

# JERMYN BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2019 EDITION

**Rapid Cast:** Missed an important event or didn't know about alternate parking? Sign up for the borough's FREE Rapid Cast service! You can sign up to receive phone calls, text messages, email alerts or any combination of the three whenever information on an important event or emergency is broadcast by Jermyn Borough. Contact the borough office at 570-876-0610 for more information.

## **Code Enforcement:**

Spring is just around the corner! Please help us keep the Borough streets and thoroughfares looking their best. Remember to trim weeds, remove garbage, and manage your properties. Contact us if you have any questions.

- William Aquilino, Code Officer

**Finance Update:** The Finance Committee researched several energy supply brokerage firms to obtain the best energy pricing going forward. As a result, the borough has been notified we can expect to save approximately \$1000/year on our energy costs!

- Carl Tomaine, Finance Chair

## **Crime Watch Raises Funds for Dog**

**Kennel:** Last year, we had quite a problem with dogs getting loose in town. As you may know, when this happened, our police officers had to pick up the dogs and take them to the Humane Society. Not only did this take the officer away from town, but owners then had to pay to retrieve their dogs. Owners were almost always found within an hour or two, and it didn't make sense to have to take the dogs out of town.

Because of the generous donations from friends and neighbors here in Jermyn and elsewhere, the Crime Watch was able to raise enough money to

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buy a covered shelter – with rotating water/food dishes and a ramp – to keep dogs in until their owners are found. A thermal dog hut was also donated to the JPD and Crime Watch. We'd like to thank everyone who was involved in making this happen!

If you are interested in being involved in the Crime Watch, please email

[jermynpacrimewatch@gmail.com](mailto:jermynpacrimewatch@gmail.com)

- Jennifer Schreiner, Crime Watch



**Memorial Day Parade:** Jermyn's Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. The parade will begin at Convenient Food Mart and continue south on Washington Avenue to Cemetery Street and the Jermyn Cemetery, where the annual Memorial Day Ceremony will commence. After the ceremony, everyone is invited to the Artisan Fire Company on Maple Street for hot dogs and drinks.

**Concert in the Park:** The Jermyn Events Committee will host its annual Concert in the Park on Sunday, July 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Callahan Park. Come, relax, bring your favorite outdoor chair or blanket and enjoy a summer's evening of music and neighborly conversation. Hope to see all of you for our July Concert Celebration. Free hot dogs, beverages, and ice cream for all attendees.





## MS4:

Jermyn Borough has a stormwater permit and are required by the

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to develop and implement a stormwater management program to reduce the contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges. This is referred to as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, or MS4, for short. Under the stormwater program, we must develop a stormwater management plan that provides the details of how the community will comply with the requirements of the permit. Permits are based on a framework of six minimum control measures:

- Public education and outreach.
- Public participation and involvement.
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination.
- Construction site runoff control.
- Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment.
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance.

We are actively working on a variety of programs and initiatives to meet various state and national goals for clean water, but borough residents have a role to play, too. Working together, we will have a positive impact on our environment and the water that is so important to us all. We hope that you will find the following information useful.

**What is stormwater runoff?** Stormwater originates from rain or melting snow/ice that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, streets, construction sites, lawns and fields. Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and

other pollutants as it makes its way to storm drains and natural waterways.

**Why should you care?** Stormwater from your property and from public streets goes into storm sewers, which go directly into streams and bodies of water used for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water. This water is not cleaned in any way and does not go to the wastewater treatment plant. Streams and creeks feed into rivers, lakes and the ocean. We all drink water, so we are all affected when our water is polluted.

**What can you do to help?** To meet our pollution reduction goal, all residents are asked to do their part. The tips below will help you prevent stormwater pollution from your property.

### **Pet Waste Belongs in the Trash!**

You hate stepping in it. And fish hate swimming in it, too! When you walk your dog, make sure to carry a plastic bag with you so that you can pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing is the best disposal method (don't flush the plastic bag), but you can also throw it in a trash can. Some towns will fine you if they catch you leaving it in public areas!

### **Yard Waste**

In the spring, bag your grass clippings for curbside pickup. In the fall, do it again with your leaves or even better, compost them to make a natural fertilizer for your garden. But whatever you do, don't dump them in a brook or storm drain, and don't leave them on the sidewalk!

Beginning this fall, the borough will come by and take the leaves to compost. More information to follow on our new leaf vac program!



### **Lawn Chemicals and Fertilizer**

Test your soil and read the label before you apply fertilizer. If you use too much fertilizer, the excess will just wash away in the next rain, polluting your local waterways. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and walkways.

### **Lawn Watering**

A lawn needs just one inch of water per week to be green. If you are watering more than that, a lot of that water is running off into the nearest waterway, taking your fertilizer, seeds and hard-earned money right along with it. Adjust your sprinklers so they don't water the driveway or sidewalk. Even better, use drip irrigation or soaker hoses.

