



BOROUGH BULLETIN

The Official News of the Borough of Ridley Park "The Borough Beautiful"

Fall 2007

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I have recently heard the phrase "rapid urbanization" used to describe what is happening to the inner ring suburban communities in Delaware County. Although Ridley Park is not an inner ring town, we still have to be paying keen attention to conditions around us. Our council through its recent actions is committed

to keeping Ridley Park a "suburban" community of the highest quality. Ridley Park is 98% residential with mostly single family homes. Our parks are prized, with our East Lake Park being one of the nicest settings in the county. Our new efforts to update our zoning codes fully reflect our mission to keep Ridley

Park a place that you and your family will enjoy living in for years to come. Our new rental unit inspection program has been a success with over seven hundred properties undergoing safety inspections this year alone. Our code enforcement department is aggressively enforcing property maintenance issues too. The new Police Station that will open this fall is further proof of our vision for the best in

Public Safety. And you are all aware of our continued fight to stop the FAA airspace redesign.

"Rapid un-urbanization" is the new term I'd like to use when referring to our charge of leading Ridley Park. It will take a sincere effort on all of our parts, but it is truly worth the challenge.

Perry Artese

President
Ridley Park Borough Council

HARB

With autumn beginning, some of you may be thinking about doing some repairs or renovations to the exterior of your historic home this fall. If you live in the Historic District, and are considering a building project with any exterior work, contact the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) to discuss your project in its earliest stages. Even if you don't live in the district, and you have a historic home and would like some advice, the HARB is available to help.

To be sure whether or not your house is included in the Historic District, please obtain a copy of the Historic District Ordinance (which contains a map) or look in the "Ridley Park Design Guidelines", available at Borough Hall or in the Library. The Ordinance will explain the rules for making exterior changes to

your house. Additionally, the "Guidelines" outline maintenance and repair procedures that will ensure compliance with the Ordinance.

Any exterior changes visible from a public right-of-way or street, including additions, alterations, renovations, major repairs, material replacement; the relocation or demolition of historic buildings; and new construction within the Borough's Historic District require HARB review. The HARB makes recommendations to the Borough Council on the appropriateness of that work. The Borough Council makes the decision on issuing a "Certificate of Appropriateness".

HARB Members are also able to help guide you through the process and provide

free, professional advice. To discuss your project informally, the HARB has reserved time during each monthly meeting to provide advice and consultation to any member of the public. This informational meeting with the HARB will allow you to review your project and get feedback on potential concerns before you finalize your plans. Photographs, drawings, sample materials, etc. are helpful even at this early stage.

The HARB meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Borough Hall. Contact the Borough Manager at (610) 532-2100 for the exact date of the next HARB meeting and to schedule your consultation. The HARB is here to help.

John Purcell

Community Development/
Historic Preservation

NEW POLICE STATION DEDICATION



Ridley Park Borough will be dedicating the new Police Station in Catania Brothers Park on Saturday, November 3 at 10:00 A.M. Please come join us for this extraordinary event.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

A wonderful event occurred in Ridley Park Thursday, September 13, 2007. Delaware County Council, under the leadership of Andy Rielly, held a press conference in our Business District to showcase their Revitalization Program. We received great TV coverage from Action News and Fox News. The Business District looked great, especially the Revitalized section. The Fox News segment was 3 to 4 minutes long, including interviews with residents and a business owner. Officials from other towns talked about their Revitalization projects while standing in our revitalized district. This is a great initiative by County Council

for redevelopment of the older towns in S.E. Delaware County. The next part of our Revitalization plan will begin after the first of the year and continue up Sellers Avenue to Daisy Delights and down Dutton Street toward Taylor Hospital. We have received over \$400,000.00 in grants for these projects.

Ridley Park is a Quality Town.

Also in September, Andy Reilly and County Council filed a lawsuit against the FAA with the goal of preventing the FAA from implementing their plan to fly planes over Delaware County.

This fight against the FAA is nonpartisan --- a united front against the FAA. In addition to Andy Reilly, the following government officials voiced their support: Congressman Joe Sestak, State Senator Ted Erickson, State Representative Ron Raymond and Brian Lentz. Local officials, including your Mayor, were present. There are 19 plaintiffs listed in the lawsuit in which your Mayor is one representing our residents. Your Borough Council is solidly behind our efforts to stop the FAA. However, it is you, our residents, who have to continue to take a strong stand as you have in the past. Keep writing letters, sending e-mails and continue expressing your concerns to us. Send letters to the

Editor in the local papers. You have been and continue to be important.

Your Council has many projects underway and others under study to ensure that Ridley Park continues to be a Quality Residential Community.

A special thanks to Ron Raymond for obtaining significant grants for us to make these projects possible.

