

Crafton Community News

Fall / Winter 2008-2009

2009 Budget

During October, November and December, Council will be preparing its 2009 Budget. This must be adopted by the year end and requires the input of Borough citizens, elected officials, the Borough Manager and the administrative staff and department supervisors.

Important Budget Meeting Dates

(Meetings held in the Council Chambers of the Community Center)

**7:00 pm: Wednesday, October 1st, October 15th,
October 29th and November 5th
(and if necessary, November 19th)**

The “**Proposed**” 2009 Budget will be adopted at the **November 12th Council** meeting (or at the November 19th Budget Meeting, if held), and will be available for Public Inspection. **On Wed., December 10th**, Council will Adopt the “**Final**” 2009 Budget and Tax Ordinance.

Crafton Residents are encouraged to attend meetings to learn more about the Borough’s finances and offer their input. The “Proposed” Budget will be available for Public Inspection for at least 10 days prior to its “Final” adoption scheduled for the December 10th Council Meeting. The Proposed Budget will be posted for public inspection at the Borough Secretary’s Office and at the Crafton Public Library.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION



The Public Works crew will be collecting and composting leaf wastes generated in the Borough, commencing on or about **Oct. 1st thru Dec. 1st**; weather-permitting. Kindly rake leaves to the curb or you may bag leaves. Leaves must be free of twigs, dog waste and other debris. Please do not call the Borough offices for pick-up of leaves raked to the curb, but you may call for the pick-up of bagged leaves. Also, be aware that our leaf vacuum equipment does generate “leaf dust” which is unavoidable. Leaf dust may accumulate on parked vehicles - We sincerely apologize for this temporary inconvenience.

Note: Our trash hauler does not pick up leaves during this period, so please do not place bagged leaves out for pick up on trash day.

Emergencies – 911

(all 412 Area Code)

Non-Emergency: 921-2014

Police Secretary: 921-2016

Crafton Vol. Fire Dept.:
(Non-emergency) 875-0022

Borough Office: 921-0752

Mary Tremblay,
Borough Secretary X 10

Douglas Sample,
Borough Manager X 19

Public Works X 19

Building Inspection
call BIU 412-766-2565

Code Enforcement X 26

Community Calendar X 3

Crafton Council:

1st Ward:

Mary Luxbacher 921-0752

Dan Cindric 922-8554

Bill Ogden 921-0752

2nd Ward:

Debbie Sappie 922-0752

Jack Donovan 921-5405

Susan Viola 928-8845

3rd Ward:

Tom Byers 921-4562

Jim Bloom 921-0752

James Christman 921-0752

Mayor Susan O'Connell:
921-0752 x 16

Website:

www.crafton.org

Library: 922-6877

All Taxes:

Jordan Tax Service
724-731-2310

District Justice Dennis Joyce:
921-5559

Waste Management (Trash):
1-800-866-4460

Triangle Pet: 771-7387

Crafton Pool: 921-9482

Crafton Elem: 922-7196

Carlynton HS: 429-2500

Post Office: 1-800-275-8777

Robinson EMS: 787-5044

Borough Council

2nd and 4th Wednesday @ 7:15 PM

Planning Commission

3rd Monday @ 6:30 PM

The public is welcome to attend Borough Council and Planning Commission meetings, which are held on the second floor of the Community Center. Borough Council meetings are also broadcast on Comcast Cable channel 13 – Thursday's - 8:00 PM. For more information please visit the Crafton Website at www.crafton.org or phone the Community Calendar (ext. 3).

Snow Removal

The Winter season will soon be upon us and with it comes the need for property owners to promptly clear sidewalks of snow and ice.

CRAFTON BOROUGH ORDINANCE: It shall be unlawful to allow ice, snow or other debris to remain on the sidewalk longer than 12 hours after its accumulation.

Also, sweeping, shoveling, or blowing snow into the street is prohibited.

