

EDGEWOOD

April / May 2019

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF EDGEWOOD BOROUGH

Edgewood Cleanup Day: An Earth Day Event

Saturday, April 20, 2019

In celebration of Earth Day, we will clean up the neighborhood! To volunteer, meet with our organizer at Koenig Field. Reflective vests, gloves, trash bags and light refreshments are provided to all. More Details on page 9. This event is sponsored by The Edgewood Foundation.

Questions or Suggestions?
Email Cleanup@EdgewoodFoundation.org

Tball and Softball Registration Opens

Monday, April 15 Through
Monday, May 15.
Details on Page 11

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 13 at Noon
at Koenig Field.
More info on page 11

REDUCE AND REUSE BEFORE YOU RECYCLE

As you may know, recycling has changed a lot in recent days. We are not able to rely on recycling as the foundation of “being green” or reducing our carbon footprint as much as we once believed.

It's very important now, to first REDUCE and REUSE to lower our waste output as a community.

See below for a few tips and tricks to REDUCE our waste and REUSE items as much as possible! These tips are great for reducing waste—and saving money at the same time.

1. Use old t-shirts as rags in the kitchen or for general cleaning.
2. Ditch paper towels for reusable cloth or bamboo towels. This tip is a huge money-saver.
3. Save plastic and glass food containers for storage. Pasta sauce jars can be reused endlessly!
4. Stow reusable bags in your car or bag so you remember to take them shopping.
5. Shop in bulk! The East End Food Co-Op on Penn Avenue has a number of staple items available—all free of plastic packaging! Not only can you ditch the packaging, but you can buy exactly the amount you need.
6. Use reusable bags for fruits and veggies—avoid those useless paper-thin plastic bags that go straight in the trash.
7. Go thrifting! If you need an item—first see if you can borrow from a friend—then go thrifting! Buying new items should be “Plan C”. Habitat for Humanity Re-Store in Swissvale has an incredible stock of furniture, and St. Vincent DePaul, also on Church Street in Swissvale, has a great supply of useful treasures that you're saving from the trash—and eliminating the need for another new item.
8. Avoid purchasing plastic. Plastic is one of the longest-lasting materials humans use—go for bamboo, wood or aluminum items first! Beware—rayon, acrylic and polyester clothing are ALL plastic-based. Go for natural fibers like cotton, bamboo, silk, or linen instead.
9. Bring your own cup! Use a reusable coffee cup and carry a reusable (non-plastic) water bottle. You can even find small utensil kits to stash in your purse or backpack to eliminate the need for plastic forks or spoons while you're on the go.
10. Make your own lunch. Bringing a bag lunch from home is not only a great way to save money, but you'll save a ton of plastic waste from utensils, cups and food containers.
11. Replace the baggies. There are non-plastic food wraps made from cloth covered in beeswax you can re-use over and over! You can find non-plastic options for food storage at almost any big box store these days. You can replace plastic baggies and wrap with food-safe cloth bags and wraps for nearly the same price, considering how much they are able to be reused.
12. Buy less. This is thrifty and also earth-friendly. By simply not purchasing things you that aren't a necessity, you're doing your part. Well, that's easy!
13. Eat less meat. Animal food products create a large portion of waste and create a great deal of carbon emissions. Take on the “Meatless Monday” challenge, for instance, and don't eat any meat at all on Mondays! In addition to being great for your heart health, avoiding meat for just one day per week can reduce your carbon emissions while also saving you money!
14. Refill it! Almost every product has a refillable option these days—printer ink cartridges, cleaning products, office supplies, and even food—if you can refill it, it's another bottle saved!
15. Buy in regularly used items bulk. For things you know you continually use, or will use up, get the Economy Sized version. This will certainly save you money, and will simultaneously reduce the number of packages you go through!

It's easy and cheaper to use less!



Police Report

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

The Edgewood Borough Police Department is saying goodbye to a valued member. Officer Daniel White will be leaving the department at the end of April to take over his family business.

Officer White has a strong passion for carrying on family traditions. For years, Officer White worked alongside his father in the family's construction business learning the trade and the skills to run a successful company. When the opportunity to take over arose, Officer White made the difficult decision to leave law enforcement and carry on his family's business, Neff Concrete Construction.

Officer White has been with the Edgewood Police Department in a full time capacity since 2014. Prior to joining Edgewood, White spent three years in Wilkesburg and three years working part time in both the Edgewood and Swissvale police departments.

On behalf of the Edgewood Police Department, I would like to wish Officer White and his family all the best in his new adventure!


Sincerely,
Chief Robert Payne

SPRING REMINDER

As the temperature goes up, so do the police calls for vehicle break-ins, burglaries, and other crimes against property. Criminals will usually take the path of least resistance, targeting those who leave valuables in their vehicle and do not lock their doors. This has always been a problem in this area and surrounding communities. Thieves will simply walk down the street and check car doors to see if they are unlocked. If the vehicle is not secured, you have just become a victim.

