



Canonsburg

Borough Newsletter

Washington County, Pennsylvania

Summer 2004

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Borough Lands Big Grants Page 1

Passenger TrainPage 1,3

July 4th CelebrationsPage 2

Manager Memos Page 3

Burning OrdinancePage 3

Uniform Construction CodePage4

Park Concession StandPage 4

Tourism & VisitorsPage 4

BOROUGH LANDS BIG GRANTS

With an infusion of almost \$800,000 into the borough, Canonsburg will soon be sporting new sidewalks, trees and lighting.

Last month, the borough received word that a Renaissance Group grant application submitted to the state in October, 2001 had been awarded. The \$767,500 Transportation Enhancements Application is for streetscape work in the redevelopment area.

The borough is also expecting to receive a minimum of \$25,000 of a \$475,000 grant application for Pennsylvania's "Elm Street Project," which provides communities monies for sidewalk improvements in neighborhoods near redevelopment districts.

The Renaissance grant is specifically for new pedestrian sidewalks, trees, street lights, banners and hanging baskets, along with benches, trash receptacles, railings and street markers. The improvements are targeted for either the Pike Street business district or the

area around the new library site at Jefferson Avenue and Murdock Street.

The Elm Street project monies are primarily for the same items, but could also involve hiring an Elm Street Manager (at no cost to the borough) to manage the project and to secure additional funding.

The purpose of the Elm Street Program is to improve neighborhoods that connect to a downtown development area, encouraging residents to walk into town for shopping, concerts, festivals and other activities. The Elm Street project, when fully engaged, will also offer matching grants up to \$2,500 for residents wishing to improve the facades of their home.

Although no start date has been set for use of the Transportation Enhancement grant monies, it is possible work could begin before the end of the year.

Borough of Canonsburg Mayor

- Anthony L. Colaizzo

Borough of Canonsburg Council Members

First Ward

- Steve Lucas
- Jean Popp
- James Romano

Second Ward

- George Coleman
- Dennis D'Orazio
- Richard Russo

Third Ward

- Daniel Caruso Jr.
- Joseph Graff
- Joseph Milioto

PASSENGER TRAIN TO DEPART FROM CANONSBURG

Canonsburg will bring back some of its storied railroad past when, for the first time in 52 years, a passenger train will depart from the borough on Saturday, Aug. 7.

The Chartiers Valley Flyer, powered by EMD "FP-9" cab unit diesel locomotives, will depart from the former Canonsburg train depot at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. for a trip to the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum for a museum tour and a meal at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

According to "Canonsburg Reflections," Canonsburg's first passenger service was on December 19, 1870. Four trains were scheduled each day between Canonsburg and Pittsburgh, one each way in the morning and afternoon. A year later, service expanded to Meadowlands, with passengers initially riding a stage coach the remaining three miles to Washington. The railway was completed to Washington in May of 1871.

A "Daily Notes" article during Canonsburg's centennial year claimed 4,500 passengers rode the rails from Pittsburgh to Washington

each day, adding that for a circus parade, the railroad would haul 10,000 people to Pittsburgh in one day.

The line, known as the Chartiers Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, added several branches at the turn of the century and connected with other lines, including the narrow gauge Waynesburg and Washington Railroad. In 1889, the Cannonball express, which stopped only at Canonsburg and Bridgeville between Washington and Pittsburgh, averaged 32 miles per hour.

However, borough council, in 1893, limited the speed of the train within the borough to 8 miles per hour, and the railroad eliminated stops in the borough until council rescinded the ordinance. By 1902, there was so much traffic that the area around Canonsburg was double tracked, and in 1909, a new brick station was built. However, with the advent of automobiles, train traffic began to decrease. In 1940, two Sunday trains were dropped. Then daily service was reduced as well.

For information about Canonsburg visit our web site at:

www.canonsburgboro.com

(Continued on page 3)

WE'RE CELEBRATING EARLY THIS YEAR!

