

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH'S 2024 NEWSLETTER

126 Warren Street_
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
(570) 836-1548
FAX 836-9006
Email: tunkboro@ptd.net
Website: tunkboro.com

IF IT IS SNOWING, PLEASE PARK YOUR VEHICLES IN YOUR DRIVEWAY

EMERGENCY AGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS:

Police: Tunkhannock Borough Police Department: Emergency: 911; Non-Emergency: 836-3369

Fire: Triton Hose Company #1: Emergency: 911; Non-Emergency: 836-2590

Ambulance: Tunkhannock Ambulance: Emergency: 911; Non-Emergency: 836-5344

2024 BOROUGH CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Ward 1: April 29; Ward 2: May 6; Ward 3: May 13; Ward 4: May 20

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK:

As the 2024 Newsletter is going to press, the Tunkhannock Borough Police Department is completing another year of committed, responsive, and successful services to our community. Our dedicated team consists of Chief Keith Carpenter, Sergeant Dustin Cokely, and Patrolmen Rick Stevens, Patrick Butkiewicz, and Tom Hildebrand.

During this time, some of the professional accomplishments by and recognition of our officers include: 1) Chief Carpenter becoming a sitting member of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) of Wyoming County; 2) Sergeant Cokely becoming a certified instructor for specialized non-lethal (OC Spray) weapons; 3) Patrolman Stevens being certified as: a) an instructor for Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT); b) a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) member; and c) a child restraint and car safety seat inspector; 4) Patrolman Hildebrand becoming a certified CIT member and a certified Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) instructor, while also working to bring the program back to our schools.

In addition, Patrolman Stevens was recently recognized and honored by the Pennsylvania State DUI Association with the rare law enforcement award of being selected to receive the 2023 DUI Top Gun Award for his dedication to safer roadways in Pennsylvania.

Great News: We have just been notified by the United States Department of Justice that Tunkhannock Borough is the recipient of one of this year's highly sought after COPS

(Community Oriented Policing Services) Hiring Program grants. The award, in the amount of \$125,000 covering a three-year period, will enable us to hire a full-time officer, which in turn will enable us to significantly enhance our overall strength, responsiveness, and community policing programs. Many hours of dedicated effort went into the planning and preparation of this grant application for what is acknowledged to be a very noteworthy and highly competitive program; hat's off to Chief Carpenter and Manager Welch!

Our Department continues to strive for sustained excellence in public service and community policing. If or when police assistance/service is needed, the Department can be reached at 126 Warren Street (behind the Borough Building) or by calling (570) 836-3369. **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911.**

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

If you have any questions about, comments on, or problems with Borough services or issues, please call Borough Manager Dawn Welch at (570) 836-1548 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday; and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday. After hours, please leave a message on our voicemail and your call will be returned. If you would prefer to address your question/comment/suggestion directly to the Council, please contact the representative(s) of your Ward (listed below) or email/fax the Borough Manager at tunkboro@ptd.net or (570) 836-9006. On the other hand, if you wish to do so, please come to a Council Meeting. These are **normally** held on the first Thursday (at 7:00 p.m.) of each month in the Borough Building, 126 Warren Street. Please see the 2024 Schedule (Below) under "[Council Meetings.](#)"

MAYOR

Stacy Huber (570) 760-6019

PRESIDENT

Ben Barziloski (570) 881-8344

VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Robinson (570) 836-3952

WARD 1

Robert Robinson (570) 836-3952

Dan Gay (570) 591-0528

WARD 2

Lisa Tesluk (570) 406-7442

Ben Barziloski (570) 881-8344

WARD 3

David Wiggins (570) 479-1755

Glenda Shoemaker (570) 836-1952

WARD 4

Linda Hulslander (570) 406-1261

Charles Mead (570) 933-0418

We also recommend checking our website (tunkboro.com), which has ordinances, meeting minutes, forms and permit applications, and other useful information.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

The Monthly meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The 2024 schedule follows:

January 2	February 1
March 7	April 4
May 2	June 6
July 1 (Monday)	August 5 (Monday)
September 5	October 3
November 7	December 5

2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

New Year's Day	Monday, January 1
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 19
Good Friday	Friday, March 29
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 2
Veterans Day	Monday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 28
Christmas Eve (1/2 Day)	Tuesday, December 24
Christmas	Wednesday, December 25
New Year's Eve (1/2 Day)	Tuesday, December 31

Riverside Park:

The park is always in need of volunteers to help with maintenance and general upkeep. If you are interested in helping, please contact Borough Manager Dawn Welch at (570) 836-1548.