Catching this type of thief is very difficult without the help of the public. Edgewood has many side streets that are not heavily traveled after dark. It is not difficult for a criminal to see a police car with its head lights on coming down the street. The criminal will use the cover of darkness and hide while the police drive by. Once the police car passes, they will resume their search for more unlocked vehicles.

The Edgewood Police encourage that everyone LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS. We ask that you please call 911 if you see anything suspicious, no matter how minor you think it is. You can also help protect your family and the police by putting up motion sensor lights on the outside of your home.



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Jan. Feb.

Total Calls for Service	1134	680
Complaints Received	303	218
Accidents Investigated	8	12
Part I Crimes	5	7
Robbery, Burglary	0	1
Motor Vehicle Theft.....	1	0
Shoplifting	1	1
Assault	0	0
Arson	0	0
Other Thefts	3	5
Part II Crimes	10	9
Liquor Laws	0	0
Vandalism/Mischief.....	1	2
Narcotics Offenses.....	1	1
Weapons Offense.....	0	0
Sex Offense.....	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	3	2
Other Crimes.....	5	3
Arrests	2	9
Adult Arrests	2	5
Juvenile Arrests	0	4
Officer's Activity		
Traffic Stops.....	70	79
Traffic Citations.....	20	35
Non-traffic Citations.....	0	3
DUI	0	1
False Alarms	14	5
Medicals	1	1
Suspicious Person	7	5
Public Nuisance Complaints ..	3	8



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Nine Mile Run Watershed Association

Brenda Smith, Executive Director & Tricia Dougherty, Operations and Communications Manager

Founded in 2001 in order to address the overwhelming water pollution in our area, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association launched the largest restoration project in the nation at that time. The nine mile run watershed is a 6.5 square mile area that includes part of the City of Pittsburgh, Wilksburg, Swissvale, Frick Park, and of course Edgewood, almost exactly in the center. The watershed comprises all the over ground, as well as the underground streams and waterways in our area—along with all the wildlife, tree growth, air quality and neighborhood quality that the watershed affects in Edgewood.

In 2004, when the restoration project began, the watershed was all but dead. Nicknamed “Stink Creek”, no aquatic life existed in the streams, and the overflows were so powerful they cut deeply into the earth, not allowing for any above ground nutrients for plants. The original restoration project that was the start of NMRWA remains the most successful project of its kind—today many species of fish (along with their food sources) exist in the waterway, and the erosion of the stream bank has been reduced, although there is still a lot of work to be done.

“Reducing the amount of water entering the storm sewers continues to be a big concern,” says Brenda Smith, the Executive Director of NMRWA. “We work on restoration and air quality, stream monitoring, but managing stormwater is a primary focus.”

Stormwater washes ALL the pollution from the roadway through the sewers and directly into the stream. In Edgewood, our sanitary sewers and storm sewers are separate pipes. In the City of Pittsburgh, the sewers are all combined. So in heavy rains, the waterways can be overwhelmed with raw sewage. “People should know the stream is not safe to swim in,” says Tricia Dougherty, Operations and Communications Manager. “It looks beautiful, but don’t swim in it, don’t drink from it, and don’t let your pets drink it.” Even in dry weather, the bacteria level in the stream is very high.

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association continues to launch projects and events to improve our waterways, and, by extension, the health of our entire neighborhood. Stream sweeps, rain garden plantings, discussions and trainings are all ongoing and all our neighbors are encouraged to join the Association. “We are a membership organization, and that’s an important part of our work,” Brenda says. You can join Nine Mile Run Watershed Association and get a full listing of current events and plans on their website: NineMileRun.org. Events are also listed on the Edgewood Borough Facebook page. The amazing thing about these events is that you can watch the benefits happen in your own backyard. NMRWA’s Stream Sweeps and tree plantings are all very successful and have made Edgewood a healthier and more beautiful place. Trainings and discussions arm you with the power to improve your environment on a daily basis. NMRWA’s events are well thought out, and have immediate and evident results.



Thanks to Nine Mile Run Watershed Association’s tireless efforts, we no longer live on the banks of “Stink Creek”. But there’s still a lot of work to be done to keep our watershed, and by extension, our whole neighborhood, healthy. Clean water is the foundation of healthy living, and we’re very fortunate to have this organization working so hard to be sure our waterways are being monitored and maintained. You can become a member today, or attend one of the many wonderful events NMRWA hosts in our neighborhood to be a part of

Ninemilerun.org
 321 Pennwood Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15221
 412-371-8779

these important efforts. Of course, you can help every day by being thoughtful about your interactions with the environment.

Tree planting on Garland Street in 2018. An effort of both Shade Tree Committee and Nine Mile Watershed Association.

