlorine and animal feces get into water supplies. The following are ways you can help prevent storm water pollution:

- Dispose of hazardous substances such as oil, cleaning supplies and paint; never pour them down any part of the storm sewer system, and report any one who does.
- Dispose of trash in the proper receptacles.
- Use pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess in the backyard or at the park storm water runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system to a stream.
- Report any discharges from storm water outfalls during times of dry weather which is a sign that there could be a problem with the storm sewer system.
- Look for signs of soil and other pollutants, such as debris and chemicals, leaving construction sites that could impact storm water runoff to your community.
- Store materials that could pollute storm water indoors and use containers for outdoor storage that do not rust or leak to eliminate exposure of materials to storm water.
- Install innovative storm water practices on residential property, such as rain barrels or rain gardens that capture storm water and keep it on site instead of letting it drain away into the storm sewer system.

POLICE NOTES



With Spring and Summer approaching, the Columbia Borough Police Department wishes all of you a happy and healthy outdoor season.

The warm weather is already upon us and many of you have already increased your outdoor activity. While enjoying the outdoors, please remember the following:

Bicycles: It is unlawful for any person to ride or operate a bicycle upon a street or public place within the Borough unless said bicycle has been properly registered and tagged. By properly registering your bicycle at the Columbia Police Station, it will assist in reuniting the bicycle with its owner as well as to deter theft. **The registration fee is \$1.00.** State Law prohibits all persons under the age of 12 from operating or riding as a passenger on a pedal cycle (bicycle) without wearing a bicycle helmet.

Curfew: Persons under the age of 18, may not enter or remain in a public place or establishment in the Borough of Columbia during curfew hours. The curfew hours are 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday and 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Aggressive Driving: The Columbia Borough Police Department will increase enforcement efforts on aggressive driving violations. Some of the targeted aggressive driving violations are Maximum Speed Limits, Following Too Closely, No Passing Zones, Turn Signals Required, Obedience to Traffic Control Devices, and Stop Signs and Yield Signs, among others. Many of these violations are direct contributors to accidents.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



The Columbia Public Works Department is presently installing more than 3000 feet of new electrical conduit, new wiring and new LED street lights on Locust Street, Third Street and Fourth Street. This project is possible thanks to a Lancaster County Urban Enhancement Grant. When complete, Columbia Borough will be one of the very first to have this new, cost saving technology utilized in a municipality.

Public Works crews will be very busy this summer repairing many of the collapsed and broken storm drains and inlets which were damaged during last years storm events. Several of these repair projects will require road closures and complete restorations such as N. Fifth Street and Chiques Creek and at Norwood Road and Ironville Pike. Roadway paving that was scheduled for this season will depend greatly on oil prices stabilizing and the amount of emergency repairs that crews can complete.

Yard Waste Recycling

The Borough Farm is open to receive yard waste on the Second Saturday of each month, year round, from 8am-Noon. Please remember that absolutely no trash may be mixed in with the yard waste however brown biodegradable yard waste bags are acceptable.

The Borough Farm is located at 254 Blue Lane, Columbia, PA



HISTORIC MARKET HOUSE NEWS

In 2011 Columbia Borough created the Columbia Historic Market Trust. A

Board consisting of 7 volunteers from the community. On January 9, 2012 the Borough turned over management and control of the market to the Trust. Members of the new Trust Board are Dave Rupp, Chair; Don Haines, Vice Chair; Elaine Beckley, Treasurer; Rebecca Murphy, Secretary; Ed Schopf and two new members spots to be filled shortly.

The mission of the Trust is to improve and maintain operations in a manner that facilitates the economic health of stand holders' businesses while remaining consistent with traditional market and historic preservation standards; and respond to stand holder, consumer, and community input on matters related to market operations.

Stop in at the market and discover what you are missing. You will find fresh produce, lunch meat and cheeses, subs, baked goods, lunch foods, canned and dry goods, natural soaps and lotions, jewelry, antiques and crafts, Watkins products, fresh potato chips, cake pops and Avon products. You can even get a massage.

Welcome new vendor on March 15th - Lydia's Flower Corner. Lydia Fisher carries pansies and other potted plants, hanging baskets, terrariums, vegetable plants, and house plants.

The market is open on Thursdays from 9am to 7pm and on Fridays from 9am to 6pm.

PHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

Emergency
911

Columbia Borough Police
717-684-7735

Comcast Cable
1-800-266-2278

Columbia Public Library
717-684-2255

**Susquehanna Valley
Chamber of Commerce**
717-684-5249

District Magistrate
717-684-2761

Susq. Valley EMS
717-684-2400

Columbia Borough QRS
717-449-5027