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City News

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1

September 2012

Messages from the Mayor

Lower Burrell Merchant Association -

As I write this, I am saddened to report that the Lower Burrell Merchants Association has dissolved. Even though we have hundreds of businesses in Lower Burrell, only a handful participated in the activities the Association held. All of their activities were designed to promote all business and draw people to Lower Burrell. Thanks to those who did participate. Your work was excellent.

Crossroads Plaza -

The Plaza is now complete and with the addition of Sheetz and Little Caesars is fully occupied. Just a short time ago, this plaza was in financial difficulty and only a few months from being foreclosed. Expanding and rehabilitating the Plaza required a \$4 million plus investment. I had the opportunity to work closely with the developers. They showed their strong belief in the future of Lower Burrell and now it is your turn to support them. Also thanks to the Sheetz Corporation we now have a beautiful Gateway sign welcoming people to our City. There was a problem with a fire hydrant getting in the way of the sign, but Sheetz absorbed all costs in relocating the hydrant to minimize its effect.

Hillcrest Shopping Center -

We are working very closely with Gumbergs, the owners of the shopping center, to fill the remaining space. We are collectively pursuing several potential occupants. Stay tuned.

Burrell Plaza -

Several potential routes are being followed to bring that space (Wards and Penneys) up to full utilization. These efforts include everything from retail to light industry to office/educational and finally mixed use, i.e., residential coupled with retail. To date, these efforts have not been successful but the determination has not lessened. Widewaters, the owner, has this Plaza as one of their top priorities, as does the City. People working on this include,

Representative Evankovich, Senator Brewster, Westmoreland County Planning and Development, Governor's Action Team, and WEDIG (Westmoreland Economic Development Initiative for Growth).

Also, some of you may have heard that the Planning Commission/Zoning Hearing Board have given approval to use the former Wards building as a warehouse. This is correct, but the use is only for one year or less. At this point that contract has not been finalized and may not occur. If a long-term tenant is found, it will take about a year for renovations. The storage space use would not interfere.

Gateway Plaza - This is a commercial district in the Kinloch area. It is in the planning stages and as the plans move forward, I will keep you informed.

Other Business - There are a number of empty small retail spaces available along Leechburg Road. They are mostly suitable for offices or small (less than 5000 square foot) of retail. This is where you can help. If you interact with anyone that mentions a need for space, tell them we have space available in a prime area. After that, let me know and I will follow up to discuss possibilities. I can be reached at 724-335-9875, extension 225.

St. Margaret Mary Church -

Construction continues with a beautiful renovation/expansion of the church facilities. This is a wonderful, nearly \$5 million dollar investment in our community once again showing Lower Burrell is a great place to not only do business but raise a family. This new structure will be a tremendous asset to our City.

Election Day - Soon November 6th will be upon us and a very important election will occur. Each of you needs to make sure you are registered to vote and then VOTE. Sad to say, Lower Burrell had one of the lowest voter turnouts in the State in the last

election. Let's turn that around this election.

Sewage Consent Order -

As you all know by now, we are under a Consent Order as a contributory to the sewage overflows occurring in New Kensington, Arnold, Lower Burrell, and a small section of Plum. Work is progressing to characterize the seriousness and source of the problems. The next steps over two to three years are to determine and implement the corrections. The step we are now into is flow measurements. This will directly impact the correction plan and ultimately our costs. This is how your help is so important.

The cooperation from you, the residents of Lower Burrell, in eliminating rainwater infiltrating our sewage system has been excellent. While aggravating to some of you, this is a very important first step. Please continue to eliminate downspouts and driveway drains from entering the sewer lines. Those who continue to violate will face legal action which just adds to our costs and yours to correct this difficult problem.

Other sections of this newsletter will cover other steps being taken to bring our sewage system into compliance and improve operation while maintaining the lowest possible rates.

Rabbit Foot Condominiums -

Work has resumed on completing the infrastructure at the new condominium complex at the end of Craigdell Road. Both sanitary and storm sewer lines are in. The road structure is laid out and once completed, construction will begin. I am still hopeful the initial units will be completed this Fall. Again, this represents a substantial investment in our community.

