

# Borough of St Lawrence

3540 St. Lawrence Avenue  
Reading PA 19606-2372

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
READING, PA  
PERMIT No. 718

# ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH

Volume 17 Issue 2

MAY 2011

## BOROUGH CURFEW - MINORS UNDER THE AGE OF 18

The curfew prohibits minors under the age of 18 to be or remain in or upon any of the streets, alleys, parks or public places in the Borough between the hours of 12:00 AM (Midnight) and 5:00 AM, official prevailing time, unless accompanied by a parent or person charged with control after an event or activity which ended between the limiting hours, except while traveling home from such an event or activity, and additionally exempting the minor while in front of their immediate home, or unless such minor is in lawful employment making it necessary to be in such places between said hours; or unless there exists a reasonable necessity, which would include an errand for a parent.

## DEPOSIT NOW REQUIRED FOR BUILDING PERMITS

A deposit is now required for all UCC commercial and residential building code permits at time of application. A deposit of \$150.00 is required for residential and \$300.00 for commercial permits. The deposit is drawn down and if review fees exceed the original deposit amount, the applicant will be asked for an additional deposit to complete the review process. If an application is withdrawn, the deposit will be refunded minus any reviews fees already incurred. Prior to the permit being issued, all fees must be paid.

## ZONING PERMITS REQUIRED

No building or structure, except temporary fences such as snow fences and fences around construction sites, shall be erected, constructed, assembled, extended, reconstructed, replaced, demolished, converted, moved, added to or structurally altered, nor shall land, buildings and structures be put to any use or have their use changed, without a permit therefore issued by the Zoning Officer. Zoning Permit is required for Timber Harvesting.

Zoning permits are needed for Home Occupations, No-Impact Home based Businesses, major planting, sheds, pools, new commercial tenants, any construction, etc. The permits assists Borough staff in determining if any other permits are needed prior to your project starting. State mandated construction rules (including plumbing and electrical) require permits and inspections for certain projects. If obtained after the fact, work may be required to be redone to meet code requirements. Zoning Permit applications are available on the website AND ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO FILE.

## NEW OR REPLACEMENT SWIMMING POOL WITH A WATER DEPTH OF 24" OR GREATER?

See next page

## FEMA FLOOD MAP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is updating flood hazard data and maps for Berks County through an effort called Flood Map Modernization. The results are revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). The new maps have an updated base map that will improve the accuracy of floodplain determinations. This multi-year project has re-examined flood zones using new topographic data and aerial imagery resulting in changes to the flood zones. Some properties have been moved into higher risk zones, while some have moved to lower risk zones. The FIRM maps may be found online at [www.rampp-team.com/pa.htm](http://www.rampp-team.com/pa.htm) Select Berks County, select Index 1 for the northern half of the county and Index 2 for the southern half, then click the panel of your choice.

As part of the process of updating the FIRM maps, the Borough must also update the Floodplain Ordinance and hold public hearings concerning the changes during the summer.

For additional information about the National Flood Insurance Program: [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

## IMPORTANT DATES

May 26	Trash pick up
May 30	Memorial Day—Office Closed
June 3	Trash & Recycling
June 6	Yard Waste Pick up—Please call Borough Office for pick up @610-779-1430
June 8	Borough Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
June 9, 16, 23, 30	Trash Pick up
June 16, 30	Recycling
June 20	Playground Opens
June 22	Planning Commission Mtg—7:30 PM
July 4	OFFICE AND PLAYGROUND CLOSED
July 8	Trash Pickup
July 14, 21, 28	Trash Pickup
July 14, 28	Recycling
July 14	Borough Council Meeting - 7:30PM
July 27	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:30 PM
August 4, 11, 18, 25	Trash Pick up
August 11, 25	Recycling
August 11	Borough Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
August 24	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:30 PM
September 1, 9, 15, 22, 29	Trash Pick up
September 9, 22	Recycling
September 8	Borough Council Meeting - 7:30 PM
September 28	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:30 PM

**NEW OR REPLACEMENT SWIMMING POOL WITH A WATER DEPTH OF 24" OR GREATER? STATE LAW REQUIRES YOU TO OBTAIN A UCC BUILDING PERMIT ZONING PERMIT ALSO REQUIRED**

Temporary, semi-permanent and permanent pool installations require a zoning permit and a UCC building permit, including inflatable pools.