NMRWA’s Suggestions for Neighborhood Care

Nine Mile Run also has some great suggestions for how you can help the health of our local waterways and tree life here in Edgewood, just with good everyday habits you can start on your own today:

- **Pick up trash!** Any candy wrapper or fast food bag can end up blocking a storm sewer and causing flooding! If you see litter, pick it up and put it in the trash.
- **Keep Storm Drains Clean.** Those drains at the end of the street are direct passageways to our streams. Be sure storm drains are free of debris like leaves and litter, and NEVER EVER EVER put trash or dump anything in them. They go straight to the stream!
- **Install a rain barrel or a rain garden.** You can manage excess water on your own property with these two useful (and often beautiful) items! The less water rushing into the system, the safer it is for all life around the watershed.
- **Healthy Trees.** Edgewood is full of beautiful old trees. Unfortunately, many of our enormous trees are reaching the end of their lifespan. It’s important to clear out old trees (and grind down stumps completely) and replace them with brand new, healthy trees that can soak up extra water from runoff. We love our trees in Edgewood, so maintaining our urban forest means clearing away the old to make way for the new.
- **Go easy on the salt!** Rock salt is terrible for waterway health. Instead using lots of rock salt, choose calcium chloride or magnesium chloride—typically labeled “pet friendly”. It’s safer for pets, for you, and for your yard as well. You can also minimize your usage—a little goes a long way!

Brenda says her highest hope for Edgewood’s future is that the urban forest is maintained properly. We have so many giant trees which will soon die—it’s important to keep up with tree health by removing dead trees and replacing them with healthy new trees so our forest can continue! Edgewood Borough continues to support this effort with our Shade Tree Committee, which works closely with NMRWA.

For more information on Stormwater management, and how it affects our neighborhood, you can visit NineMileRun.org, and also the Edgewood Borough website, Edgewood.pgh.pa.us/edgewood-stormwater-management.

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Nine Mile Run Watershed Association Stream Restoration

As 2018 wound down, NMR staff managed to squeeze in one last major project with two parts: correct some areas of erosion along the Nine Mile Run stream that were causing major impacts to the stream bank and correct some rock formations that prevented fish from moving further upstream.

Stream bank repairs:

Urban streams receive lots of fast moving water from the surrounding area every time it rains, causing erosion and increased sediment loads. In recent years, the sheer volume of water has grown due to climate change, with annual area rainfall increasing by over 20 inches in 2018 alone! As a result, some of the natural bank protection, installed during the original stream restoration back in 2006, has washed out. If left on its own, the stream would eventually cut back to its original path, undoing a lot of hard work.

Our contractors fixed this by finding the large boulders that had washed away from the bank and putting them back in place. We also installed some vegetation to help keep things intact. Using a method called "live staking," we can thin out existing willow trees, and replant the cuttings in the ground. In the early spring, they will start sprouting and the tenacious roots will help keep the bank secure. Ultimately, the best protection against further damage is to keep reducing the amount of stormwater entering the stream from the upper watershed communities.

Fish passage:

The second part of the project came out of our years of fish surveys in the stream. We learned that there were way more fish downstream than upstream because many fish were not able to pass through a section of the stream. The major barrier was a 19" riffle (rock formation) in the stream. Riffles themselves are good for stream health, but this one was preventing fish from moving through the stream due to its height. By extending the length of the riffle in the stream, we cut out the steepness of that one rock formation. Fish should be able to pass through more easily now. Members of Nine Mile Run's Monitoring Committee are excited to test the impact of the restoration with a fish survey this spring.

Thanks to Ecological Restoration, Inc. and River Research and Design Inc for their design and construction of this project.

Also, huge thanks to the volunteers who came out in very cold weather to cut willows for replanting in the areas of stream bank repair.

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Nine Mile Run Watershed Association Citizen Tree Project

The urban forest, comprised of the trees along our city streets, in our parks, and in your backyards, is an underappreciated piece of our community's infrastructure. Our sewers carry away our dirty water, pipes and overhead wires deliver essential electricity, drinking water, and heat to our homes. Streets and sidewalks allow us to travel with relative ease. None of these pieces of infrastructure is without its problems. Pipes leak, potholes develop, and we experience the occasional power outage, but few of us would willingly disconnect from this critical infrastructure. However, trees which clean our air, cool our homes, reduce noise, calm traffic, and reduce stormwater runoff, are seen as an expendable piece of our infrastructure which can be removed without consequence. Unlike other infrastructure, which can typically be replaced or repaired in days or weeks, trees take years to mature, and we are losing them at a significant rate.

The saying "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second best time is now" has been attributed to various people, but the adage holds true. Tree removal is outpacing replacement, and our canopy is dwindling. You can help us begin to restore this critical infrastructure by planting a small yard tree this spring. With grant funding from 3 Rivers Wet Weather, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association is subsidizing small yard trees planted on private property this spring. We'll teach you how to plant and care for your tree, provide technical assistance if necessary and follow-up with tree health evaluations over a two year period. The Citizen Tree Project is part of a goal to redevelop the tree canopy on private property, where significant portions of our canopy have been lost.