Community Events -

A group is now in the formative stages to bring more and strengthen present events and activities held in our City. The group has taken the name BEAT which is an acronym for Burrell Entertainment and Activities

Team. The group is sponsored by the Parks Commission. It is designed to help smaller groups that are limited in people to do projects and to bring in new and exciting activities. More to come!!!

Former Ponderosa Building – A local developer plans on beginning construction in September.

Welcome the following new businesses:

- MTW Racing MX Sports
3033 Leechburg Road
- BLTZ Auto Sales
2555 Leechburg Road
- Sparkle Cleaners and Tailoring
2783 Leechburg Road
- Skin Deep Studio, LLC
2946 Leechburg Road
- Dominoes Pizza
2885 Leechburg Road

Remember Shop Lower Burrell first to get the finest products from your hometown merchants.

Wildlife Lodge Road Area Sewer Extension Project

The Municipal “Sanitary“ Authority of the City of Lower Burrell is ready to proceed with the Sanitary Sewer Extension Project that will provide public sewage to the Wildlife Lodge Road area residents. At the end of October 2012, the property owners in the affected area will receive plans showing the location of the proposed sewer line and a request for a right-of-way to install the sanitary sewer line through and/or along their property. Once that information is received, the property owners can schedule to meet with the Authority’s Solicitor and Engineer to address any questions or concerns in regard to the plans, sewer locations, and right-of-way. There will also be a public information meeting with the Authority and the Authority’s contractor after the contract is awarded. This will give residents an opportunity to ask any questions in regard to the construction phase of the project.

Actual construction is estimated to start December 2012 or January 2013. Construction should be completed by August 2013. Once construction is completed, property owners will receive notice of availability to tap-in to the public sewage system. The tap-in fee is \$3925.00 for a single family dwelling. It should be noted that 38 families have pre-qualified for a low-income Community

Development Block (CDBG) Grant to pay the tap-in fee. A more detailed income survey will be sent to those households. The grant was made possible through the efforts of the City of Lower Burrell and Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development. There will be No front foot assessment. The tap-in procedure is where the residents pay a tap-in fee to the City of Lower Burrell and then hire a private contractor to install the sanitary sewer lateral from the house to the public sewer line that was installed by the Authority’s contractor. Thank you for cooperation.

Edward Bloch, Chairman
Lower Burrell Municipal Authority

Several residents have asked City employees what electrical supplier they should choose for the cheapest rate. There is a website that helps you determine what the best choice is for you: www.papowerswitch.com . It lists the suppliers in your area and the rates. However, we do encourage you to read the fine print! Some of the companies have early cancellation fees. This does not necessarily mean not to use them, just be aware of this and whether that will be an issue for you in the near future.

A Message from Lower Burrell Police Department

This past summer, there have been numerous vehicles entered by criminals looking for money, I-pods, and GPS devices. Lower Burrell Police Officers have made arrests on multiple people engaged in this type of activity. In the process of interviewing these criminals, they have all reported a common trend. They simply pull on the door handle and see if the car is unlocked. If it is, they enter the car, look quickly, take what they want and move on to the next car. Interestingly though, they have stated when the car was locked, they simply skipped it and moved on to the next vehicle.

Please remember to lock your vehicles and protect your own property. Do not allow yourself to become an easy target for being victimized by these criminals. Keep valuables out of sight, and please do not keep your keys or firearms in the car. In a few cases, criminals stole handguns that were left in the consol, under the seat, or the glove boxes. The result is now your firearm, registered in your name, has

become an illegal firearm on the street and will likely be sold to people engaging in other criminal activities.

Lastly, please report any suspicious activity to the police by calling 911 at the time you are witnessing the activity. Please do not wait until the next day. If your instincts are telling you that something doesn’t look right, it probably isn’t. Prompt reporting to 911 is the best way to ensure the safety of yourself and your neighbors.

We ask all residents of this city to be good neighbors by watching out for each other and report anything that appears suspicious immediately. Remember, this is our City. It is full of good, generous, kind-hearted people, and we all want to keep it that way for ourselves and our families. One of the ways we accomplish this is by the good people stepping forward when their fellow citizens are in need and taking positive action. Thank you.