The first step is a Zoning Permit, which allows Borough staff to determine if the pool placement will interfere with the house sewer line, cleanout and/or vent. Pool/deck placement must be a minimum of 10 feet from the sewer line. You may be required to move a pool from an existing location when it is changed to avoid placement within the right-of-way.

After receiving Zoning Permit approval, a UCC building permit is required. General requirements:

- \* A barrier that completely surrounds the pool and obstructs access.
- \* A self closing and latching gate that swings away from the pool is required.
- \* Above ground pools require a detachable or folding ladder or steps with self closing and latching gate.
- \* GFCI general use receptacle between 10' and 20' from pool
- \* Fences shall be designed to not allow the passage of a 4" sphere or create a ladder affect.
- \* Pump motor receptacles within 5' to 10' of the pool must be locking and GFCI type.
- \* No receptacles within 5' of pool wall
- \* No overhead wires
- \* Temporary pool permits issued for 5 years so long as no changes are made to the placement of the pool in regards to electrical and barrier requirements.

**YARD SALE DON'TS**

- ◆ BLOCK THE SIDEWALK
- ◆ HAVE MORE THAN FOUR PER YEAR OR IT IS A BUSINESS AND YOU NEED TO HAVE A ZONING PERMIT
- ◆ BLOCK NEIGHBORS DRIVEWAYS
- ◆ POST SIGNS ON TELEPHONE POLES
- ◆ LEAVE YOUR SIGNS FOR OTHERS TO REMOVE

**REMINDER: COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 8**

**POSTING OF SIGNS ON UTILITY POLES, TREES, ETC**

Borough Ordinance #325 Section 7. Posting of Signs: No person shall append or affix or cause to be appended or affixed by nailing, tacking, hanging or otherwise append-ing any sign, notice or advertisement of any kind whatsoever upon any tree, post, electric pole or pillar of any description within a street.

It is also a violation of State Law.

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR - CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET, CONTROL THEM AND THE NOISE THEY MAKE AND CURB YOUR ANIMALS WHEN**

**TAKING A WALK**

ORDINANCE 325 PROVIDES FOR THE PEACE, COMFORT, SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE OF PERSONS IN THE BOROUGH ALONG WITH PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE AND ORDINANCE 304 - NOISE

- ◆ YOU MUST BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR ANIMAL AT ALL TIMES - YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ALLOW YOUR ANIMAL TO RUN AT LARGE
- ◆ YOU MUST REMOVE ANIMAL FECES FROM YOUR YARD IN A SANITARY MANNER BEFORE IT BECOMES A NUISANCE
- ◆ YOU MUST REMOVE ANIMAL FECES IMMEDIATELY FROM ANY PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT YOURS AND THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY (BETWEEN SIDEWALK AND CURB LINE)
- ◆ YOU MAY NOT ALLOW YOUR ANIMAL TO CREATE A NOISE NUISANCE FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF TEN MINUTES OR INTERMITTENTLY FOR 30 MINUTES, DAY OR NIGHT, REGARDLESS IF IT IS IN OR ON YOUR PRIVATE PROPERTY, UNLESS TEASED OR PROVOKED.

**PA LIONS DISTRICT 14-P YOUTH EXCHANGE LOOKING FOR HOST FAMILIES**

Host families are needed beginning in late July, for a 3-1/2 week cultural youth exchange with 8 students from Japan. On Wednesday, July 20, two boys and six girls will arrive at the Philadelphia Airport and depart on August 15. While not necessary, it is suggested that a host family have children within the students' age 14 - 16 group. The exchange student becomes an additional member of your family expecting to do all things that your family has planned for that time period (day trips, going out to dinner, vacation, etc). The youth are expected to help with minor chores your children would do (sweep, dishes, fold wash, etc.). The host family is expected to provide meals and housing. The students will be responsible for their travel expense to and from Japan and a little spending money for gifts to take home. If you are interested or would like additional information please contact Lion Richard Taylor, PDG by email @ pennoak@gmail.com or by phone @ 610-444-1911.