To learn more and sign up for a tree, visit: ninemilerun.org/our-work/urbanforestry/citizen-tree-project/



Betty the birch tree is settling in nicely after a Citizen Tree Project planting last fall. Sign up for a tree of your own!

A message from the Shade Tree Committee

Call for Volunteers-Memorial Park Revitalization

The committee is looking for volunteers to help with tree/shrub plantings and clean up on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Interested volunteers should contact Merrill Marcovsky at jjoseph4mm@comcast.net. The event starts at 10 a.m. at Memorial Park (at the intersection of Race Street and East Swissvale Avenue), coffee and donuts will be provided.

Here are a few things to remember about tree pits and your sidewalk:

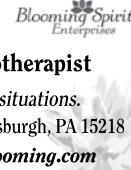
Unless the sidewalk is less than 3 feet wide from the edge of the tree pit to your lawn, please don't pave over your empty tree pit. The tree pit, even an empty one, serves a number of important purposes:

1. An empty tree pit could serve as a home for a future tree. The borough is working to replace Edgewood's disappearing tree canopy. New tree pits are expensive and cumbersome to replace.
2. Tree pits, even empty ones, serve to absorb rainwater, reducing the amount of polluted stormwater runoff flowing into our sewers and, finally, into our rivers.
3. Empty tree pits and the grassy verges (the narrow strip of grass between the curb and pavement), absorb rainwater nourishing any adjacent street trees as well as those on private property. Remember tree roots can extend well past their drip line.
4. Don't like the way your empty tree pit looks? Feel free to plant a mini garden in that space.
5. Is planting or mowing a tree pit or grassy verge more trouble than you want? Decorative stones can make an easy solution. The earth beneath the stones will continue to absorb at least some of the rainwater that a concrete sidewalk cannot.
6. Finally, if the sidewalk is really too narrow, less than 3' wide from the edge of the tree pit or grassy verge to your lawn, consider creating a meander in the sidewalk onto your property. This will add a flowing, natural look to your front yard increasing its curb appeal.

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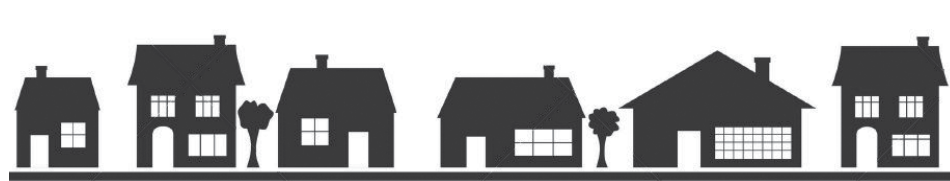
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Pedestrian Improvements

The Boroughs of Edgewood and Swissvale are excited to announce the start of a multi-municipal sidewalk and pedestrian improvement project this spring. The project, slated to start in early April and run through November, includes upgrades to pedestrian signals, ADA ramps, thermoplastic stamped crosswalks, and storm drain inlets along South Braddock Avenue from Woodstock Avenue to West Hutchison Avenue. Pugliano Construction is the general contractor on the \$1.4 million project funded entirely by PennDOT.

All intersections will remain open during construction but pedestrians may have to detour across the street and back while crews work. Please obey all posted safety and detour signs while walking in the construction area.

Update: Sanders Street Crosswalk

Construction on the new Sanders Street crosswalk is nearly complete pending completion of a few items by the contractor. As pedestrians acclimate to the new crossing, it's important to remember that pedestrians must press the button to activate the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons. Drivers will not be alerted to a pedestrian crossing the street if the button is not pressed. Also, please make sure oncoming vehicles have had the opportunity to see the beacons, react, and stop before stepping into the street.

Street Sweeping

Street Sweeping Begins April 3, 2019. Street sweeping plays an important role in keeping Edgewood clean and environmentally sound. Every Wednesday, the sweeper will be out cleaning our roadways. This ensures that dirt, debris, petroleum products and yard waste that collects on our streets is picked up and does not enter the storm sewer system. Edgewood's street catch basins drain to Nine Mile Run and eventually the Monongahela River. The street sweeper picks up the pollutants on the roads before it has a chance to enter our waterways and harm the environment. Street sweepings also helps to keep Edgewood looking clean and cared for, and hopefully our residents can take pride in their community streets! Please read all road signs before parking your car on the street to ensure you are in compliance with Edgewood laws. The No Parking laws are enforced, and if you park on the side of the street scheduled for street sweeping, you can expect to receive a ticket. These laws were established to make sure the sweeper has access to the roadways and can complete the important job of cleaning the streets. This cannot happen if cars are parked along the route. Please be sure to read the signs on Wednesdays to know where you should and should not park.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Earth Day Clean Up 2019

Saturday, April 20 from 9-10 a.m.