Hank Eberle
Mayor



BIG PROJECT IN RIDLEY PARK TO BEGIN SOON

As the Chairman of Public Works Department for Ridley Park Borough Council, I am pleased to announce the commitment of 7.5 million dollars from the state for sound barriers in our town. After much work and deliberation with PennDot, the state has decided to provide Ridley Park with 7.5 million dollars for this project. The engineering firm hired by PennDot has determined that neighborhoods in Ridley Park heavily affected by the highway sound will have a 50 percent reduction in noise.

The engineering firm overseeing the project has held an initial public input meeting and design work is progressing. After meetings in Ridley Park with representatives from PennDot, we are pleased to announce our plan for this project.

- The wall will span from Stewart Avenue between I-95 and Chester Pike, and along I-95 from Darby Creek to the end of Catania Brothers Park.
- The section between Chester Pike and I-95 on Stewart Avenue will stand between 10-12 feet.
- The section between Stewart Avenue and the end of Catania Park (south on 95) will stand between 14-18 ft.
- The section between Stewart Avenue north to Darby Creek will stand between 10-14 feet.
- The wall will total approximately 7,000 feet in length at completion of the project.

We look forward to input from residents about the implementation of this project. Feel free to call borough hall at anytime for more information.

Nick Miccarelli
Public Works

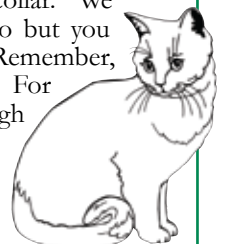
CAT COLLAR PROGRAM

The Board of Health will hold a roundup of stray cats sometime in the fall. Free numbered collars are being given away to cat owners in Borough Hall with a registry to be kept on file in the Borough Office.

All cats belong indoors. They might get out from time to time but if they have a numbered collar they have a better chance to find their way home to you. Animal control will notify you if and when they are located. Also, if your cat is picked up as a nuisance they will be brought home instead of being taken to the SPCA with all the other animals. The first time your cat is brought home as a nuisance you will receive a written warning. Each subsequent time your cat is returned as a nuisance you may receive a fine.

Some people say their cat will never wear a collar. We understand this may take some getting used to but you need to make sure that the collar is kept on. Remember, this may be your pet's only way back home. For further information, please call the Borough Office at 610-532-2100.

Michael Wright
Public Safety



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT TIPS

Erosion and sedimentation from stormwater and the pollutants they carry, is the number one cause of pollution in our streams. A simple yet effective way for property owners to make a contribution to improving water quality and to lessen the impact to properties and communities downstream is by redirecting their downspouts from dumping onto streets and into storm sewers. One inch of rain on 1,000 square feet of rooftop, creates over 600 gallons of stormwater! Allowing stormwater to naturally soak into the soil keeps it from entering our storm sewer system and streams during peak flows and decreases streambank erosion and sedimentation and pollution

to our streams. Downspout extensions should be directed to a grassy or natural area or rain garden which slopes away from your house and is at least six feet away from the foundation of your home.

A rain barrel is a good way to store stormwater as it leaves the downspout. Rain barrels may be purchased or easily and inexpensively constructed. To be effective, they should be emptied between rain events. Gardens and plants thrive on natural rain water.

Do not dump yard waste (clippings, branches or leaves) in the street where it can wash into storm drains or in parks, along streams or piled at the base of trees.

More trees equal lower stormwater costs. One mature tree reduces stormwater runoff by over 1,000 gallons per year. Trees in your yard protect water and soil resources. Trees reduce the amount of runoff and pollutants in creeks, ponds and reservoirs. Protect and care for mature trees. It takes at least 15 years for a new tree to have the same benefits for protecting air and water quality. Plant large trees with full crowns and larger leaves, such as maple, oak or beech. Plant needle leaf evergreens on the north side for wind shield and for winter rainfall interception. With new tree plantings, extend a thin layer of organic mulch to the drip line to improve your tree's ability to absorb rainfall. Pool water should not be discharged into any storm water inlet. It should be

pumped over a grassy area to allow absorption, filtration and aeration of the water. Any pool chlorine water should be neutralized to a PH between 6 and 9 standard units. Chlorine rinses should stand for a period of days to allow the chlorine degradation prior to discharge. Questions concerning pool guidelines may be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management Department (484-250-5970).

Stormwater management is everyone's concern, please pitch in and help the environment. What we do today, helps the community tomorrow.

Len Pinto
Public Properties/Code Enforcement

Ridley Park Library News Fall 2007

The library has free story time programs for children ages 3 to 6 through December. In December there will be another free session of Infant/Toddler Story time. Please call the library for days, times and to register.

The library now has four free Internet stations. Residents may use the Internet for 30

minutes, more if no one is waiting. The library also has a Word Processing computer with a flash drive for residents to use. There is only a minimal charge for printing.

