

The New Avondale Star

August/September 2009

Borough of Avondale - est. 1894

Council Beat

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Tar & Chipping Early September

- Thompson Street between 3rd and Maple
- Poplar Street
- Miller Drive between Indian Run and the end
- Williamson Drive.

August 25, 2009

Citing safety issues, Borough Council voted unanimously to close the State St. Bridge. Mayor Howell stated her full agreement after the vote.

The exact closing date is as yet undetermined. Avondale must first notify residents, surrounding townships, area schools and other interested parties.

The bridge was originally constructed by Chester County, where officials claim to have turned the bridge over to the State after construction. However, no documentation showing the transfer from Chester County to the State has been found. Documentation showing the bridge transfer to the Borough of Avondale from either Chester County or from the State is similarly absent.

Council also requested that Borough solicitor, Glenn Diehl, analyze the potential value of purchasing the land and two buildings immediately south of Borough Hall. The property is being offered

by the East Penn Railroad. A maximum of 5 hours is budgeted for exploration, analysis and a report to Council.

Attending the Council meeting were members Fred Bryan, Bob Cleveland, Sali Cosford Parker and Steve Frye. Councilors Pat Longen, Glenn Allen and Fred Hesenauer were absent. Guests included Mayor Howell, Engineer Jamie MacCombie, Solicitor Glenn Diehl, Bill Reilly, Pete Lau, Jeff Pilgrim and Bill Romanelli.

August 18, 2009

Discussion continues regarding the State St. Bridge. The bridge requires approximately \$60,000 in repairs, according to a report from the State of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is comprehensively reviewing all bridges and reporting bridge deficiencies to the appropriate municipalities. The State St. Bridge deficiencies include the bridge decking, a serious safety issue. Avondale was given six months to make repairs, four months of which have passed.

Avondale cannot afford to repair the bridge, and Council isn't certain the bridge maintenance is the borough's responsibility. In the meantime, State St. Bridge remains a safety risk – a risk that increases in September as school buses again travel State St. Further discussions will take place regarding the bridge closing.

Also during Council:

Bob Cleveland, Chairman of Streets & Streetlights, requested \$18,227.50 to tar and chip Thompson Street between (Page 2)

Please Note: Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Water & Sewer Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 8 at 10:00 am.

The Streets & Streetlights Committee will also meet on September 8 at 11:00 am..

Grass clipping
pick-up
~
3rd Monday of
each month



Save the Date!
~
2009 Fall Festival
October 10
10 am - 3 pm

Council Beat continued

3rd and Maple, Poplar Street, Miller Drive between Indian Run and the end, and Williamson Drive. Council approved the expenditure; the project should be accomplished in the first two weeks of September. Residents should watch for information in the mail and on posted signs.

During Public Comment:

- Resident Kenneth Strawhecker thanked Council for their attention to a water run-off issue he is having at his State St. property. He also mentioned that the problem is still not cor-

rected, and that he hopes Council will continue their attention until it is. Jamie MacCombie indicated he is checking into the continuing problem.

- Jim Duffy described a solicitor problem he and neighbors are experiencing with a magazine salesperson. Duffy asked if the Borough has any regulations regarding solicitation. It does not. Jamie MacCombie suggested following the example of other municipalities requiring solicitors to register with the

borough, showing appropriate credentials, before being allowed to enter neighborhoods. Council is considering options.

Attending the Council meeting were members Fred Bryan, Bob Cleveland, Glenn Allen, Sali Cosford Parker and Steve Frye. Councilors Pat Longen and Fred Hesenauer were absent. Guests included Mayor Howell, Engineer Jamie MacCombie, Bill Reilly, Pete Lau, Michelle Steele, Jim Duffy, Kenneth Strawhecker, and Bill Romanelli.

Around the Borough

Curbs, Crosswalks & Borough Building

Borough curbs and crosswalks were given a new coat of paint this summer, significantly improving resident safety. Councilor Steve Frye managed the project, doing a considerable amount of it himself. Councilor Frye also managed the Borough Hall repainting earlier this summer. Both projects were accomplished for a fraction of market cost as a result of the Councilor's efforts.

Deputy Tax Collector

Sherry Seace was approved as Deputy Tax Collector by

Borough Council in July. Ms Seace will support long-time Tax Collector, Madeline Nicotera, who is in poor health.

Violations

Nearly fifty Avondale addresses were given violation notices in the past 60 days by the borough Code Officer. Violations included vehicles with no tags, out-of-inspection vehicles, trash in yards, parking in yards, driving over an embankment to park in a yard and graffiti.