### **Household Chemicals**

If you stop to think about it, your home is full of chemicals, such as cleaners, medicines, pesticides, weed- and bug-killers and old paint, to name just a few. When you're cleaning out the garage, it might be tempting to pour those chemicals down the toilet, sink or the storm drain, but don't!

### **Car Care**

It matters how and where you take care of your car. When you are working on your car, take care to catch the used fluids in safe containers that you can take to a recycling center. Never dispose of these chemicals down a storm drain. If you spill anything, mop it up quickly. It's best to take your car to a professional car wash. They have special equipment to treat all the dirty water they produce. If you wash your car at home, it's best to park your car on the grass first rather than leave it on the driveway.

### **Soak Up the Rain!**

Rainwater won't become stormwater pollution if you keep it on your property! You can do that by connecting rain barrels to your gutters, and

using the water they capture in your lawn or garden later. If you are renovating, consider a rain garden or modern "pervious" pavers that allow water to soak through into the soil below.

### **Pool Care**

Do you know how your eyes can burn after too much time in the chlorinated water of a swimming pool? Imagine how that feels for fish and frogs! Pool owners should stop chlorinating as soon as they know they're going to drain the pool, and drain the water on the grass rather than directly into a waterway.

If you have any questions, or would like more information on our Stormwater Management Plan, please contact the Borough office.

**Lazy Duck Race:** The Jermyn Lions Club is holding a Lazy Duck Race fundraiser. Tickets are \$5 each and only 400 will be sold. See any member of the Lions Club for tickets. Ducks will be selected at the Artisan Fire Company on May 27<sup>th</sup> after the Memorial Day Parade.

**Arbor Day:** The Arbor Day Ceremony and Annual Tree Planting by the Jermyn Shade Tree Commission will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Scout Corner on Washington & Rushbrook. All are welcome to attend.

**Jermyn Clean-Up:** Clean-up Month will be held April 24<sup>th</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup>. All residents, businesses and organizations are encouraged to clean the fronts of their homes and businesses of the winter's dirt, debris and recyclables during this month. The goal is to have clean streets and curbs for the Memorial Day Parade and through the summer months.

**Construction, Zoning Permits:** If you are putting in a pool, shed, fence, addition, or doing certain renovations or repairs, you will probably need borough permits. Please contact the borough office at 570-876-0610 for more details. Information is also available on the borough website, [www.jermynpa.com](http://www.jermynpa.com)



## **President's Corner :**

- By Frank Kulick, Council President

In this, nearly mid-way through the last year of the four-year term I started in January of 2016, I want to express what a pleasure it has been serving on council in the role of President. We have had some changes over the last four years in the make-up of council, but all members have strived to do what is best for our fine borough. It is not an easy task. There is always criticism to be found on Facebook pages or around various meeting places in town and at times, it takes a tough mental attitude to not take the criticism to heart. Constructive criticism is always welcome and there is nothing we would like to see more than new faces at the council meetings. I feel very good about many of the accomplishments over the last four years. We have been successful in obtaining a variety of grants. We moved forward with the long overdue paving project. We implemented the Rapid Cast notification system. We strengthened our police protection by adding a full time second shift officer. We managed to hold the line on taxes and lower the garbage fee. We brought back the badly needed position of Borough Manager, which has resulted in a more efficient day to day operation of the borough affairs and many cost savings through the diligence of the Borough Manager. We have become more focused in efforts to clean up the borough regarding blighted properties and code violations. Despite all that, much remains to be done. The continued delays in the start of the Rushbrook Creek project remains a major thorn in our side and danger to our community. Despite constant contact with all officials involved from county, to state, to federal, we have not been able to get the project moved forward. We continue to persevere and take any and all avenues we can to get the project rolling. My pledge is to keep the pressure on and to keep the borough informed on what is taking place through updates at council meetings as well as town hall type meetings like those we have had each year since 2016. I wish all a safe and enjoyable spring/summer season. Be sure to try and enjoy some of the summer events that will be taking place. Be safe

and let's keep doing our best to allow Jermyn, Pennsylvania to be AWESOME!

## **Fire Company Fundraisers:**

The **Crystal Fire Company**, 201 Bacon St., will have a Chicken BBQ sale on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 3pm. Donation is \$10. For more information, call 570-876-2430.

The **Artisan Fire Company**, 20 Maple St., will have it's annual Good Friday Fish Dinner on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from noon until sold out. Donation is \$12. For more information, call 570-876-2220.

## **Jermyn Youth Sports:**

Jermyn Youth Sports, comprised of Jermyn Youth Baseball and Jermyn Youth Softball, continues to hold a brick sale to raise funds for new dugouts. Place the name of yourself, a family member, or a business on a brick to be used in our new dugouts for only \$26. Forms are available at the borough office, or online at [www.polarengraving.com/jermynyouthsportsassociation](http://www.polarengraving.com/jermynyouthsportsassociation)

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\*If your business would like to sponsor the next issue of the Jermyn Borough newsletter, please contact the borough office at 570-876-0610.



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