IT’S A SCAM

Scams to defraud unsuspecting people of money are becoming more common with advancement of technology and convenience of card type payment systems. A new type of scam has surfaced recently using gift cards that are bought at local retailers or over the internet. The scammer simply copies down the unique set of numbers from the reverse side of the Gift Cards that are displayed on the shelf. After copying the information down, the scammer places the item back on the shelf to be sold to an unsuspecting person. The scammer will try to use the gift card’s unique set of numbers periodically to check to see if the card was activated. Once the card is purchased and activated, the scammer then goes on an internet shopping spree depleting the balance on your card.

Another gift card scam and one that is more common, is the purchase of Gift Cards from online auction web sites. Sellers often will overstate the amount of what is on the gift card actually being auctioned off. Scammers will also auction gift cards that were bought with stolen credit cards. Residents should be mindful of these gift card scams and use the following tips to safeguard themselves from fraud: Only buy gift cards from the store directly or secure retailer websites, always examine both sides of the gift card if possible, don’t buy gift cards in packaging that appears to have been opened or tampered with, and finally never

give any unneeded private information when purchasing a gift card.

Another scam that has surfaced in the recent months in our area is a phone scam. Imagine getting a phone call in the middle of the night waking you from your sleep. The voice on the other end of the line says they are an officer of the court. The person says your relative has been arrested and they need your credit card information for them to be bailed out of jail. This is a scam and no information should be given out. Residents should be careful with giving out any personal information including social security numbers, dates of birth, and financial information. The scammers might not try to just steal your money but also your identity.

Other scams include either phone calls or letters stating you have won a sweepstakes and all you have to do is pay a fee or the taxes. These are the most common types of scams. A general rule to avoid being scammed is to tell yourself, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

If circumstance like these occur or you are suspicious of a possible scam, do not give any personal information out and contact the Lower Burrell Police Department immediately.

Lower Burrell Officer Awarded With a National Police Hall of Fame General Commendation Award

Detective Sgt. Scott Cardenas, teaming with New Kensington Police Chief Thomas Klawinski, proactively initiated a crime prevention strategy specifically targeting the production, possession, and dissemination of child pornography/child abusive materials. In Pennsylvania, the crime is known as Sexual Abuse of Children. Every year, Detective Sgt. Cardenas investigates several of these types of cases.

Unfortunately, in addition to being victims of such crimes, a number of minor children are engaging in a practice called "sexting" wherein the children produce images of themselves and/or disseminate images of themselves or others. These children engage in "sexting" without considering the loss of control over these images once disseminated and placed on the internet. Further, these children do not appreciate the assistance they provide to sex offenders by making images of child pornography/child abusive materials even more readily accessible. They also do not appreciate the danger they potentially

place themselves in, the way they compromise their futures, the criminal nature of their actions, and the efforts expended by law enforcement to attempt to remedy the situation.

In November and December of 2011, a new "sexting" investigation in Lower Burrell involving a large number of juvenile victims/actors inspired Detective Sgt. Cardenas to initiate an effort to educate children about the ramifications of engaging in "sexting" behavior.

Detective Sgt. Cardenas sought the cooperation of the Burrell School District to provide an audience of fourth through twelfth graders and their parents in order to prevent "sexting" behavior and promote the safety of his community's children and prevent crime.

Detective Sgt. Cardenas enlisted Chief Thomas Klawinski (then Detective) of the New Kensington Police Department who performs technology forensic analysis to participate. Chief Klawinski then recruited the Allegheny-Kiski Health Foundation and its President John Pastorek to assemble multiple grade-level appropriate programs with several speakers.

Multiple meetings were held at Burrell High School in preparation for these programs. An idea shared between Detective Sgt. Cardenas and Chief Klawinski grew to involve not just their departments, the Burrell School District and the Allegheny-Kiski Health Foundation, but the Westmoreland County District Attorney's Office, the United States Attorney's Office, the FBI, and the Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Office.

On April 18 and 19, 2012, four separate programs (one for 4th and 5th graders, one for middle schoolers, one for high schoolers, and one for parents/community members) were held and were well received. The Allegheny-Kiski Health Foundation filmed all four programs in order to produce a DVD that will be shared with future Burrell students and with any other communities interested in this crime prevention measure.