Come one, come all (bring the kids, too) down to Koenig Field between 9 and 10 a.m. to enjoy light refreshments before setting off to help clean up and pick up trash around our neighborhood. We'll have granola bars, water bottles, safety vests and clean up supplies down at the field that morning.

Even if you can't make it down the field, please know that **every effort is appreciated and noticed!**

Work for as long as you wish—any amount of time is highly appreciated.

Please mark your calendar and remind your neighbors. This is an Edgewood Foundation sponsored event and we are so glad to know that you're involved!

Any questions or suggestions? Email us at cleanup@edgewoodfoundation.org

High School Senior Brunch

Sunday, May 5 at 11 a.m.

12 Graduating Seniors have been found! The Edgewood Foundation has been searching and so far we've found twelve names of residents graduating from high school this year. Could you be one of them? Have you contacted us?

The brunch honoring them is Sunday, May 5 at 11 a.m. at the Edgewood Club/Community House. Our guest speaker Linda Stagon (owner of Edgewood Daycare) is looking forward to seeing many of her past students.

Scholarship material was sent to those on our list. If you do NOT have the scholarship application, we don't

have you on the list yet! There may be time to apply before the deadline. Please contact us at seniorbrunch@edgewoodfoundation.org or call 412-897-4296.

Invitations will have been sent by the end of March to the families and seniors in order to RSVP for the event. Brunch for the graduates is covered by the Edgewood Foundation, and guests are welcome to attend for the price of \$25 per person.

Newcomers' Reception 2019

Thursday, May 16 at 6 p.m.

Each year, the Edgewood Foundation sponsors a reception for newcomers who have moved into the Borough in the preceding year. This event is our way of formally welcoming them into the neighborhood and to introduce them to, not only their other fellow newcomers, but also Borough officials and other involved citizens and members of the local organizations.

The reception is typically hosted at an Edgewood resident's house in the early evening, with appetizers and beverages being provided. The reception allows newcomers the opportunity to meet and socialize with their fellow residents, while also obtaining important information from the various Borough offices and community groups. The newcomers are provided with information about some of the many local businesses as well. This is one of the signature events of the Foundation and is a major reason why Edgewood continues to be a special place to live.

This year's Newcomers' Reception will be hosted at the Edgewood Train Station on Thursday evening, May 16, starting at 6 p.m. Invitations are sent

out in mid-April to all newcomers based upon available real estate transfer information. However, if you know a newcomer who did not receive an invitation or you are a newcomer who maybe was unable to attend last year and are interested in attending this year, please visit our website at www.edgewoodfoundation.org for additional information and also feel free to RSVP to us at newcomers@edgewoodfoundation.org. The event also has a Facebook page, that can be accessed in the Event Details posted into the calendar on our website.

The Edgewood Foundation Thanks You

We extend our gratitude to all that generously gave to our annual appeal (as well as those who give throughout the year). It is through the generosity and support of residents that our organization can continue in its mission to promote and enhance the cultural, social and educational environment of Edgewood life for all its residents.

For over 25 years, through the support of friends and neighbors, the Edgewood Foundation has been creating and bringing to life all sorts of traditions for the Edgewood community. Old traditions such as the Progressive Dinner and the Newcomers' Reception; and new traditions too, like the Sleepover in the Park and Oktoberfest.

Our annual support for the C.C. Mellor Library has helped to meet their specific need to grow the Edgewood Foundation sponsored Children's Collection, along with building its online inventory of both audio and e-books. We give annual support to the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department, help-

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

ing to ensure they have the materials they need. The Foundation is proud to continue its sponsorship of the Edgewood Symphony. As such a small, community, we are grateful to have a Symphony to call our own and represent us in the local area.

We honor outstanding Edgewood residents through tree plantings, and budget annually for area beautification (the most noticeable spot being our Edgewood sign). We've worked to raise funds for new playground equipment and handicapped accessible benches down at Koenig Field.

All of this would not be possible without the support of Edgewood residents.

We encourage you to visit us online at www.edgewoodfoundation.org for the latest news on our events, and to share your ideas and suggestions through the "email us" link. You may also follow us through Facebook at www.facebook.com/edgewoodfoundation where we promote not only Foundation news, but also events and activities throughout the Borough.

Join the ESO for a powerful finale concert

The ESO will finish up their season with a concert filled with some classical show-stoppers!

Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Agnes and Joseph Katz Performing Arts Center

Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh

Having just performed Beethoven's Violin Concerto in March, the ESO will take on Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in May. One of the most famous piano concertos in the repertoire, this work is commonly known as the "Emperor Concerto" and has bold melodies, a feel of grandeur and a heroic spirit. Schumann's beautiful Third Symphony, also known as the "Rhenish Symphony", will also be featured in this concert. This grand work pays tribute to the Rhine River, which played a big role in Schumann's life. The concert finishes with Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin Waltz, a familiar and bright dance that will be sure to start the summer with a positive feel.