Because of Sunday holiday, famous parade will be on July 3

With July 4 falling on a Sunday this year, the well-known Canonsburg Independence Parade will be held on Saturday, July 3 this year. But, as last year, there will be activities on either side of the holiday.

Friday, July 2

The Star Spangled Chair Affair

Last year's inaugural "Chair Affair" attracted such a large crowd that it's back this year with a more holiday-appropriate title, "The Star-Spangled Chair Affair."

Once visitors make it through the maze of hundreds of chairs lined along Pike Street (in anticipation of the parade of course), they'll find many reasons to celebrate early.

Activities planned in the Luksis Lot (next to the Borough Building) include:

•**Chair Judging** - You decorate it, we'll decide if it's worthy. Prizes awarded for funniest, most patriotic, most creative and most outlandish. Don't be a couch potato - work on that chair!

•**Yankee Doodle Chair Races** - How many ways can you race with a chair? We'll let you decide. The chair races begin promptly at 7 p.m. Bring your camera!

•**The World's Largest Game of Musical Chairs** - Calling Mr. Guinness! Last year, we ran out of chairs before we even started, so this year we're bringing more (and you can bring kitchen chairs, lawn chairs, too) to participate. The game immediately follows the chair races.

•**A Kardaz Concert** - If you don't know the name, you certainly know this Top 40 group's songs, including the theme for the "Wild Things" baseball team. They also recorded "The Mighty 'Guins" for the Pittsburgh Penguins when they were pursuing the Stanley Cup. Kardaz takes the stage at 5:30, and will perform throughout the evening.

•**Farmer's Market** - The borough has added this attraction to all of its downtown concerts, and this special Friday event is no exception. Come peruse the fresh produce, crafts and ethnic food. Fun for everyone.

Canonsburg Idol II

We've saved the best for last. Last year, more than 25 performers competed for the coveted Perry trophy (named after you-know-who). This year, we'll again be searching for the next Superstar to hail from Canonsburg. We're hoping for a guest appearance by last year's winner, and, as always, the event will feature celebrity judges offering their thumbs up or thumbs down to the competitors. The fun begins at 6

Saturday, July 3

Independence Day Events

You haven't experienced the Fourth of July if you haven't spent the holiday in Canonsburg, and this year's spectacular event is even more so. Here's the plan:

•**The Whiskey Rebellion Run** - Begins at Canon-McMillan Stadium at 8 a.m. Call Lana at (724) 745-9295 for information. And start running now.

•**Independence Day Parade** - One of the largest in the state, and we think it's the best!. Musical units, floats, clowns, horses, antique cars, costumed characters, military vehicles, fire trucks and more. The two-hour extravaganza starts at 10 a.m. near Hoss's restaurant and proceeds along Pike Street toward Shop 'N Save.

•**Festival in the Park** - From noon to 6 p.m., relax in the shade of Town Park with a free rock climbing wall, balloon animals, face painting, free children's bounce, free Dinosaur Kids Crawl, free train rides, free pony rides, free petting zoo and a strolling juggler. Want more? How about free performances by the SNPJ Button Box (1:30), Tom Terling Band (3 p.m.) and the New Orleans Riverside Band (4:30 p.m.). There also will be ethnic food booths. Call (724) 745-5310.

•**Fireworks** - Same place (Canon-McMillan Stadium). Same time (dusk). Same admission fee (none!)



Sunday, July 4

Time Capsule Ceremony

The celebration continues. The Canonsburg Bicentennial Commission is planning to bury a time capsule near the pool entrance at Town Park at 1:30 p.m. Everyone in attendance will get to write a message to be read when the time capsule is opened in 2024. Refreshments will be served.

Bring your swim suit - and make a day of it at Town Park.

SUMMER NIGHTS IN CANONSBURG

Free concerts, special events and the first train departure from downtown in 52 years will mark the Summer of 2004 in downtown Canonsburg.

"Cool Nights in Canonsburg" has expanded to include a Farmer's Market with each of the six downtown concerts, all beginning at 7 p.m.