Detective Sgt. Cardenas' teamwork with Chief Klawinski and proactive efforts will surely prevent future "sexting" and in doing so, will protect the safety and the futures of the children who may have otherwise engaged in this behavior.

The above written article was authored by Westmoreland County Assistant District Attorney Judith Petrush when she and I nominated Detective Sgt. Cardenas for this award. I am proud to announce that Detective Sgt. Cardenas was selected for the National Police Hall of Fame General Commendation Award and received this honor at the July City Council Meeting. This award serves as a reminder of Detective Sgt. Cardenas' continuing commitment and dedication to keeping the people and children of this community safe. We are very proud of him and thank him for his service.

Tim Weitzel, Chief of Police

New Police Officers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the city residents to our two new Patrol Officers.



Officer Steve Aulerich joined the department on July 11, 2012. Aulerich, 40 years of age, followed in a long standing family tradition of law

enforcement officers when he began as a part-time police officer in the mid 1990's with Apollo, North Apollo, and Upper Burrell Township. In 1997, Aulerich began working full-time with the Washington Township Police Department. Aulerich served on that department for 15 years until he left to join our team at the Lower Burrell Police Department. Officer Aulerich brings to the table many years of police experience and serves to educate police officers through instructing at the basic police academy level as well as instructing veteran officers during their yearly in service trainings. He also serves as an instructor for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.



Officer Vince Sekanick started with the department on July 19, 2012.

Officer Sekanick, 26 years of age, first became interested in police work from his days serving as a volunteer fireman in the City of New Kensington. Officer Sekanick interacted with many police officers during his time with the fire department and heard the calling to pursue law enforcement as a career. In 2007, Officer Sekanick served as an intern with the New Kensington Police Department and earned an Associate

Degree from the Allegheny County Community College. He started his law enforcement career in 2008 and has worked part-time for Frazier Township, Brackenridge Borough, Tarentum Borough, and Upper Burrell Township. During that time Officer Sekanick backed-up Lower Burrell Officers on several occasions, and we got to know him as fine police officer.

I am extremely happy we had the opportunity to have these men join our team this year, and we look forward to working with them over the course of their careers.

Tim Weitzel, Chief of Police

Posting of Advertisements on Roadside Poles

Many of you may not be aware of this but what you are doing may be illegal. With regard to posting garage sale signs and other advertisements on public utility poles, The Pennsylvania Crimes Code, under statute 6905, forbids the driving of nails, tacks, or any metal or hard substance into a public utility pole. Thus, when someone uses a staple gun, hammer and nail, or push tack to post a sign on these types of poles, you are violating the law. The penalty is a summary offense and can result in the responsible party being given a monetary fine.

The reason behind this law is to protect the people who work on the utilities lines carried by these poles. There are utility poles along Leechburg Road that have so many staples driven into them, they appear to be clad in armor. This makes for a hazardous condition for the utility workers. Please do not jeopardize their safety for the sake of posting a sign.

The City cannot give anyone permission to violate the law, so I would refrain from posting signs in this manner. With regard to posting advertisements on the City's street sign poles, they can also create a hazardous condition by obstructing the view of motorists and pedestrians. If you take the chance and do post a sign, please remove it as soon as your event is over. The old weathered signs are unsightly and eventually fall to the ground becoming a litter problem. This should not be mistaken for permission to post advertisements. Just remember, if you take this chance, many of the advertisements posted have an address and contact information on them, and the person that contacts you may be a police officer.

Public Works **Councilman Frank Trozzi, Jr.** **W. Scott Johnson, Foreman**

Public Works Department

Street Department

The street department is continuing road repairs and maintenance consisting of spot base repairs, catch basin rebuilds, cutting branches, and repairing any storm pipe issues. Seal coating of Claremont, Woodbine, Idaho, Willow, Rodgers, Morningside, Pineview, Violet, Limba, Korina, Lori, Trailer Blvd and Silver Moon streets are scheduled to be completed along with the street sweeper following close behind to pick up any loose chips.