Department of Public Works (DPW):

The "DPW" crew of Steve Stonier, Mike Mead, and Frank Gudman continue to do a great job of maintaining the Borough. President Robinson and Manager Welch continue to keep up with the needs of the department by holding monthly meetings with the street committee and the crew. The "DPW" crew would like to remind you **that snow, leaves, and grass clippings are not to be put into the streets.** Please put leaves on the tree lawn (not in the road). **If it is snowing, please park your car in your driveway to allow for snow removal.** If you have any questions concerning this, call the Manager at (570) 836-1548, DPW at (570) 836-6166, or the Police Department at (570) 836-3369.

REGISTRATION OF RENTAL UNITS:

In accordance with the provisions of Tunkhannock Borough Ordinance 2009-5, Landlords of rental properties within Tunkhannock Borough shall provide the following information to the Borough Office on or before March 15 of each reporting year:

1. The reporting individual or entity's name and address.
2. The full name, address, and unit number of those adult individuals occupying dwelling units owned or within the management control of the reporting individual/entity as of January 1 of the reporting year.

STREET NUMBERING REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENCES AND BUSINESSES:

To assist/enhance emergency responsiveness (police/fire/ambulance), the Wyoming County 9-1-1 Street Naming and Addressing Policy manual requires that each residence, apartment, building, or "In Town" business display the address number as follows: numbers and/or letters not less than four inches (4") in height and contrasting in color with the background to which they are affixed, as near to the front entrance as possible and practical so that they are legible from the sidewalk (if any), the street, or opposite side of the street, day or night.

2024 REFUSE FEES:

For those who are paying their annual refuse fee (\$60.00) in two increments, the second installment is due not later than June 15th. Please plan to make payment by that date to avoid a late charge of \$25.00. Refuse Stickers are \$1.50 each and may be purchased at Peoples Security Bank, 83 East Tioga Street. **Large items stickers can be purchased at the office for \$30.00/item.**

REFUSE:

Refuse shall be drained of liquid, insofar as practicable, and be placed in colored plastic bags and not weighing more than 30 pounds*, securely tied or fastened and affixed with a garbage sticker issued by the Borough and placed for collection by the Borough at the curb, or curb-line of the property from which the waste was generated, not earlier than 8:00 o'clock of the evening prior to and not later than 6:00 a.m. *in of a scheduled collection day (normally each Tuesday**).* Any waste not collected on the date scheduled for pick-up shall be properly stored until the next scheduled collection date. We ask that you wrap the sticker around the neck/top of the refuse bag, which will prevent a loss of the sticker.

***Refuse bags that exceed the 30 pound limit will not be picked up.**

****In the event that a holiday or winter weather/other exigent situation coincides with a scheduled pick-up date, refuse collection will (normally) be postponed until the following workday.**

Note 1: Additional information may be found in Borough Ordinance 2009-4, which is available on our website (tunkboro.com).

Note 2: The Pennsylvania Covered Device Recycling Act of 2010 (effective January 24, 2013) prohibits consumers from disposing of electronic devices such as: computers, laptops, monitors, and televisions. Accordingly, such devices will not be picked up by the Borough Crews during refuse, clean-up, or recycling collections. Please see Electronic Recycling Section below.

RECYCLING:

(1) Glass, plastic, and metallic recyclables should be clean and dry, and placed in clear plastic bags (not weighing more than 30 pounds), securely fastened, and placed for collection by the curb/curb line of your property -- not earlier than 8:00 p.m. of the evening prior to and not later than 6:00 a.m., the morning of the scheduled collection day. (2) Paper and cardboard recyclables must be clean, dry, tied or bundled, and placed for collection as noted in Item (1) above. Any recyclables not collected on the scheduled date should be properly stored until the next scheduled pick-up date.