**PENNSYLVANIA PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM**

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. **The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2010 is June 30, 2011.**

<b>INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS FOR PA PROPERTY TAX RENT REBATE PROGRAM</b>		
	<b>INCOME*</b>	<b>MAXIMUM STANDARD REBATE</b>
<b>Homeowners:</b>	\$0 to \$8,000	\$ 650
	\$8,001 to \$15,000	\$ 500
	\$15,001 to \$18,000	\$ 300
	\$18,001 to 35,000	\$ 250
<b>Renters:</b>	\$0 to \$8,000	\$ 650
	\$8,001 to \$15,000	\$ 500

\* Remember to exclude one-half of Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income and/or Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits when calculating total household eligibility income.

**Berks County Office of Aging /610-478-6500 - Fax 610-478-6886**

County Services Center - 8th Floor or [www.berksaging.org](http://www.berksaging.org)

If you are over 60, have a relative over 60 or are a caregiver ...we are here to help! Finding the answers to questions on aging can be a daunting task. Information is available in so many places it becomes hard to make sense of it all. We help to find all of the information you need and provide it for you.

The Berks County Office of Aging was organized in 1974. It is the unit of county government designated by the Berks County Commissioners as the Area Agency on Aging. It is one of fifty-two Area Agencies on Aging in Pennsylvania.

The Berks County Office of Aging serves county residents with comprehensive services for our over 60 population. As your area agency on aging we provide a variety of services and programs to assist families and individuals over 60 achieve independence to be self sufficient. Whether you require senior center services, in-home services, a comprehensive assessment, information and referral services, care management, caregiver support services, protective services, adult day care centers we are here to help you acquire those services. We are proud to be here to serve our aging community.

- Information and referral Housing assistance,
- Home-delivered meals ,Specialized transportation
- Nursing home assistance , Benefit programs
- Senior Centers , Counseling, Legal services
- Protection from abuse & exploitation
- Assessment / Care management
- Ombudsman, Congregate meals
- Family caregiver support, Volunteer services
- Adult day services, Insurance counseling
- Employment services,
- Foster Grandparent program

# ORDINANCES OF INTEREST

## ORDINANCE # 388 BURN BAN

An Ordinance promoting the health, safety and general welfare of residents of the Borough by regulating open burning and/or outdoor fires, and regulating bonfires, outdoor fireplaces, indoor fireplaces, indoor wood burning and coal stoves, incinerators, handling of ashes and combustible rubbish and providing for the enforcement thereof.

Outdoor grills are allowed for the sole purpose of cooking food and may not be used indoors. Outdoor stoves are permitted on residential private property so long as smoke, ash or odor doesn't become offensive or objectionable to neighboring properties.

The burning of trash or construction debris is not allowed. The full ordinance may be seen on the Borough website.

## ORDINANCE # 392 Section 801 ZONING PERMITS REQUIRED

No building or structure, except temporary fences such as snow fences and fences around construction sites, shall be erected, constructed, assembled, extended, reconstructed, replaced, demolished, converted, moved, added to or structurally altered, nor shall land, buildings and structures be put to any use or have their use changed, without a permit therefore issued by the Zoning Officer. Zoning Permit is required for Timber Harvesting.

Zoning permits are needed for Home Occupations, No-Impact Home based Businesses, major planting, sheds, pools, new commercial tenants, any construction, etc.

The permits assists Borough staff in determining if any other permits are needed prior to your project starting. State mandated construction rules (including plumbing and electrical) require permits and inspections for certain projects. If obtained after the fact, work may be required to be redone to meet code requirements. Zoning Permit applications are available on the website AND ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO FILE.

## ORDINANCE #396

### LANDLORD/TENANT REGISTRATION

All landlords and their units for rent must be registered with the Borough. All tenants, commercial and residential, must be registered by the landlord within thirty (30) days of occupancy.

This ordinance may be found on the Borough website. Penalties are stated in the ordinance.

## ORDINANCE #399 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE 2009

All properties, buildings and structures must be maintained so they are safe, sanitary and safe for occupation and use. Highlights of the code are listed below:

- \* grass and weeds not to exceed 10 inches in height
- \* All accessory structures, including *detached* garages, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.
- \* **Motor vehicles.** Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any *premises*, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.
- \* Swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair.
- \* Buildings shall have *approved* address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm).
- \* The interior of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition. *Occupants* shall keep that part of the structure which they occupy or control in a clean and sanitary condition.
- \* All *exterior property* and *premises*, and the interior of every structure, shall be free from any accumulation of *rubbish* or garbage.
- \* Every *occupant* of a structure shall dispose of all *rubbish* in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such *rubbish* in *approved* containers
- \* All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent *infestation*. All structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by *approved* processes that will not be injurious to human health. After *pest elimination*, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation.

