

# BORO

Richlandtown Borough's Newsletter

# Buzz



LOCATED IN BEAUTIFUL BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

## MAYOR'S LETTER

Five... Four... Three... Two... One... Happy New Year!!!! This is how I started my first Borough Buzz article as Mayor in 2014. I thought I would begin the same way as I start my last year as your Mayor. It has been a great experience and a true blessing.

Looking back at that newsletter, I am reminded of the reformation of the Borough's Town Watch and the start of the Hello Neighbor committees. Due to a lack of participation, the Town Watch only survived for three years. There were several meetings with law enforcement, and many informative sessions on how to protect yourself and home from theft. It is my understanding that it may come back this year with the support of Councilwoman, Iolanda Logan. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Hello Neighbor Committee was forced to stop. I really enjoyed this one because I was able to meet new residents and answer any questions they may have had. Hopefully, it can come back when the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

As far as meeting many of you, this is something I continued to improve on each year, and I am thrilled with the relationships that were formed. When I first took office, the main concern the residents had was having to pay to receive their mail. I am excited that earlier in February, the USPS agreed to waive the box fee for residents that do not already have delivery. This has been a hardship for many residents for over 30 years. An individual living on Main Street informed me that the cost was only \$20.00 when she moved here. It is now over \$100.00. I am thankful for Representative Brian Fitzpatrick's office for all their help.

Many of you have asked me why I am not running again. The answer is simple. I am a believer of term limits. Although we currently do not have limits, I am personally stopping at two terms. As I said earlier, it has been a real blessing. Besides, there may be some of you that may want to have this experience and be mayor. I would encourage anyone that is interested to make this be the year you run. By the time you read this, it may be too late to have your name on the ballot, but you could still be a write in. Many individuals have won as a write in candidate. As far as campaigning, when I first ran, I went through town with my old F150 pick up with a painted campaign sign and a dinner bell in the back. If you have a desire to run, please contact me at the email below and I'll try to help you out as best I can.

Well, this is the end of my report. The next time you hear from me in the Boro Buzz, I will be wishing the new Mayor all the best as they start their own adventure. Before I go, I want to encourage all of you to attend a Council meeting or Parks & Recreation meeting and help with the work of keeping Richlandtown Borough a great place to live.

*Mayor James Dunn*

[james.dunn@richlandtownborough.org](mailto:james.dunn@richlandtownborough.org)



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[www.stjohnsrpa.org](http://www.stjohnsrpa.org)  
The Rev. Dr. David A. Genszler, Interim Pastor

**Come join us and make Christ a part of your life.  
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**Worship Online!** Watch a prerecorded worship service online at 9:30am Sundays on our church Facebook page. Also find videos on our church website on the "sermons" page.

**Worship In Person!** Worship in person at 9:30am Sunday mornings. We follow all current Covid-19 guidelines. Find the latest details about in person worship on our website or by calling the office.

Our vision at St. John's is to reach out to our neighbors and create a community that celebrates faith and fun through collaboration, education, and compassion driven service. We are excited about building partnerships and serving our community.



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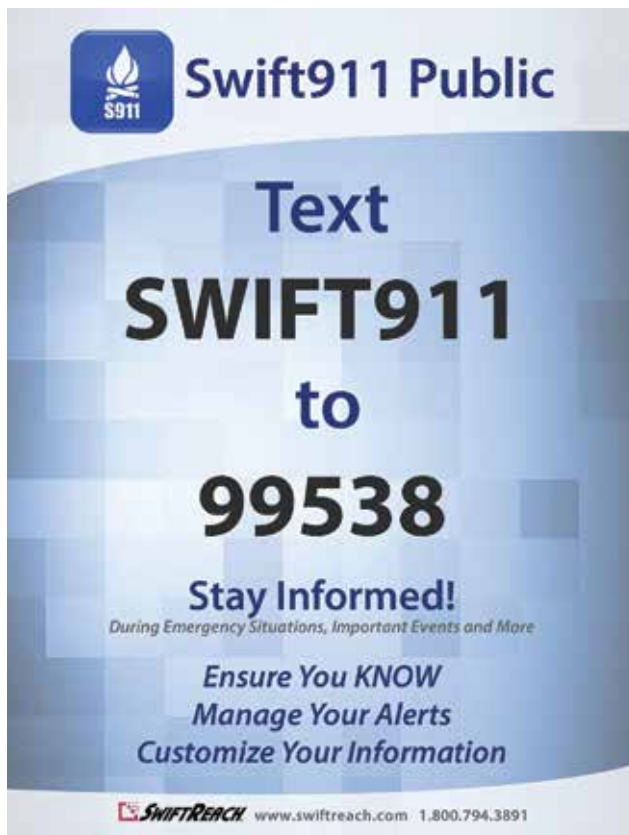
**PETS STAY  
FREE!**