Speaking of summer, make a plan to spend Father's Day with the ESO at Bach Beethoven and Brunch in Mellon Park! Bring a blanket and some lawn chairs, grab your friends and family, and enjoy brunch and some popular classical tunes out of doors on Sunday, June 16 at 10:30 am!

Visit www.edgewoodsymphony.org for more information!



Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf Golf Outing

Enjoy a wonderful day on the links while supporting summer programs offered by the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD). This year's golf tournament is set for Thursday, May 23 at the Edgewood Country Club! Tickets and sponsorship opportunities can be found by visiting wpsd.org or the WPSD Facebook page. For more information, contact Sarah Bartlebaugh at sbartlebaugh@wpsd.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Banner Community Award

Edgewood Borough was again designated a Banner Community in 2019 by the Allegheny League of Municipalities. This award is bestowed on communities that emphasize professional development, prudent fiscal management, transparency, accountability, and proactive community stakeholder communications.

Summer Help Wanted

The Edgewood Borough Department of Public Works is looking for seasonal summer help to assist our crews with grass cutting and other tasks around the Borough. Applications are available on the borough's website www.edgewood.pgh.pa.us and at the borough building.

EDGEWOOD RECREATION

Tball and Softball Registration

It's time again for Edgewood Tball and Softball! Registration for both sports begins April 15 and ends May 15.

Softball is open to girls ages 7-13, and Tball is for boys and girls ages 5-7. Both sports play through June and July at Koenig Field. You do not need to be an Edgewood resident to play. Registration fee is \$50. Both sports meet twice weekly, though Softball may have additional practice days at the beginning of the season. These summer sports are a great way to make friends and play outside during the summer! Registration is now all online—you can find links on our website, Edgewood.pgh.pa.us and on our Facebook page: Edgewood Borough Community Events.

Easter Egg Hunt

Edgewood's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 13 (rain date is Saturday, April 20) at noon. Join us at Koenig Field at noon for this longstanding community tradition! Children ages 2-10 are welcome to hunt as many eggs as they can carry! Please bring your own bag or basket to collect. Be there at noon sharp—the eggs always go fast!

Yoga & Tai Chi

Keep an eye out for Yoga and Tai Chi programs beginning for the warm weather once again! Announcements will be posted at the library and Koenig Field, as well as on our website, Edgewood.pgh.pa.us, and our Facebook page—Edgewood Borough Community Events. Pre-registration will always save you money, but you're always able to drop in for individual classes as well.

Movie Night

Movie Night will be returning again in June and July—this year movies will be shown on THURSDAY nights at Koenig Field! Join us this summer for the following dates and titles:

- June 13—Shrek
- June 27—Madagascar
- July 11—Labyrinth
- July 25—Incredibles 2

Become a Sponsor

Consider sponsoring an Edgewood sport—any amount is appreciated!

Your sponsorship will make it possible for Edgewood to run these popular leagues while making it affordable for every family in our region. Team sports not only teach children the importance of responsibility and working together, but bring our whole community together. We would love to have you as a part of our team.

If you would like to Sponsor Edgewood sports, visit our website: Edgewood.pgh.pa.us/BecomeASponsor. Your donation will help Edgewood Sports continue to help our kids grow, learn and develop!

Follow us on Facebook to find out about neighborhood events, and happenings with local organizations!

[Facebook.com/EdgewoodBoroughEvents](https://www.facebook.com/EdgewoodBoroughEvents)

Contact Jessica at the Borough Office with any questions at 412-242-4824 or office@edgewoodboro.com.

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AARP Safe Driver Course

CCM Edgewood, two courses

- Basic Course:
April 17 & 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Refresher Course:
April 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Refresh your driving skills with the AARP Smart Driver Course! You will learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies, and new traffic laws and rules of the road. There are no tests to pass—simply sign up and learn. Upon completion you could receive a discount on your car insurance.

Each course is \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members.

Please call the library to register. These classes will fill up, so call early!

To find other classes in the area, visit the AARP website. You can also register for the driver safety online course.

Poetry Reading: Poets on the Edge

CCM Edgewood, Saturday, April 13. 2-4 p.m.

Poets on the Edge, a poetry workshop, will hold a reading at CCM Edgewood featuring local poets Valerie Bacharach, Charlie Brice, Judith Alexander Brice, Judith Dorian, Diane Kerr, Nina Padolf, Janette Schafer and Artie Solomon.

Refreshments provided. Free admission. No registration required.

NEW: Bipolar Support Group for Students and Professionals

CCM Edgewood, every other Friday, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Helping those affected find support and share strategies on living with (and working with) bipolar disorder. This group is intended for students and professionals diagnosed with bipolar disorder as well as their family members and loved ones.

No registration required. For more information please visit our website.

Construction Challenge

Ages 5-8 • CCM Edgewood, Saturdays in April, 10:30 a.m.