A copy of the IPMC 2009 may be seen at:

<http://publiccodes.citation.com/icod/ipmc/2009/index.htm>

# STORMWATER

As part of the ongoing NPDES MS4 permit process with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) and the federal Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the Borough must provide educational information to our residents.

## What Is An "Illicit Discharge"?

Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as "...any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater..."

Table 1

SOURCES OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES
Sanitary wastewater
Effluent from septic tanks
Car wash wastewaters
Improper oil disposal
Laundry wastewaters
Spills from roadway accidents
Improper disposal of auto toxics
Improper disposal of household toxics

with some exceptions. These exceptions include discharges from NPDES-permitted industrial sources and discharges from fire-fighting activities.

Illicit discharges (see Table 1) are considered "illicit" because MS4s are not designed to accept, process, or discharge such non-stormwater wastes.

## Why Are Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Efforts Necessary?

Discharges from MS4s often include wastes and wastewater from non-stormwater sources. A study conducted in 1987 in Sacramento, California, found that almost one-half of the water discharged from a local MS4 was not directly attributable to precipitation runoff. A significant portion of these dry weather flows were from illicit and/or inappropriate discharges and connections to the MS4.

Illicit discharges enter the system through either direct connections (e.g., wastewater piping either mistakenly or deliberately connected to the storm drains) or indirect connections (e.g., infiltration into the MS4 from cracked sanitary systems, spills collected by drain outlets, or paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain). The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, sol-

vents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving water-bodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in EPA studies to be high enough to significantly degrade receiving water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

For information on recycling the following items:

- ◇ Appliances
- ◇ Athletic shoes
- ◇ Copper, lead & brass
- ◇ Car batteries
- ◇ Car tires
- ◇ Cooking oil
- ◇ Dehumidifier disposal
- ◇ Disposal of fire extinguishers
- ◇ Disposal of medwaste
- ◇ Drop off items for reuse
- ◇ Electronic items recycling
- ◇ Junk automobiles
- ◇ Vehicle fluids
- ◇ Vinyl Siding

GO TO: <http://www2.co.berks.pa.us/swa/site/default.asp>

Select recycling centers , select item type

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING CENTER

1316 HILLTOP RD., LEESPORT

OPEN EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY

8 AM - NOON

ELECTRONIC ITEMS ACCEPTED:

Computers, Monitors, Laptops, Keyboards, Modems, Printers, Radios, Stereos, Televisions, VCRs, Fax Machines, Copiers, Telephones, Answering Machines, Mobile Phones, Microwaves, Fluorescent bulbs, Air Conditioners and Dehumidifiers (no refrigerators or freezers)

FEE SCHEDULE: may change

All Electronic Items (except TV's)	\$2.00 each
TV's	\$20.00 each
Batteries	Free of Charge

# RECREATION NEWS

## EASTER EGG HUNT - THANK YOU

Thank you for making the 2011 Borough Egg Hunt a huge success. Despite chilly temperatures and a bit of wind, the Easter Bunny arrived by fire truck courtesy of Mt. Penn Fire Company. Prior to the hunt the Bunny had help stuffing and placing the eggs by the following: Debbra Williams (Susquehanna Bank); Mary Harris, Paul Leinbach & Gini Meyer (Antietam Valley Lions Club); Katie Eggert, Derrek Rhoads & Stephen Wickert (2011 Playground Leaders); Chelsee Overly; Chloe Eggert,; Nikki Johnson, The Whitman Family and Mike Fritz. Thank you to the following for their generous donations: Mt. Penn Seniors , Janelle Hartman and .the residents of the Borough who dropped off candy and made monetary contributions.

## SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

The Summer Program will run from Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday August 12<sup>th</sup> on the municipal playground. Registration is required to participate in the summer program. Registration packets will be available at Borough Hall and on the Borough website starting June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Staffed playground hours will be 9 AM to 12 PM and 6 PM to 9 PM. During the staffed hours, the leaders will provide arts & crafts; organized play; free play; tournaments and team sports. There is no fee to attend the playground program.

