

---

---

# BECHTELSVILLE BULLETIN

16 Railroad Street, P.O. Box 295, Bechtelsville, PA 19505

610-367-8100

610-367-2167 (fax)

Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2014

---

Glenn Haas, Mayor

Gloria Mauger, Council Vice President

Rose Marie Bireley

Joel Weller

Charles Scheetz

Arthur Bartman

Brian Kolb

---

## **Burning Ordinance**

In November, 2008, Borough Council passed an Ordinance regulating burning in the Borough. Following is a list of regulations contained in the new ordinance. **PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY ONLY BURN IF YOU HAVE OBTAINED A PERMIT. CONTACT THE FIRE CHIEF AT 610-367-2000 TO APPLY FOR A PERMIT.**

- Burning is permitted on the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of each month for paper, wood, and cardboard.
- Burning is to be done in a non-flammable container such as a burn barrel, chiminea, or portable fireplace.
- The non-flammable container must be placed at least fifteen (15) feet from any structure.
- The container must be placed on a non-combustible surface of at least 8 feet x 8 feet.
- Chimineas, portable fireplaces, and fire pits must also be 15 feet from any structure on a non-combustible surface of at least 8 feet x 8 feet.
- Prior to burning in any non-combustible container, including all chimineas, portable fireplaces, and fire pits, its location must be approved by the Fire Chief of Keystone Fire Company No. 1.
- If approved, the Fire Chief will issue a permit to the property owner. The property owner will be responsible for a one time inspection fee of \$20 payable to Eastern Berks Fire Company. (The amount of the fee may be changed by Borough Council at any time.)
- Burning in burn barrels is permitted from sunrise to sunset only.
- Burning in chimineas, portable fireplaces, and fire pits is allowed at anytime with constant supervision.
- All burning must be under constant supervision by a responsible adult.
- Smoldering fires are prohibited.

The penalty for violating this ordinance is a minimum fine of \$100.00 and a maximum fine of \$600.00 per violation.

**TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE PLEASE CALL 1-800-372-9111 AND ASK FOR THE FIRE OFFICER IN CHARGE FOR BECHTELSVILLE BOROUGH.**

## **Property Maintenance - Weeds**

Spring has finally sprung! Thank you for all of your efforts and understanding in removing snow from sidewalks and other areas during this brutal winter. As the temperatures become warmer please remember to remove the weeds from your property, sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Failure to maintain weeds on your property may result in citation and fines.

## **Did You Know?**

On December 8, 1892 a regular meeting of the Bechtelsville Borough Council was held.

William Haas and Jacob Haas are billing 25 cents a day more for blasting rock than what was agreed upon. Council decided to give them their claim.

The Tax Committee looked over the valuation for the borough tax. A motion was made to tax single men 50 cents extra and the same occupation tax as in the rule, it was so ordered.

A motion made to settle the tax account on Jan. 20-21 1893. The secretary was instructed to notify the taxpayers with cards (they have not paid) to settle their account on the appointed day. The tax deposit to be given to the treasurer, J. Moyer the amount of \$503.62.

The next meeting was held January 6, 1893

Bills were ordered to be paid. Also the amount ordered to be given by authority to the treasurer to settle the supervisors account. It was so ordered by council. H. Stanger was appointed to get the amount of money necessary to settle the account.

On January 19, 1893 a special meeting was held on the subject of the previous meeting. It was decided to give the treasurer authority to settle the supervisors account. Therefore an order was granted to J. Moyer for \$1007.11 for the whole amount of the account. It was necessary to make a loan of \$275.00 for a few months. The money was received from A. Deysher. A note was given to him for said amount. The note was signed by the president and the burgess.

(All information for this column is taken from the actual meeting minutes)

## **Pets**

**Anyone walking their dog in the Borough is required to clean up after them. Please be considerate of your fellow residents and their properties.**

## **Community Park**

Please remember that pets are not permitted in our community park. Also, no cars are permitted to park in the grass. Please follow these and all park rules so everyone can enjoy the park.