The long-running Concerts in the Park series at Town Park includes free shows by the Pittsburgh Civic Pops Orchestra, SNPJ Button Box, Tom Terling, The Holidays, Big Band Memories and The Four Townsmen.

Returning for a second year is the "Star Spangled Chair Affair Festival" that highlights concerts, the Canonsburg Idol II competition. Events on July 2 begin at 5:30 and continue long into the evening.

The games, entertainment and fun that marks Kids Day in the Park returns to Town Park Saturday, July 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., this time featuring a special appearance by the CLO Mini-Stars.

COOL NIGHTS IN CANONSBURG

All concerts are in the Luksis Parking Lot, downtown

- **Sat., June 19:** Tony Janflone (jazz)
- **Fri., July 2:** Star Spangled Chair Affair, Kardaz (Top 40), and the Canonsburg Idol II
- **Sat., July 3:** Independence Day Parade
- **Sat., July 24:** Buffett Man (island music)
- **Sat., July 31:** Dancing Queen (disco)
- **Sat., Aug. 7:** Chartiers Valley Flyer Train Excursion, and Keystone Country Band Concert
- **Sat., Aug 14:** Windows of Heaven (gospel), and St. Patrick's Choir

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

All concerts are in Town Park

- **Sun., June 13:** Pittsburgh Civic Pops Orchestra
- **Sat., July 3:** SNPJ Button Box, and Tom Terling
- **Sun., July 11:** The Holidays (oldies)
- **Sat., July 17:** Kids Day in the Park w/ CLO Mini-Stars
- **Sun., July 18:** SNPJ Button Box
- **Sun., Aug. 8:** Big Band Memories
- **Sun., Aug. 22:** The Four Townsmen (oldies)

MANAGER'S MEMOS...

Canonsburg Borough Council approved the hiring of a grant writer to pursue state and federal grants for specific projects in the borough. The grant writer, Richard Deeter, is being provided through the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Deeter initially will be seeking funding for handicapped-accessible doors in the borough building, a generator for the borough building, a new pavilion for Town Park and a new community center/pool building for town park. Deeter was hired for nine months.

The \$2,000 per month fee was split among three organizations - the borough, the Canonsburg Economic Development group and the Canonsburg Renaissance Group.

Other items of interest:

Curb Painting - Noticed the bright yellow paint at the corners of your street? Public works is painting or re-painting the curbs to remind residents that no parking is permitted within 30 feet of a curb. The curbs need to be clear to permit emergency vehicles access to the streets. At the present time, Canonsburg Police are issuing warnings to those who park near the intersections. However, tickets

will begin to be issued later this month.

Through September, all fees for residents to establish off-street parking (driveway, garage, etc) have been waived in an effort to reduce the number of cars on streets within the borough.

Flag Pole Ceremony - The borough has planned a ceremony at Town Park on Flag Day, Monday, June 14, to mark the installation of the new flag pole near the swimming pool. Funds for the flag pole were provided by VFW Post 191. The ceremony will be at 6 p.m., and the public is invited.

More Street Repairs - In addition to the streets being done this summer as part of the \$3.75 million bond issue, Valeria Drive, Giffin Avenue and Valley Road will also be resurfaced using County Dedevelopment funding.

Borough Receives Grants - The borough has received a \$15,000 grant from the state for resurfacing work at the Iron Street railroad crossing. Also, Concerts in the Park has received an anonymous \$2,500 grant for Kids Day in the Park.

Comprehensive Plan - Cecil Township and Canonsburg

Borough are continuing work on a joint comprehensive plan. Public meetings to obtain input will be announced shortly.

New Names for Lots - The Borough has renamed two of its parking lots. The lot next to the borough building is now known as the Luksis Lot. The lot in the center of town is now known as the Sarris Lot. The borough has been offering naming rights for the lots since January.