Donnell Road Project

The New Kensington Municipal Water Authority has completed its waterline replacement project on Donnell Road from Leechburg Road to just below the first Valjo Drive intersection. Tresco Paving has been contracted to mill and overlay asphalt on this same section of roadway. The timeline for this work is scheduled for completion by the end of August.

This project has been in development through the cooperation of both the New Kensington Water Authority and the City of Lower Burrell. Both groups worked together in order to keep costs to a minimum for this overall project. Peoples T.W. Phillips Gas Company also updated a line in this area to further show that several organizations can work and plan together to get a project completed and help ensure the longevity of the roadway.

The storm basin is working well in the East Ken Manor portion of New Kensington that was installed through grant monies to aid in the Wills and Wells areas of the City. Other storm basins throughout the City are beginning their preventive maintenance procedures by the street department as well.

On the topic of storm drainage, we are governed to follow certain guidelines with the storm lines as well. Please keep in mind that it is a violation to dump grass, leaves, or any foreign matter into catch

basins or into the outfall of any storm pipe. When cutting lawns, please refrain from directing the grass out into the street as this is also considered a violation as the clippings eventually get to the catch basins on the street. Not only do these situations create a potential back up/flood situation, but it also contaminates the streams which feed our rivers. If you see someone doing so, please call 911 to help keep our streams and rivers clear.

If there are any issues with your street or street signs, please call the street department at 724-889-2007. A simple call helps our department keep up with any repairs in a timely fashion, and it is greatly appreciated.

For street light outages, please report the problem to West Penn Power at 1-888-LIGHTSS (544-4877) or on the internet at www.firstenergycorp.com. If possible, please include the pole number or a specific address. When they come out to correct the problem during the day, it can be difficult locating the correct light. It is helpful to them if you can tie a piece of rope or ribbon to the pole.

Penn Dot has completed their Route 56 road paving and traffic signal updating project from Puckety Church Road to Melwood Road. The new pedestrian crosswalk and LED lights will result in the reduction of overall utility and maintenance costs for the city to maintain.

Sewer Department

The Sewer Department is performing manhole inspections as well as camera evaluations of the sanitary system. Routine cleaning and root cutting of lines are also being performed. Pump station repairs are completed as needed when evaluated twice a week.

The City of Lower Burrell is working with the Municipal Sanitary Authority of New Kensington in the evaluation and monitoring of flow levels throughout the sanitary system in our City. Arnold and Plum are also involved in this process as a regional approach to see what can be done in order to provide a tighter sanitary system for each community. Each community involved is trying to eliminate inflow infiltration issues that will eventually lead to potential savings in the treatment of sanitary sewage and keeping our waterways clean.

The Illinois and Edwards area is being reviewed in order to develop a plan that

will help flow conditions in this area of the city.

Just a reminder, any downspout, exterior drain, or driveway drain connected to the sanitary lines is in violation of City Ordinances, State Law, and Federal Law. These connections are overloading the sanitary lines during heavy rain storms causing manholes to overflow in the lower areas of the City and then flowing directly into the streams, which run to the river.

A large portion of the City's manholes now have rain guards, which help reduce infiltration and lower the opportunity for ash and grit to enter the sanitary system. Please keep in mind that the rain guards will hold water just under the lid which you will be able to see when looking through the holes on the lid but the rest of the manhole will remain unaffected. If there is water **constantly** running from a manhole, please call 724-889-2007 during the week day or 911 on weekends or holidays.

The Public Works Department would like to welcome aboard the following: Mr. Ian Smith in the Street Department, as he has accepted a conditional offer of employment as a laborer/truck driver. Mr. William Thomey in the Sewer Department, as he has accepted a conditional offer of employment as a sewer mechanic. And last but not least, Mrs. Tammy Schafer as a part-time secretary for the Public Works Department.

The City would like to thank Mr. Earl Luniewski and Mrs. Christine Schubert for their years of hard work and service to the City of Lower Burrell. They will be greatly missed, and we wish them the best of luck in their retirement!

**A Message from
Councilman Joseph Grillo
Public Safety**

We are beginning to see the end of summer with leaves starting to change colors. Please remember to have your furnace checked to make sure that it is running properly and efficiently. Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. When fires are detected, families can escape.