Note 1: Additional information may be found in Borough Ordinance 2009-4, which is available on our website (tunkboro.com).

Note 2: Please also see Electronic Recycling Section below.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING:

The Wyoming County Recycling Center (WCRC), 130 Township Drive (off SR92S), Tunkhannock Township, currently provides semi-annual recycling collection of electronic equipment such as: computers, laptops, monitors, televisions, and certain other devices on a semi-annual basis. The next (tentatively) scheduled collection dates are May 11th and September 14th 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. For additional information call 836-0729.

BRUSH PICK-UP/CHIPPING:

If you have pruning's/trimmings (not whole trees and/or large branches under 4 feet in length and 6 inches in diameter), to be picked up/mulched, please stack them neatly near the roadway (on the tree lawn/near the curb area, if possible) and the Borough Crew will remove them. **Note:** **Such trimmings will normally be picked up on Wednesdays.**

LEAF PICK-UP:

Leaves should be piled/placed* on the tree lawn/curbside areas for pick-up (**not in the roadway, as rain events can then result in their clogging the storm-drains**). Please have leaf piles in place for removal not later than November 18th at 7:00a.m. After that date, leaves must be bagged for pick-up.

***We ask that no branches, building materials, stones, bricks, or other like objects be placed in the leaf piles**, as previous instances have placed our DPW Crew at risk for serious injury and have caused significant and costly damage to our specialized leaf collection apparatus.

BOROUGH CLEAN-UP:

Items for pick-up should be in place by the curb/tree lawn area not earlier that two days prior to and not later than 6:00 a.m. of the applicable Monday morning. Note: We are unable to pick up

the following: refrigerators, freezers, full cans of paint, tires, batteries, propane tanks, and building materials such as sheets of drywall, etc. Boards are acceptable, provided that they are cut into small sections and bundled. Ice makers, air conditioners, de-humidifiers, bottle-water coolers, etc., must have an accompanying certification from an authorized company or person attesting that the refrigerant has been removed and disposed of properly.

WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT IN NOT ALLOWING NON-RESIDENTS TO BRING ITEMS INTO THE BOROUGH FOR DISPOSAL/PICK-UP. THIS IS ILLEGAL AND INCREASES OVERALL COSTS SIGNIFICANTLY.

Note: Due to cost factors and logistical considerations, we have found it necessary to establish limits on the overall quantities to be picked up. Accordingly, we ask that the items placed for removal not exceed the (approximate) size of a pick-up truck load, i.e., four feet wide by eight feet long by two feet high (4'x 8'x 2'). Should the size/quantities of the items you wish to have removed exceed this level, we ask that you contact the Borough Office to make separate arrangements for such removal. Any large item over 30 pounds (mattresses, couches, chairs, etc., a fee of \$30.00 will be charged.

OUTDOOR BURNING:

As a reminder, Borough Ordinance 1994-3 places restrictions on outdoor burning. Some of the key provisions of this ordinance are provided for informational purposes: Burning is permitted only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. **and only if no county, state, or other burning ban is in effect.** Fires must be covered by a screen or similar device that will contain the fire, sparks, ash, and cinders to the owner's property. Fires must be attended **at all times**, by a person, at least 18 years of age, and must be completely extinguished by 5:00 p.m. Only paper goods (e.g., letters, boxes, junk mail, soft drink packaging, advertising fliers, waxed cardboard, etc.) or other easily and cleanly burnable materials are considered acceptable for burning.

WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS:

During winter weather emergency conditions (snow accumulation of three or more inches, existing snow/ice conditions which make driving particularly hazardous, or upon declaration by the Mayor), on-street parking is limited on Snow Emergency Routes (SERs) (State Routes 6 and 29 and Borough streets that have signs designating them as SERs) as follows: parking is restricted to even-numbered days (between the hours of Midnight and 8:00 a.m.) on the even-numbered side of the street and odd-numbered days on odd-numbered side of the street. These restrictions are necessary to facilitate snow plowing/removal and to enable emergency personnel to get to incident locations quickly and safely.