PennDOT Says No - The borough has requested either a stop light or four-way stop sign at Gladden at Route 980, but PennDOT has turned down the request, citing an insufficient amount of traffic to warrant either. The intersection currently has a blinking light.

Reminder - All items left at Hidden Treasures must be dropped off during store hours or placed in the bin provided. Otherwise, a \$300 fine will be given to anyone leaving items on the sidewalk.

Speed Limit - The speed limit on Strabane Avenue is now 25 miles per hour. With few exceptions, the speed limit on all neighborhood streets within the borough is 25 miles per hour.

COUNCIL FANS FLAMES FOR NEW BURNING ORDINANCE

Burning to be prohibited in borough May through October

Canonsburg Borough Council is expected to pass a new burning ordinance this month that prohibits all home burning during the summer months.

The proposal restricts outdoor burning to Wednesdays and Saturdays from November 1 to April 30, and eliminates all burning the remaining six months of the year. The new ordinance is being enacted in response to residents complaining about the negative effects of burning.

Some of the details of the new ordinance:

Months, Days & Hours - Burning is restricted to Wednesdays and Saturdays

from November 1 to April 30 from the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fire must be completely out by 5 p.m.

Items permitted to burn - Combustible rubbish such as paper, wood, leaves and similar materials. No burning of garbage, glass, crockery, plastic or plastic products, dishes, bottles, floor sweepings, metals, cans, ashes, cinders, rubber, linoleum, asphalt or tarry products, grease and animal or vegetable waste.

Where to burn - Burning may be conducted only on private property and no burning shall be conducted on streets and alleys in the borough. All burning must be in a suitable metal or masonry container or

receptacle, and a competent person must be in attendance at all times when burning is taking place.

Fines - Fines for burning out of season or on days or times not permitted by the ordinance will be between \$25 and \$100 plus costs for wages for an off-duty policeman to attend the hearing, and costs of prosecution. In default of payment, imprisonment in the county jail may be imposed for a period not exceeding 30 days.

Exceptions - Burning for cooking or recreational purposes is permitted (grills, chimeras, outdoor fireplaces) so long as the area does not encompass more than a 6-foot circumference.

SONGS IN THE KEY OF "IDOL"

You think you sing better than Ruben or Clay? Or even Whitney or Beyonce? You have a chance to prove it by entering Canonsburg Idol II.

The annual competition will be Friday, July 2 as part of Canonsburg's Star Spangled Chair Affair Festival.

Entrants must have two songs prepared (one for each round of competition). Winners receive, among other prizes, "The Perry Trophy," a gift basket and a spotlight performance at the Pennsylvania Bavarian Oktoberfest.

Application forms are available at the borough building or by calling (724) 745-1800.

RECYCLING NEWSPAPERS:

IT'S NOT AN OPTION ANYMORE

Canonsburg residents are reminded that recycling is mandatory - including recycling of newspapers. All newspapers and magazines are to be placed in a paper bag or cardboard box - separate from other recyclables - for collection every other Friday.

(Continued from page 1)

A K4 engine, number 3849, pulled the last scheduled passenger train in Canonsburg at 6:27 p.m. on July 30, 1952. The special train rides on Aug. 7 will be in air-conditioned cars with reclining seats. Following the 3:30 ride, there are special events planned in Canonsburg, including a Farmer's Market, free performance by the Keystone Country Band, "Dream Along with Me" and the St. Patrick's Church Festival. Special thanks to James T. Herron, Jr. for the information in this article.

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE ADOPTED

New fees established for building, zoning permits

Canonsburg Borough Council has adopted Pennsylvania's Uniform Construction Code which mandates uniform procedures for residential and commercial building inspections and sets parameters for building, zoning and occupancy permits.

Effective immediately, all new residential, commercial and industrial units will be inspected by HMT Engineering.