Can you build it taller? How much weight will it hold? What wild and wacky material works best? Test your engineering skills with a new challenge every week!

Registration opens March 1.

For a complete listing of upcoming programs and events, visit www.ccmellorlibrary.org.

Online program registration is at ccmellorlibrary.eventbrite.com.

For adult programming, contact Megan Zagorski at zagorskim@einetwork.net.

For children's programming, contact Erin Tobiasz at tobiasze2@einetwork.net.

Family Gardening

Families/all ages • CCM Edgewood, Saturday, May 4, 10:30 a.m.

What will your garden grow this year? Stop by CCM Edgewood for a fun introduction to gardening with kids, and a chance to plant your own seeds to take home! We'll smell, taste, and touch different herbs and explore how to deter pests from the garden. Come grow with us!

Registration opens April 1.

Teen Murder Mystery Night

Ages 13-18 • CCM Edgewood, Monday, April 15, 6 p.m.

Think YOU have the smarts to figure out whodunit? Join the list of suspects to gather clues, question your friends, and discover who did the dastardly deed!

Registration opens March 15.

This article was submitted to Edgewood Borough by Mrs. Kirchner under our "Share Your News" section. Submit your story for consideration to newsletter@edgewoodboro.com or mail to: Edgewood Borough Newsletter, 2 Race Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15218

WATCH YOUR STEP! by Suzie (Linton) Kirchner

Fifty-two years ago on a late Saturday night in January 1962, I arrived in Pittsburgh, PA to begin my student teaching at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD). I couldn't have imagined the end of that beginning.

I inquired about the nearest Catholic Church for Sunday Mass. I was told to meet Carl Kirchner in the main hall of the administration building, as he was the teacher responsible for the many residential Catholic children. I met him there at 9:30 am and introduced myself. He gave me the choice of walking to church with the older children or riding with the younger children. I scanned this thin young man, and an inner voice told me I should choose to walk. I did and he did.

The school is located on the corner of E. Swissvale and Walnut Avenues. We headed down the steps of the huge white columned building and waited at the corner for the light to turn green. While waiting, Carl told me about his family – deaf mother and father, deaf aunt and uncle and cousins. It was obvious why he was teaching the deaf. Unfortunately, I did not have time to tell him why I wanted to teach deaf children because the light changed and we started to cross. In the middle of the intersection there was a large round manhole cover. As my foot touched it, a thought popped into my head (A Hello Dolly moment!). "I'm going to marry this guy!" It was so strong that it was all I could think about.

However, within two hours my manhole cover dream was squashed when I discovered that Carl was on leave from the seminary due to his father's illness. The next three months were filled with practice teaching experiences in the primary, middle and high school departments. I even finagled a stint of practice teaching in Carl's classroom of students with multiple handicaps. I had a good time after hours socializing with the faculty and other student teachers.

I kept my dream to myself and all too quickly it was time to return to graduate school to finish my Master's Degree. I graduated in June 1962. The following fall, I began teaching at the New Jersey School for the Deaf in Trenton.

Over the next two years, I saw Carl only 3 times at deaf functions. His father had passed away causing him to leave the seminary and continue teaching the deaf. There were occasional letters and post cards but very little contact otherwise.

Then in April 1964, I received a phone call that began with Carl's voice singing the opening lines of the song "Oklahoma!"

**There's never been a better time to start in life—
It ain't too early and it ain't too late...
Soon be livin' in a brand new state...**

I was puzzled. As the conversation ensued, I discovered that he was moving to New Mexico. My heart sank and disappeared under that manhole cover. He then matter-of-factly said, "I thought you might like to go with me." Shocked, I humorously snapped back with "As what?... Your concubine?... Your maid?... Your assistant?" He responded—again calmly, "I thought we'd get married." Breathing deeply, I sighed, "Sure, why, not?" At this point I knew the manhole cover was shaking with joy!

We were engaged in June, and we had our first date and kiss on our wedding day, August 8, 1964. The last 50 years have flown by and the story of the manhole cover has been told and retold to our 4 children, 11 grandchildren and so many others who think it all quite strange and funny.

In August 2014, our children and their spouses gave us a 50th anniversary party, which included every spectacular element of our union. (before/after pix) The main feature was none other than the manhole cover where it all began. Secretly, my husband had contacted the Borough of Edgewood to get a photograph of a manhole cover from 1962. After some research, Janet Gerber, Finance Administrator, was able to honor the request and sent a picture of a manhole cover used in the Borough. My sister-in-law had a giant banner made that showcased the manhole cover with the date I stepped on it and the street address. The banner (see picture) was made by Tom Gentile who manages WPSD Lion Works and creates banners and promotional materials for the community. But the biggest surprise of all was what Carl did next—a true "pièce de résistance." He gave the picture of the manhole cover to our jeweler and friend, Van Pogharian, a creative artist and designer of jewelry. Van hand-carved a wax model of the picture, which was set into wet plaster. After drying, the wax was burned out and replaced with gold making a one-inch exact replica of the manhole cover (lost wax process). Even the words "sanitary sewer" are readable. A beautiful ruby in honor of my 75th birthday was set in the center of the medallion, and the X's in the original design were recreated with diamond chips. It is so perfect, admirers cannot believe it. (Medallion pix)

I leave it up to you to decide which is more unusual: the story of the manhole cover decision of a lifetime...or the story of the solid gold one I now wear around my neck?