Our park is available for rental for birthdays, reunions or other special occasions. If you are interested in renting a pavilion at the park, please call the Secretary at 610-367-8100.

Mark your calendars!!! On June 13<sup>th</sup>, The Lego Movie will be shown in Bechtelsville Community Park. Watch for more information to come.

## **What is Stormwater?**

Stormwater is the water that flows over the land during a rain or snow melt event. Typically, we can see stormwater flow off our driveways or down our streets during a rain storm. Stormwater that flows over roads, parking lots, roofs, and driveways cannot absorb into the ground as it normally would if these surfaces remained in a natural state. Also, stormwater can pick up and carry pollution to nearby streams. Pollution that stormwater flows may carry include, sediment or “dirt”, litter, fertilizers, nutrients, pet waste, cinders and fine sediments, salt/deicing material, and vehicle fluids. When these types of pollutants reach nearby streams they can harm stream life, make water bodies unsafe for swimming/fishing, create additional treatment requirements for drinking water facilities, and alter the streams physical characteristics.

When stormwater runoff enters municipal owned storm drains and that portion of the municipality has been deemed an “urbanized area” (urbanized areas are determined by Census Data), that municipality is required to develop and implement a stormwater management program and apply for various permits to reduce the contamination of stormwater runoff similar to businesses that release water as a byproduct of their operations. The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit requires municipalities to monitor stormwater, educate targeted audiences about water pollution, enact and enforce stormwater ordinances, along with various other stormwater prevention and protection activities. Luckily there are ways that everyone can help prevent polluted stormwater from reaching our local streams. Here are a few tips:

- Place a rain barrel underneath rain spouts. The water can then be used for gardening needs.
- Aim downspouts onto grassy areas of your yard that flow away from your house, not on driveways or walkways. This allows the ground to absorb the water instead of having the water be flushed into storm drains. A wooded or garden area absorbs more water than turf grass
- Test your soil, before fertilizing your lawn. Contact Penn State University’s Cooperative Extension in Berks County to request a soil test at 610-378-1327 or visit <http://berks.extension.psu.edu/>
- If you do need to fertilize your lawn, never apply more than is recommended – too much can burn your lawn. Also, do not fertilize before a rain storm, and keep fertilizer off sidewalks and driveways where it can easily wash into storm drains.
- Plant a rain garden. Rain gardens contain native plant species that retain stormwater runoff and allow the water to soak back into the ground at a natural rate. The native plants can withstand times of either drought or flood and offer an aesthetic quality to a yard as well as a much needed pollution prevention technique!

For more information check out these websites or contact your local municipality, Bechtelsville Borough at 610-367-8100 and leave a message for a return call.

- [www.countyofberks.com/planning](http://www.countyofberks.com/planning)
- [www.berkscd.com](http://www.berkscd.com)
- [www.berks-conservancy.org](http://www.berks-conservancy.org)



A rain garden, like the one at the Berks County Agricultural Center, catches rain water runoff and allows it to be absorbed into the ground where it can be used by native plants. It also helps to infiltrate stormwater back into the ground. This helps to recharge groundwater levels and to reduce the amount of pollutants from reaching lakes, streams and rivers.

(This article is complements of the Berks County MS4 Cooperative Education Program and the Berks County Conservation District)

---

## **Fire Company News**

Eastern Berks Fire Department responded to 92 incidents during the first three months of 2014. Among the responses were structure fires, hazardous material incidents, medical assists, motor vehicle accidents, requests for fire police, trees and wires, and assists to other departments. The 2014 Fund Drive letter has been mailed to all residents and businesses. Thank you for your support. The brush fire season is upon us. Please do not burn on windy days and never leave your fire unattended. The department's website: [www.EasternBerksFire.com](http://www.EasternBerksFire.com) is one good way to keep up with the news, notes and fire responses.

---

## **Permits**

If you are planning a renovation project, putting in a pool or fence or any changes to your property, you may need a permit. Please call Technicon Enterprises at 610-286-1622 to see if your project requires a permit. Property owners who do not obtain required permits are subject to citation and possible fines.