Along with the regular activities there are special events and specialty arts & crafts projects that will run in both the morning and evening sessions that may have a cost associated with them, typically the charge is between 50¢ and \$2.00. Special events include carnival games (stuffed animal prizes) with a charge and movie night with no charge. Specialty arts & crafts projects include ceramic banks, sand art bottles and tie dye. The charges help offset the cost of providing the special activities.

## PLAYGROUND LEADERS SUMMER 2011

Four leaders will be directing this summer's program, two returning and two new leaders. With four leaders rotating on the schedule, we can have extra staff to run special events.

The returning leaders:

**Katie Eggert** - a 2011 graduate of Exeter High School and lifelong resident of St. Lawrence. She will be attending Penn State Berks in the fall. Katie looks forward to another rewarding summer playing bombardment, arts & crafts, and bowling.

**Brittany Brice** - attends Penn State Berks majoring in kinesiology. She looks forward to seeing the kids again this summer for a mean game of bombardment, volley ball and soccer.

The new leaders:

**Derrek Rhoads** - a 2011 graduate of Twin Valley High School. He attended an organized playground program in the past and looks forward to a great summer. Derrek enjoys bowling; roller, deck and ice hockey; and playing handball.

**Stephen Wickert** - will be a Senior this fall at Exeter High School and is a member of National Honor Society, Latin Club, Spanish Club and Chem Magic. Stephen looks forward to working with the kids this summer and learning the St. Lawrence way of playing bombardment.

All the leaders are certified in First Aid and CPR. If at any time an adult disagrees the action of a leader, they need to contact Borough Hall.

## PLAYGROUND EVENING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>20-Jun</b>	<b>21-Jun</b>	<b>22-Jun</b>	<b>23-Jun</b>	<b>24-Jun</b>
Opening Day	Team Family Feud			KICK OFF THE SUMMER PARTY OPEN UNTIL 9:30 PM
Favorite Vacation T-Shirt	Craft Night	Obstacle Course	Parents Vs. Kids Kick Ball	
<b>27-Jun</b>	<b>28-Jun</b>	<b>29-Jun</b>	<b>30-Jun</b>	<b>1-Jul</b>
Crazy Hair Day	Relay Games	Crazy Socks		Picnic Games
Box Hockey Tournament	Craft Night	Checkers Tournament	Team Competition	Bike Rodeo
<b>4-Jul</b>	<b>5-Jul</b>	<b>6-Jul</b>	<b>7-Jul</b>	<b>8-Jul</b>
<b>CLOSED</b>	Craft Night	Yahtzee Tournament	Team Competition	Fiesta Night
<b>11-Jul</b>	<b>12-Jul</b>	<b>13-Jul</b>	<b>14-Jul</b>	<b>15-Jul</b>
Favorite Stuffed Animal	Four Square Tournament	Jump Rope		Talent Show
Tether Ball Tournament	Craft Night	Bingo	Team Competition	Everybody's Birthday
<b>18-Jul</b>	<b>19-Jul</b>	<b>20-Jul</b>	<b>21-Jul</b>	<b>22-Jul</b>
Hopscotch	Ping Pong			Luau
	Craft Night	Hula Hoop Contest	Team Competition	Water Games
<b>TRACK &amp; FIELD COMPETITION</b>			<b>FINAL</b>	
<b>25-Jul</b>	<b>26-Jul</b>	<b>27-Jul</b>	<b>28-Jul</b>	<b>29-Jul</b>
Hat Show	Spin Art			Favorite Superhero
<b>CARNIVAL DAYS</b>			Team Competition	Movie Night
<b>1-Aug</b>	<b>2-Aug</b>	<b>3-Aug</b>	<b>4-Aug</b>	<b>5-Aug</b>
	Twins Day	Relay Races		
BINGO	Craft Night	Sidewalk Chalk Competition	Team Competition	Movie Night
<b>8-Aug</b>	<b>9-Aug</b>	<b>10-Aug</b>	<b>11-Aug</b>	<b>12-Aug</b>
Craft Night	Craft Night	Craft Night	Craft Night	
Leader Trivial	Leader's Choice	Leader's Choice	Team Competition	Wacky Awards