Carl J. & Suzie (Linton) Kirchner, 8-8-64



Gold Medallion replica of Edgewood sewer grate



Carl & Suzie's 50th Anniversary



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Advertising and Publishing Requests

THE EDGEWOOD NEWSLETTER is published six times per year by the Borough of Edgewood, Two Race Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15218. Editor and Advertising Manager: Edgewood Borough; Printer: LionWorks.

THE EDGEWOOD NEWSLETTER is mailed at no charge to every household in Edgewood and to Edgewood advertisers. Subscriptions are available to former residents and other interested parties at \$10/yr.

Advertising and publishing requests must be submitted by the first of the month prior to the newsletter issue in which your ad or article will appear. Submissions are due as follows: December/January due November 1, February/March due January 1, April/May due March 1, June/July due May 1, August/September due July 1, October/November due September 1. Please send all articles, advertisements and correspondence to the attention of the editor, email: newsletter@edgewoodboro.com or call 412-242-4824.



CALENDAR *at a glance...*

APRIL

Council Meetings: 1 & 15, 7:30 p.m. @ Borough Building

Refuse: 4, 11, 18, 25

Recycling: 11 & 25

Easter Egg Hunt: 13, noon (rain date: 20, noon)

Story Time: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday & Wednesday @ C.C. Mellor Library

Edgewood Foundation Clean-up Day: 20, 9-10 a.m.

Borough Office closed: 19

MAY

Council Meetings: 6 & 20, 7:30 p.m. @ Borough Building

Refuse: 2, 9, 16, 23, 31*

Memorial Park Planting: 4

Recycling: 9, 23

Story Time: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday & Wednesday @ C.C. Mellor Library

Borough Office closed: 27

**Delayed due to holiday.*

SHARE YOUR NEWS...

Proud of your new baby? Enjoyed a great vacation? Got a promotion or attended a convention? Please clip this coupon, stick it on the fridge and fill it out when you have some news to share in the Edgewood Newsletter. Photos welcome.

**Mail to: Edgewood Newsletter
2 Race Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15218**

OR....drop off at the borough building.
Email: newsletter@edgewoodboro.com
If you have any questions call: 412-242-4824.



Borough Directory

Borough Office Information

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phone 412-242-4824

Fax..... 412-242-4027

Website:..... www.edgewoodboro.com

Mailing address: Two Race Street
..... Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Borough Manager

Rob Zahorchak..... 412-242-4824

Email:..... manager@edgewoodboro.com

Public Works..... 412-242-2410

Code Enforcement

Lee Miller 412-242-4824

Email:..... inspections@edgewoodboro.com

Tuesday and Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tax Office

Maureen Smith 412-731-0200

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wage Taxes

Keystone Collections 724-978-0300

Police and Fire

Emergency 911

Police Chief

Robert C. Payne 412-242-4824, ext. 112

Email:..... policechief@edgewoodboro.com

Fire Chief

Jared Amos..... 412-242-9994

Email:..... firechief@edgewoodboro.com

Garbage Collection & Recycling Collection

Republic Services..... 1-412-429-2600

Newsletter Editor 412-242-4824

Email:..... newsletter@edgewoodboro.com

A note from the real estate tax collector...

The 2018 Woodland Hills School tax was turned over to Jordan Tax in January. If you took advantage of paying in installments, the last one is due by April 1 because March 31 is a Sunday. It must be postmarked on by April 1, 2019!

The 2019 Edgewood Borough Real Estate tax will be mailed out the first of April. The millage for 2019 is 7.185, the same as last year. If you have changed mortgage companies or are now paying your taxes yourself, please make sure you notify my office, 412-731-0200 as well as the County Treasurer's office, 412-350-4100 so we can make these changes. The mortgage company does not notify us.

My office will be opened Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning April 1. The tax is due at discount until May 31. I will be in my office at the end of the discount period, May 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and May 28, 29, 30 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You may also mail in your taxes and if you want a receipt please include a SASE.

Make sure your numeric and written portion are correct, that the date is put on your check and that the check is signed! I do not accept post dated checks. If you are paying close to the deadline and your check has to be returned for any reason, you will be charged into the next period whether that be the face or the penalty period.

If you have questions about your assessment please contact the county assessment office.

Thank you,

Maureen Smith,
Tax Collector



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Street sweeping begins April 3, 2019. More information on page 8.