## ELECTED OFFICIAL SPOTLIGHT:

Erin Scheetz, a lifetime resident of Richlandtown, is the Richlandtown Borough Real Estate Tax Collector. She collects taxes for Quakertown School District, Bucks County, and Richlandtown Borough. If you have any questions regarding your Real Estate taxes, Erin can point you in the right direction for an answer. She is a member of the County and State Tax Collector Associations to stay informed on current tax news and policies. Erin also works part-time at a doctor's office. She has 2 children and 2 dogs. When she isn't working she can often be seen walking with her dogs around the Borough. "I'm happy to be able to provide a service to the residents of the cool, little Borough. If you ever have any questions about your real estate taxes, please give me a call or shoot me an email. I enjoy catching up with current residents and meeting new ones during my public collection hours." Contact Erin at 215-802-8764; fax @ 215-529-5489; email @rtcscheetz@verizon.net

### BOROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA:

For all the latest happenings in the Borough, Parks & Recreation Committee, and the Dog Park in between publications of the Boro Buzz, plus, please visit [www.richlandtownborough.org](http://www.richlandtownborough.org) the official website of Richlandtown Borough or like the Richlandtown Borough page on Facebook.



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Please register for the Richlandtown Borough's Swift911 Program to receive important information for regarding emergency announcements for Richlandtown Borough.



The Richlandtown Borough JCP Program allows high school & college students the opportunity to learn critical skills including team building and collaboration, public speaking, public engagement, budgeting, and running effective meetings. It also allows the student the opportunity to deliberate on issues that are affecting his or her community. Application are now being accepted. If you or someone you know are interested in the JCP Program please contact the Honorable Mayor, James Dunn or contact the Borough office.

Kathy Wetzel, Richlandtown Borough Secretary/Treasurer, provides Notary Public services for Borough Residents free of charge. Call Kathy at 215-538-9290 to schedule an appointment.



The Richlandtown Borough Council would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents. The Borough would like to further request that citizens, in response, patronize these businesses first when given a choice as these businesses are saving each citizen tax dollars.



## **RICHLANDTOWN BOROUGH PUBLIC OFFICIALS - 2021 SESSION**



**MAYOR**  
*James Dunn*



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
*Christopher Willever*



**COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT**  
*Floyd Bless*

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Michele Grida*



*Brooke Morita*



*Calvin "Bo"  
Trovinger*



*Iolanda Logan*



*Jillian Snyder*



*Alexa Scheetz*

### **BOROUGH STAFF**

**BOROUGH SECRETARY/  
TREASURER**  
*Kathy Wetzel*

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COORDINATOR**  
*Calvin "BO" Trovinger*

**PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT**  
*Andy Clemens*

**TAX COLLECTOR**  
*Erin Scheetz*

*Borough Council Meetings are all open to the public and are held at Benner Hall at 7:00 p.m. at 1260 Cherry Rd. The Borough Council Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. The Parks & Recreation Committee Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. The Borough Council Committee Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month.*

## **RICHLANDTOWN BOROUGH EVENTS CALENDAR**

**Easter Egg Hunt** - Saturday, Apr. 3rd

**Spring Borough-Wide Yard Sale**  
Saturday, Apr. 24th

**National Night Out** - Tuesday, Aug. 3rd

**Fall Borough-Wide Yard Sale** -  
Saturday, Sep. 18th

**Harvest Fest** - Saturday, October 9th

**Halloween Pet Parade** - Saturday, Oct. 30th

**Thanksgiving Dinner Basket Delivery** -  
Saturday, Nov. 20th

**Tree Lighting** - Saturday, Dec. 4th

**Coat Drive** - Saturday, Dec. 11th

**Luminaries** - Friday, Dec. 24th

Watch the Richlandtown Borough Facebook Page for more information on these and other great events planned throughout the borough in the upcoming year.





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# BAKE WITH BROOKE

By Brooke Morita, Councilwoman

## Banana Bread



3-4 very ripe bananas, mashed  
 1 cup sugar  
 1 egg  
 ¼ cup melted butter  
 1 tsp vanilla extract  
 1 ½ cups flour  
 1 tsp baking powder  
 1 tsp salt  
 Pinch (or more) of cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Combine bananas, sugar, egg, butter, and vanilla in a large bowl. Mix flour, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon together in a separate bowl; stir into banana mixture until just mixed. Don't be tempted to overmix! Pour batter into a greased loaf pan. Bake for approximately 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted into the center of bread comes out clean.