With your library card you may use over 75 databases at the library and 62 of these information packed sources from your home computer.

This includes Consumer Health, free legal forms, and the super World Book On-line Encyclopedia. The library staff will be happy to instruct residents in the use of these wonderful resources. The community may also download free e-books to a MP3 player. All you need is a library card, a computer and an MP3 player. Visit the library for details. The library invites all children ages 2 and up to a free puppet

show sponsored by the Friends of the Library. This program by the famous Segal Puppet Theater will be held on Friday evening December 14th at 7pm in the community room in borough hall. The program is entitled, "North Pole Fun".

Alex Rahn
Technology/Public Relations/
Community Resources

RIDLEY PARK LAKE COMPLETES MAINTENANCE PROJECT

In August, the borough completed dredging the accumulated silt and removed debris from the upper part of the lake at Eastlake Park. The project was part of the borough's ongoing efforts to improve and stabilize its

greatest public park. JMC Contractors of Glen Mills was the low bidder on the project. A grant obtained with the assistance of State Representative Ron Raymond for \$45,000 dollars funded most of the cost.

The 13 acre Eastlake Park is historic in that it remains a fine example of early 19th Century park design. Our residents can enjoy recreation activities including, fishing, concerts, walking and our yearly Victorian Fair. Future

improvements to the park will include a small tot-friendly playground, which will also be funded with a new state grant.

Perry Artese
Parks and Recreation

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Ridley Park Borough Council - meets the first Tuesday of each month for a workshop session and the third Tuesday of each month for the regular meeting. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Borough Hall and the public is invited to attend. The regular council meeting is televised on Comcast channel 10 and RCN channel 52.

Perry Artese, Council President - Term '10 (R)
Personnel/Parks & Recreation Chair
Email- partese@rcn.com

John Purcell, Vice President - Term '08 (R)
Community Development/Historic Preservation Chair
Email- jcpurcell@rcn.com

Alex Rahn, President Pro Tempore - Term '10 (R)
Technology/Public Relations/Community Resources Chair
Email- alex@akrgovernmentolutions.com

Mary McFall Hopper - Term '08 (R)
Finance & Insurance/Budget Chair
Email- mmhopper@rcn.com

Len Pinto - Term '08 (R)
Public Properties/Code Enforcement
Email- len.pinto@accor.com

Nick Miccarelli - Term '08 (R)
Public Works Chair
Email- nickamiccarelli@gmail.com

Michael W. Wright - Term '08 (R)
Public Safety Chair
Email- wright223@comcast.net

Henry A. Eberle, Jr. - Term '10 (R)
Mayor

Borough Office - 610-532-2100
Web Site - www.ridleyparkborough.org

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

This year the leaf collection program began the week of October 8 and will continue for eight weeks until the week of December 3. Collections alternate each week between the 1ST and 3RD precincts and the 2ND AND 4TH precincts. Leaf collections will be made from Monday through Friday in the designated precincts. Please check your Borough Calendar for

PURCHASE OF NEW STREET SWEEPER

In order to maintain the beauty of the sixteen (16) miles of streets that crisscross the Borough, Ridley Park is undertaking a street cleaning program that includes the purchase of a factory demonstration street sweeper. The program's mission is to clean all borough streets as required to provide safe conditions for all modes of transportation. In addition, street sweeping is an effective way to remove harmful pollutants from the streets including litter, leaves, and chemical deposits such as automotive fluids. The pollutants endanger the watershed and leave unsightly debris in the neighborhood.

Clean streets support good air quality standards and stormwater quality services to the citizens of Ridley Park. Residential streets will be swept on a regular schedule to keep debris from entering the stormwater system and polluting adjacent waterways. If streets are not swept, the debris and visible pollutants end up trapped against the gutters and in storm drains. Excess water from rainfall and the

the specific week by week schedule or contact the Borough Office at 610-532-2100. Every effort will be made to adhere to the printed schedule but is subject to change due to existing conditions. Last year's leaf collection program diverted 159 tons of yard and leaf waste from the normal waste collection stream.

Nick Miccarelli
Public Works



watering of lawns can carry the pollutants down the street where it enters the storm drain and, ultimately, unfiltered into the creeks.

Using the City of Harrisburg Pennsylvania Capital City Automotive and Equipment Contract, Ridley Park Borough Council authorized the purchase of a factory demo Schwarz A4000 regenerative air power sweeper in the amount of \$101,869.00, a total cost savings to the Borough of \$3,725.00. Ridley Park has entered into a five (5) year lease-purchase agreement with a finance company in order to acquire the street sweeper. A grant obtained by State Representative Ron Raymond will cover the cost of the loan along with part of the sweeper's operating costs.

Mary McFall Hopper
Finance & Insurance

BOROUGH OF RIDLEY PARK

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