Please remember that when you sell or lease a house that you need to have your place inspected. This will help keep up our property values. When there are blighted

properties in our neighborhoods, it decreases the values of our homes and invites absentee landlords. When absentee landlords come into our neighborhoods, one of the things that they bring with them is the criminal element that we don't need. The inspectors work flexible times so they can schedule an inspection around our busy lifestyles.

We are still having issues with residents not displaying their property address so the first responders can identify your property in case of an emergency. Your address should be prominently displayed, visible, and clearly marked. **If 911 changed your address, please take down the old address and replace it with the new address that you were given.** There has been some confusion and fortunately our first responders have overcome some of the issues - GREAT JOB TO THE FIRST RESPONDERS.

In closing, good job to our firefighters on a successful carnival. It was great to see them work together on this project. Hopefully the carnival will be an annual event for the city and the families of Lower Burrell. Remember that a monetary donation to our firefighters is a donation that stays in our community, and the money is well spent.

**A Message from
Councilman Richard Callender
Parks and Public Property**

**SEMI-ANNUAL RECYCLING DAY
PROGRAM**

As you may know, the semi-annual recycling program here in Lower Burrell has been extremely successful. The Recycling Task Force hosts the event with active and enthusiastic participation from the Burrell High School Environmental Club. In fact, a flyer describing the October 20, 2012 event is included with this newsletter.

At the Spring and Fall Recycling Days, we will continue to provide curbside pickup to include the following:

- Curbside pickup of leafs and limbs for the elderly and handicapped who are unable to drop off behind City Hall.
- Curbside pickup of recyclable materials (as defined in the attached recycling flyer) for the elderly and handicapped who are unable to drop off behind City Hall.

To qualify for curbside pickup of leaves, limbs, and recyclable materials for the October 20, 2012 Recycling Day:

- You must be at least 62 years of age or handicapped and be a resident of Lower Burrell. Proof of age and residency are required.
- Materials must come from your primary Lower Burrell residence only.
- Leaves must be bagged and at curbside the day of pickup.
- Limbs must be neatly arranged, bundled, and at curbside the day of pickup.
- Approved recyclable materials (as defined in the attached recycling flyer) must be at curbside the day of pickup.
- Residents must prepay at city hall any recycable item that has a fee attached.
- Please call City Hall at 724.335.9875, extension 208 and ask for Nita no later than three (3) days prior to Recycling Day to schedule your pickup. She will ask for some basic information and will schedule your pickup.

Please remember to put your bins curbside the night before your scheduled pickup date.

Behind City Hall, there is a Paper Retriever container for recycling of magazines, catalogs, newspapers, junk mail, and office or school papers. No cardboard, phone books, fiberboard/cereal boxes, or text books are allowed. A Planet Aid container for clothing donations is also now in place. The distribution of the items collected will help people in natural disasters.

**A Message from
Lower Burrell Treasurer's Office
Brian Eshbaugh, Treasurer
724-337-4381**

Online Banking Payments have become a common way for residents to pay bills. Please include your account number, account name, and what bill the payment is to be applied to. This will alleviate any payments being not credited to your proper account. Also, please leave enough time for the check to reach us; the date you submit to your financial institution is not the date our office receives your payment.

Lower Burrell Tax forms can be found on the city's web site at www.cityoflowerburrell.com. Forms included on the web are Occupancy Permits, New Resident, Landlord Tenant,

Business Registration, LST Refund Request, LST Exemption, and Business Privilege Tax.

Effective July 1, 2012, all property owners are eligible to pay their **school** real estate tax in three (3) equal installments. Payments are due September 30, October 31, and November 30 as indicated on your tax bill. To exercise this privilege of installments, you must pay the first installment by September 30th. Please note **NO discounts are permitted on taxes when made on installment basis**. Also, any unpaid installment payments that are delinquent; a penalty of ten percent (10%) shall be added to the amount of payment due.

Residents Requesting Receipts, please mail or bring in the entire bill to our office. We will receipt all copies of the bill and you will receive back your receipted copy (residents must include a self-addressed stamped envelope when paying by mail).