Pro Tip: You can spice up your banana bread by adding chopped walnuts, raisins or chocolate chips. Stir them in gently at the very end, just before you pour the batter into your pan. Don't be afraid to be creative!

## WATER METER READING TIPS

Our staff reads your water meter every quarter. Please keep your meter accessible so our staff can quickly read your meter on the first visit to your property. Here are some tips on how to keep your meter accessible.

### Trees & Bushes

- Trim bushes and trees that block the way or cover the meter. During the growing season, plants can cover a water meter box very quickly.
- Bees and insects. Please check your property's water meter regularly for bee or insect nests to assure the safety of our staff.
- Please minimize plants in the area which meter readers must travel to get to your meter. We would like to avoid any accidental damage to your prized plantings. We will not read your meter if we cannot access it. This could cause you an extra fee for not allowing access to our staff to obtain a proper reading.



### Pets

- Keep pets away from the path that leads to your meter.
- If you have a guard dog for security, please let us know so that we can make sure that our meter readers and other utility personnel are aware of this.
- We may ask that you arrange to confine the dog during the day that your meter will be read.

### Objects that cover or block your meter

- Please make sure that no objects cover or block access to the meter box. Items we have found blocking water meters include cars, trailers, garbage cans and recycling bins, construction equipment or supplies.

### Locked Gates

- If your meter is located behind a gate that is normally kept locked, please contact us to arrange access. We can arrange to have you read your meter if you plan with us ahead of time.

### Your Address

- Please ensure your house address is clearly displayed on your residence.
- If you change your PO Box # please notify the office.
- This also assists emergency personnel who may need to find your home in a hurry.



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## WEEDING THROUGH THE GARDEN TERMINOLOGY

By: Jillian Snyder, Councilwoman

It's that time of year again where gardeners are dreaming and making ambitious plans for their gardens. As the seed catalogs roll in, and seed displays begin popping up all over the stores, my hope is to help you weed through the seed terminology.

So what seed variety is the best for your garden? Let's take a quick and simplified look at heirloom, hybrid, organic, open-pollinated, and genetically modified organisms (GMO) to help you decide.

1. Organic: A USDA Organic seal on a seed package refers to the practice and condition of which the plants were grown. In this case, seeds are derived from plants that were grown without the use of synthetic chemical pesticides.
2. Heirloom seeds speak to the lineage of the seed, not the growing practices. Heirloom seeds are grown from open-pollinated plants, that are reliable in passing on similar characteristics of the parent plants, to the offspring plants, from year to year.
3. Open-pollination just refers to the means in which pollination can occur (insects, wind, birds, or any other natural means).
4. Hybrid seeds are naturally derived from plants that have been purposefully cross pollinated with one another to create a new variety that embodies the desired characteristics from each parent plant. Unlike saving seeds from a heirloom variety, saving hybrid seeds to use from year to year will most likely have unpredictable results. Hybrid seeds will often have a (F1) designation on the seed packet.
5. GMO- Seeds are modified using not naturally occurring methods, to ensure a desired trait is achieved. Gardeners are unable to save seeds after harvest and must buy seeds every year. As of now, GMO seeds are not readily available to home gardeners, and I'll let you make the choice if this is for the better.

So, if you are not looking to save the seeds from year-to-year hybrid or heirloom seeds are a fine choice for you. If you are looking to harvest your plants and save your seeds from year to year, then heirloom varieties are a better fit. Lastly, if growing practices are important to you, consider going organic!



## MAINTAINING YARDS AND WASTE

### Grass Clippings:

Please do not allow your grass clippings to go into the street when mowing, raking, or blowing off sidewalks. Rain will carry the clippings into the storm sewers which will eventually clog and force storm water into basements. If you have a lawn service, please make them aware too.

### Weeds Growing on Sidewalks and Curbs:

Please remove weeds growing on your sidewalk and curbs in warm months to keep the borough looking nice for everyone.

### Trash:

If wind or storms are expected, please secure your trash so that the trash does not blow out of containers into the borough streets or onto your neighbor's properties.

### Snow:

Please do not shovel or blow snow into the, this creates a driving hazard. Snow/Ice must be removed from your sidewalks within 6 hours of the end of the snow/ice precipitation, to prevent slip and falls and to help keep walkers from having to walk in the roadways.

We can all work together to keep our borough looking nice and remaining safe!





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Spring/Summer 2021



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