The borough's code enforcement officer, Michael Gordon, will enforce and provide all other inspections. They include:

Building permits with inspection

- Improvements/renovations/additions: \$30 for the first \$2,000, \$2 for each additional \$10,000
- Sheds and garages over 500 square feet: \$25
- Retaining walls 4 feet high and above: \$25
- Residential and commercial roofing if more than 25% of roof: \$25
- Swimming pools 2 feet deep or more and in ground: \$80
- Spas and hot tubs: \$80
- Decks 3 feet and over off ground: \$25
- Fences six feet tall and over: \$25

Zoning permits required:

- Unattached garages and storage sheds less than 500 square feet: \$25
- Agricultural buildings: \$25
- Swimming pools, permanent above ground if less than two feet deep: \$25
- Decks (new and replacement) under 3 feet off ground: \$25

Occupancy permits required:

- Residential: \$50
- Business, commercial and industrial: \$100

CONCESSION ITEMS AT PARK POOL

Visitors to the Town Park Pool will soon find a new entrance to the pool area. Borough officials are reconfiguring the entrance so it is adjacent to the concession stand. The new entrance should be completed sometime in June.

Families are also being encouraged to hang out longer at the pool, especially on Fridays when the pool is open until 8 p.m.

New concession manager Lorie Trax has added several "dinner-type" items such as hot sausage hoagies, meatball hoagies, Italian hoagies and hamburgers. Of course,

the traditional hot dogs, chicken tenders, French fries, pizza and candy will also be available.

The concession stand will also be open for the Concerts in the Park series, and catering for park picnics or pool picnics is also available by calling Lorie at (724) 745-6732.

The pool is open noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, noon to 8 p.m. Friday, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. The pool is also available for evening rentals by calling (724) 745-1800.

BORO GETS \$7,000 GRANT FOR TOURISM

Canonsburg Borough recently was awarded a \$7,000 grant from Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency to publish a brochure heralding borough attractions.

The borough produced the brochure on behalf of the municipality, the Pennsylvania Bavarian Oktoberfest and Canonsburg Antique Dealers, who jointly received the grant. The tri-fold, which was published this month, is being distributed to Interstate rest stops in the tri-state area, as well as county tourism attractions.

The brochure contains information on the Oktoberfest, Fourth of July and Chair Affair festivals, Concerts in the Park, Cool Nights in Canonsburg, Perry Como statue, antique stores and other attractions in Canonsburg. More than 50,000 brochures will be distributed this summer.

And there's more

The borough is also a large part of the county's \$175,000 tourism promotion campaign this year. Washington County

**Pennsylvania
Bavarian
Oktoberfest**



September 17, 18 & 19

Join the Chamber in celebrating
OKTOBERFEST this fall!

Applications for Sponsors, Vendors
and Crafters are now being accepted,
contact the Chamber office for more
information at 724-745-1812.

Tourism Promotion Agency has purchased print and radio advertising in Erie, Columbus and Youngstown. A series of six print advertisements, which will appear throughout the summer, focus on various aspects of touring the county.

One ad features Sarris Candies prominently, while another suggests visitors stop at Canonsburg's many antique stores.

The radio advertising will also be heard Fridays on KDKA radio.

WE GET VISITORS...

Mayor Anthony L. Colaizzo recently received this letter from a Lynbrook, N.Y., bus group that traveled to Canonsburg to see the famous "singing" Perry Como statue in May.

Unfortunately, they arrived early Sunday morning, before the music was switched on. The mayor, who happened to be in his office, came out to the bus, learned of the problem and located someone to turn on the music. In the meantime, he regaled the tourists with tales of Como and Canonsburg.

Here's a letter he received from the visitors:

"You may remember my group - standing perplexed and wondering how to get the Perry Como statue to sing last Sunday - and you appeared on the scene.

What a blessing for us as you literally saved the day. We enjoyed our visit to Canonsburg to the "inth" the degree and still smile when we think of it.

Thank you so much for your good will and the talk you gave my group.

Again, may I say 'thank you very much' for being at the right place at the right time.

Gladys A. Kaufmann"

Mayor Colaizzo said members of the group had just one complaint - the music wasn't loud enough!