After Hours Drop Boxes are located outside the drive through window and on the right side of the back entrance. All Tax payments and sewage/recycling payments may be made after hours and will be credited the next business day. **Please No Cash in Drop Boxes**.

Residents can now pay their sewage and recycling payments by credit card by either calling 1-800-272-9829 or by visiting www.officialpayments.com. Please have your sewage bill available and use the Jurisdiction code 4811. A \$3.95 service charge will be applied for payments up to \$300. Payments over \$300 will require a second visit and an additional \$3.95 service charge.

Starting In 2012, Residents Earned Income will be collected by Berkheimer and not our office as per ACT 32 of 2008. Please make sure your employer is using the correct PSD code of 650201. This office will be completing 2011 final returns of residents who filed extensions until October 15, 2012. ACT 32 requires all employers to withhold your local wage tax and remit to one local collector. Residents should verify with their employer that they are complying with this new law. 2012 Final returns will need to be filed with Berkheimer and not at our tax office.

**A Message from
President Tony Farina
Pucketa Chartiers
Watershed Association**

The Pucketa and Chartiers watersheds include all or portions of eight different municipalities in Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties. These include Allegheny Township, City of Arnold, City of Lower Burrell, Municipality of Murrysville, City of New Kensington, Plum Borough, Upper Burrell Township, and Washington Township. Pucketa Creek, Little Pucketa Creek, Chartiers Run, and all of their tributary streams drain into the Allegheny River in New Kensington and Lower Burrell.

What's happening in our watershed?

PACWA member Mike Tutelo coordinated efforts with volunteer groups for the 2012 river sweep along Chartiers Creek and the river area in Braeburn. The group picked up junk, litter, and debris. River Sweep is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection.



Area Near Valley High School Little Pucketa Creek Watershed

The final phase of a flood control problem at Valley High School was the completion of a debris basin. The debris basin is a large, bowl-shaped concrete pad that acts similar to the strainer in your kitchen sink. It catches things that could clog the creek – things like debris and sediment. The basin in the area upstream of Valley High School is a unique design and was the first of its kind in Westmoreland County. This \$200,000 project was completed this year. This is the final phase of the Valley High School Projects.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jack Frank, a field representative from Congressman Mark S. Critz's office is available at Lower Burrell City Hall on Wednesday's from 9 am to 12 noon or can be reached at 1-800-289-2642.

PEOPLES LIBRARY UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

5th Annual Adventure with Wine – Tuesday, October 16, 2012 from 7 to 9 pm at Peoples Library, New Kensington Branch, 880 Barnes Street. The program is presented by Hoffstot's Café Monaco. Tickets are \$35 each. All proceeds benefit Peoples Library. Register online at www.peopleslibrary.org. Select "events" and scroll to 10/16/12 to register.

Westmoreland County Day of Giving

Peoples Library will receive matching dollars for every contribution made with a credit card on October 3, 2012.

Their website, www.peopleslibrary.org will have a link to the donation website and instructions on how to donate. The library received \$14,235 in donations and \$3,274 in matching dollars for a total of \$17,509 in 2011. They are asking everyone to help beat those amazing totals in 2012!

REPRESENTATIVE ELI EVAKOVICH

Representative Evankovich will hold a Town Hall meeting at city hall on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 from 7 to 8 p.m.

TRICK OR TREAT

Trick or Treat for Lower Burrell residents will be Wednesday, October 31, 2012 from 6 to 8 p.m.

HOW DID THEY KNOW?

Did you ever wonder how someone was privy to events occurring in the city prior to any public announcement? The answer is simple. They subscribe to the city's electronic distribution of the newsletter. Join in and be better informed by receiving the newsletter before it goes to print.

To enroll, go to our web site: www.cityoflowerburrell.com and click on "Sign up Today" to get the latest news and information on what is happening in Lower Burrell. Once you have signed up, you will begin receiving news and information electronically from the City. You may unsubscribe from this list at any time.

CHECK US OUT

For current updates of City news and events, "like" our Facebook page at The City of Lower Burrell. Also, check out our new and improved web site at www.cityoflowerburrell.com.



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