In an ongoing effort to maintain health and safety, as well as improve Avondale's appearance, resident complaints

are more closely followed up and property inspection are increasing. Violators are sent a letter detailing the violation, and given an appropriate amount of time to correct the matter. If not corrected, further legal action is taken by the Borough.

6th Annual Fall Festival

Planning for the October 10, 2009 Fall Festival is well underway and a call is going out for volunteers to help with final plans and for the event.

The Fall Festival Committee is also looking for floats and vehicles for the Festival opening parade. (Page 3)

Around the Borough continued

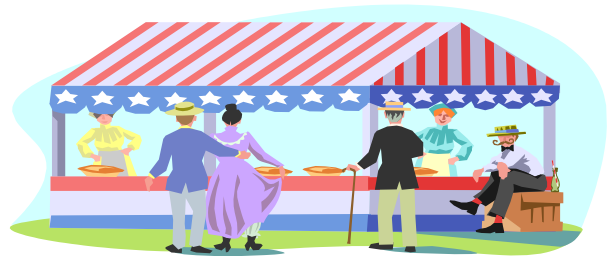
Booth space for selling crafts, food, baked goods and flea market items are available for \$25.00. To volunteer or reserve booth space for the Fall Festival, please call Faith Shore (610-268-3851) between the hours of 11:00 am and 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday. You may also email the Committee at fallfest@aol.com.

A Word From the Mayor - Dottie Howell

Though it's hard to remember as we swelter in August heat, Autumn is just around the corner. Back to school, brisk sunny days, beautiful foliage, raking leaves - and Avondale's Fall Festival!

Fall Festival day is Saturday, October 10th - our annual opportunity to spend time with friends and neighbors amid live music, yummy food and games for the kids. 2009 is our 6th Festival and this year will be better than ever!

If you'd like to be part of the pre-Festival set up team or lend a hand on the day of the Festival, please contact Faith Shore at 610-268-3851 Monday through Friday between 11 am and 8 pm. You may also contact Faith if you would like to have a booth at the Festival.



Dottie

It's going to be an awesome day - see you there!

Avondale Partners with Chesco to Map Critical Services

By Dennis O'Neill, P. E.

Borough Council recently approved a contract with Chester County's Geographical Information Systems Department (GIS) to update mapping of the Borough's water, storm-water, sanitary sewer systems and other utilities. Avondale joins with almost 30 other municipalities, authorities and school districts in using the interactive mapping program. Developed by the County, the program also includes municipal boundaries, parcel information, water sheds and aerial photography.

Thus far, GIS Staffers have mapped the locations of Avondale inlets, fire hydrants, sewer manholes, outfalls and water valves over 12 months. These interactive maps will enhance the Borough's management of services to the residents and aid in planning. The maps are also useful to the Fire and Police during critical incident management events.

Avondale's first year's contract with Chesco's GIS Department included 160 hours of GIS staff time, as well as

installation of necessary software at the Borough Hall. With the GIS software, Borough officials now have access to the County's extensive GIS data base of information. Borough Council will review the GIS contract annually, determining that year's level of participation. Future projects may include mapping road signs, traffic signals, street trees, accident and crime locations, as well as incorporate historical data on Borough buildings.

GIS Staffers have mapped the locations of Avondale inlets, fire hydrants, sewer manholes, outfalls and water valves

Borough of Avondale

110 Pomeroy Avenue
P.O. Box 247
Avondale, PA. 19311

Phone: 610-268-8501
Fax: 610-268-8205
E-mail: secretary_avondale-
boro@comcast.net

Remember - Most Borough Meetings are Public

Borough residents are reminded that Council meetings are open to the public, as are most Committee meetings. Meeting schedules are printed in every newsletter and available on the website. Any questions or problems you might have regarding Borough affairs, activities or services can be raised in the Public Comment portion of Council meetings.

Be heard

Be in the know

Be part of the solution



Borough Meeting Schedule

Borough Council

6:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday & the
4th Tuesday after the Water & Sewer meeting

Committees

Water & Sewer

10:00 am on the 1st Monday &
6:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday

Finance

6:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday

Earned Income

6:15 pm on the 2nd Wednesday

Housing

4:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday

Parks, Environment &

Composting

5:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday

Property & Equipment

5:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday

Public Safety

6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday

Streets & Street Lights

11:00 am on the 1st Monday

Personnel

6:00 pm on the 1st Tuesday

Planning

6:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday

Historical Commission

6:30 pm on the 1st Wednesday