BALLY BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

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610-845-2351 * Fax 610-845-2023
Business Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
Web Page: www.co.berks.pa.us/muni/bally
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Borough Council Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 PM at the Borough Hall. All residents are welcome to attend.

Mayor - David Schott

Borough Council:
President - Glenn Mutter
Vice President - Matthew Gehman
Michael Moll * Joel Pilgert
Michael Bauman * Paul Gehringer
Joshua Sloan

Borough Manager - Wendy Mutter

Secretary - Rochelle Gresh

Solicitor– R. Tim Curley

Code Enforcement
Kraft Code Services
Engineers
Systems Design Engineering
Gilmore & Associates

Tax Collector- Beth Spaid

Community Events

March 9th: Last day to submit BARDS Chicken Pot Pie orders

March 27th: Pot Pie Pick-up Day at Bally Pool

March 29: Last Day to Submit Hometown Hero Banner Forms

Borough Council Meeting

With the resurgence of the corona virus, the Borough will continue to have its monthly Borough Council meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at Borough hall. Limited in person seating is available and attendees must wear a face covering and practice social distancing if attending. The Borough will continue to broadcast these meetings on zoom (a free app available to all smart phones, tablets and computer platforms, until the emergency declaration has been lifted by the Borough Council.

Manual Zoom Meeting ID: 821 1915 4838
Web Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82119154838

The Borough office will remain open to residents, but entry will require a face covering. If you do not have a face covering or cannot wear a face covering, simply ring the doorbell and we will service you at the door.

Annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting

The annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting ceremony had been cancelled for 2020. The Borough will set up a holiday tree (donated by the Lions Club) and residents are welcome to bring ornaments to place on the tree at their convenience.



BALLY COMMUNITY AMBULANCE

2021 memberships for the Bally Community Ambulance are now available. If you did not receive your membership renewal in the mail, forms are available at the Borough Hall. Your membership covers any ambulance fees not covered by your insurance for ambulance transport from your home for family members residing in your home!!



Dog walkers, please remember to clean up after your dogs whether walking your dog on the trail or Borough sidewalks. The Borough continues to receive complaints of dog walkers not cleaning up after their pets. Please be respectful of other people's property. **All dogs are required to be on a leash and under control at all times according to State and local laws.**

SEWER RATE REDUCTION

In 2016 the Borough acquired a municipal loan to fix sewer system issues, replace the aging reservoir, replace the aging municipal garage and develop a secondary water supply for the Borough.

The Borough has completed the water tank project, and two major sewer projects, lining mains, replacing laterals and a new connection under Route 100. The Borough was able to obtain a grant to complete the last sewer project lining manholes, remaining mains and replacement of the some laterals. The municipal garage and new well site are in progress, with the garage slated to be completed in 2021. The new well site is ongoing and reliant on direction and requirements from the State.

The loan is now out of the drawing period and is in the repayment period, allowing the Borough to re-evaluate the funds needed to operate with the loan repayment amount fixed. With this information, Borough Council has approved a reduction in the sewer minimum rate (inclusive up to 5000 gallons of usage), from $205 per quarter to $190 per quarter. This new rate will be in effect as of the November 1, 2020 usage period and will be applicable on the March 1, 2021 sewer bill.

The Borough has also acquired a portion of Washington Township's water system that was serviced by Bally water. This required the Borough to re-instate its Municipal Authority, which has its own board members. Water rates will remain the same at this time. Both Bally and Washington Township customers will pay the same rate under the Municipal Authority.

Bally Area Recreational Development Society

Due to COVID restrictions the BARDS craft show will not be held this year. BARDS has continued to hold fund raiser through out the year to help support the Borough pool and park and recently completed a successful basket raffle and clothing drive.

BARDS will once again be holding a PA Dutch Chicken Pot Pie Quart Sale at a cost of $8 per quart. Pre-orders will be taken until March 8th, with a drive through pick-up at the pool to be held on March 27th. Watch for flyers posted locally with more specific information in the coming months.



BALLY LIONS CLUB NEWS

The Lions Club purchased and hung new Christmas decorations along Main St. in November. The new lights will be much easier to maintain while still looking great lit up at night! The Lions Club is also responsible for the walking trail in the park. The trail will be open for use by all residents weather permitting. The Borough will not be able to clear the path during inclement weather. You will be walking at your own risk.

Fruit bags will be delivered to senior citizens in the Borough on December 19th around 9am. If you are 65 or older, a widow or widower of any age, or a member of the clergy please be aware that a member of the Lions Club will be stopping by to deliver.

The Lions Clubs is accepting registration forms for the 2021 Hometown Hero Banner program. The banners honor both active and veteran military personal, EMS, Fire or Police and are hung along Main Street from May to November. Please contact Bally Borough to receive a form.

The Bally Lions Club has wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers and commodes available for use to any Borough resident in need. For more information, feel free to contact Donnie Conrad at 610-845-2564.

A Message from Eastern Berks Fire Department

What an incredible quarter! Of the 140 calls to which our volunteers responded in July through September, eighteen were in Bally. We already reported in the last newsletter about the 36 calls we covered on August 4, when the remnants of Isaias passed over us in August and dropped 6+ inches of rain. We are still repairing damage to our Bechtelsville Station sustained on that day.

During this past quarter, there were once again numerous working structure fires, including another superb stop of a house fire, this one on Crescent Lane in Washington Township the day after Isaias. The State Police Fire Marshall was quoted in a local new outlet as saying, "Being able to get here, and knowing what needs to be done and knowing so quickly what to do, especially from a command standpoint of the fire scene to be able to say, 'This is what we need to do to save the house,' really played out perfectly here."

Additionally, there was a car into a house, a two-alarm house fire, an assist on a barn, a farm tractor fire, industrial roof fire, garage fire, Rapid Intervention Team at another industrial fire, multiple accidents including one with live wires on a vehicle, many trees and wires down, and numerous assists for traffic control and medicals.

With fundraising opportunities greatly diminished this year, we especially thank you for the support you provide when you donate through our fund drive letter. You can follow us on Facebook or our website. We are always in need of firefighters, fire police and other volunteers. Download applications at www.EasternBerksFire.com



GOING GREEN REMINDER!!!

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter and other flyers via email instead of mail, please send an email with your name and street address to:
bally@comcast.net
This saves the Borough paper and printing costs and is good for the environment!!!

SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION



In the event of severe weather, please contact the Borough to inform us of any damage to your home or property. We must report this information to Berks County in case assistance becomes available.

WINTER WEATHER INFORMATION

Please remember to check WFMZ online or TV, when severe winter weather is forecasted. The Borough will post all snow emergency information to this channel and residents are reminded that all vehicles must be removed from the **snow emergency routes** as soon as possible. If you do not move your vehicle within one hour of the snow emergency declaration, you may be ticketed or towed at your expense. Any plowable snow event will trigger a snow emergency. If possible, we ask that vehicles be removed from non-emergency routes to allow for better plowing of Borough Streets. All sidewalks are to be cleared within 24 hours of the end of a snow event. Please wait to clear driveways and sidewalks until the Borough has finished plowing so we do not plow shut the driveway you just cleared.

Reminder, residents are NOT permitted to place snow into the street, or on a neighboring property without permission.