Reminders:

When shoveling/blowing snow, please do not place the snow in the street.
Please ensure that snow and ice (if applicable) are removed from walkways within 24 hours after the conclusion of winter storm events (as per Tunkhannock Borough Code of Ordinances, Section 12-2011).

ZONING/FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT:

Should you have any questions and/or issues requiring information and/or assistance regarding permits, enforcement, etc., for zoning or flood plain matters, please contact Borough Zoning

Enforcement/Flood Plain Management Officer, at (570) 996-5538 (office) (please leave a message and your call will be returned) or via email at tbzoning@ptd.net.

Note 1: Zoning/Flood Plain permits, applications, and related paperwork/documentation are available at the Borough Office.

Need-to-Know 2024 Shade Tree Information for Property Owners:

The Tunkhannock Borough Shade Tree Commission will begin arranging tree pruning and tree removal contracts in February, 2024 for selected shade trees in Tunkhannock Borough tree lawns and public rights-of-way. Shade tree pruning consists of the removal of dead, dying, diseased and damaged tree branches. The 2024 pruning costs will be paid using funds from the Borough budget.

Shade tree removal consists of the removal of dead and diseased trees and remaining stumps. Tunkhannock Borough Shade Tree Ordinance 2014-2 specifies the property owner is responsible for the removal cost of the tree and stump in the tree lawn and public right-of-way abutting his or her property.

To help reduce the tree pruning costs for the Borough and the tree removal costs for property owners, the Shade Tree Commission will generate two contracts. Interested tree service contractors approved by the Commission will submit pruning and removal bids based on cost per tree. The tree service contractor(s) submitting the lowest total cost per contract will be selected. Any Borough tree lawn and public right-of-way shade tree pruning and removal not included in a contract must be approved by Shade Tree Commission upon completion of the Shade Tree Work Permit Application by Borough property owner. To obtain more information about the contract process and to receive answers to questions, Tunkhannock Borough property owners are invited to attend a Shade Tree Commission meeting held the third Monday of every month at the Borough Office, 126 Warren Street at 7:00 PM. Please call Shade Tree Commission Chairman Robert Robinson (570)836-3952 for permit applications.

DOGS:

As a reminder, it is unlawful to permit dogs to be left unattended within the Borough. Additionally, while being walked, etc., dogs must be under reasonable control and restraint by a leash or similar device, at all times. Those people walking dogs (with the exception of a blind person and his/her guide dog) are required to clean up any excrement deposited by their dogs.

Finally, dog owners are requested to be considerate of their neighbors by not allowing their pets to create a noise disturbance/violation through uncontrolled barking.

SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH:

In addition to our outstanding and dedicated work force, The Borough also relies heavily on dedicated groups of citizen-volunteers, who give so willingly of their time, energy, and expertise in fulfilling the many other duties and responsibilities that are so essential to our community. We once again wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to these individuals who serve us all.

Planning Commission:

Susann Barziloski, Patti Mead, Ned Slocum

Zoning Hearing Board:

Carl Penedos, Mark Monsey, Dominic Talarico

Riverside Park Commission:

Dominic Talarico, Charles Mead, Mark Monsey, Lynnelle Farber, Sharon Appleby

Shade Tree Commission:

Bob Robinson, Kenni Parr, Jennie Pitkus, Bob Parr

Municipal Authority:

Nancy Tinna, Michael DiStadio, Marshall Davis, Brenna Coolbaugh and Stacy Huber

Civil Service Commission:

Robert Robinson, Lynnelle Farber, and Charles Sands

Wyoming County Parks and Trails Authority Representatives:

Sam Elias and Ben Barziloski

Vacancy Board:

William Gaylord

Note: Volunteers are almost always needed to serve on one or more of these important groups. Should you be willing to “give something back” to your community through volunteer service, please contact the Borough Manager at 570-836-1548.

BUILDING/REMODELING/CONSTRUCTION/ZONING MATTERS:

If you are going to do any work on buildings, you may need a permit from the Borough; and the work may need to be inspected as part of the Uniform Construction Code, which is administered by Bureau Veritas, which can be reached at 836-7196. Please note that, if applicable, the Borough Permit must be obtained prior to contacting Bureau Veritas.