Trash and Recycle Info

Trash and recycle pickup, throughout the Borough, is on **Tuesdays**. Recycle pickup is every other week. When an official holiday falls on Monday or Tuesday, pickup is delayed one day. ***(If you're not sure, call the Community Calendar, 412-921-0752 x 3 or visit www.crafton.org Events Calendar.)***

Items not permitted under our contract: "Building Materials" – wood/lumber, drywall, plaster, tile, paneling, concrete, dirt, windows, doors, paint. Also, tires, batteries, and other automotive parts are not permitted.

Bulk Waste – Furniture, appliances, washers, and dryers can be placed out for pickup any week with your regular trash. *Note:* Appliances that contain Freon (refrigerators, freezers, air-conditioners) cannot be placed out for pickup unless the Freon has been professionally removed and the appliance displays the certification sticker. Carpeting must be cut, rolled and tied for ease of handling; preferably no more than 4 ft. in length.

Recyclables (cans, glass & plastic bottles, newsprint,) must be placed in properly marked containers for pickup; Recycle stickers and schedules are available in the Borough Secretary's Office. **Items not to be included** in recycle pickup: Paper, aerosol cans, cardboard, pyrex, mirrors, light bulbs, or foam plastic.

Trash and recyclables cannot be placed out for pickup before 4:00 pm the night before pickup.

**Residents should report missed pickups to
Waste Management at 1-800-866-4460**

2008 Mayor's Community Service Awards



2008 Recipients of the Mayor's Community Service

(L to R: Mayor O'Connell, Betsy Martin, Pam Palchowski, Andrew Sheariss, Fred Peelor, Doug Johnston,)

Front Row: Marjorie Couch, Katie Fazio

2008 marks the third year for the Mayor's Community Service Award. Through the Office of the Mayor, recognition is given to the contributions of the volunteer organizations in the Borough. The strength of a community lies in the commitment of the citizens to making it a safe and happy place. The citizens of Crafton have a long history of selfless giving of their time and their money.

Each year, organizations in Crafton that are either approved functions of the Borough or are registered as Not for Profit, and whose efforts and contributions benefit our Borough and its citizens are asked to nominate one member for commendation. The Award Ceremony was held on September 3, 2008. The following are the seven 2008 recipients of the Community Service Award:

Marjorie Couch, nominated by the Crafton Performing Arts Association. Ms. Couch has served for many years on the Arts Board of Directors, fundraising and also supervised the mural painting and decorative lighting at the park stage.

Katie Fazio, nominated by the Crafton Crime Watch Organization. As a charter member, she is still complimenting the group after 22 service years. As the Watch's 1st recruit, Ms. Fazio has been instrumental in signing up block captains, fundraising and public awareness.

Douglas Johnston, nominated by the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department. He presently serves as Secretary of the Department, monitoring calls and other department activities, and also coordinates the Quick Response Service of the Department.

Betsy Martin, nominated by the Crafton Park and Shade Tree Commission. She is often seen planting, weeding and watering the flower beds throughout the community. As a member of the Commission she oversees, protects and preserves the trees and plants of the borough. She is also currently active in the Crafton Historical Society.

Pam Palchowski, nominated by the Carlynton Girl Scouts Organization. She oversees all the Scout Volunteers from the area. She is a Senior Scout Leader, Trainer and Cookie Coordinator.

Fred Peelor, nominated by the Crafton-Ingram Rotary. He has been active in the Rotary for over twenty years. Mr. Peelor is a past President and, presently, is the editor of the *Rotogram*, a weekly Rotarian newsletter. He was instrumental in developing various programs at the Elementary Schools in both Crafton and Ingram; including a program whereas Savings Bonds are given to the most improved students.

Andrew Sheariss, nominated by Crafton Public Library Association. He is a four year volunteer and jumps in where needed. He is active in Student Government at Carlynton High School, serving as Sophomore Co-President, and presently, as Junior Co-President.

CRAFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT **OFFICIAL WEBSITE**

Visit the official website of the Crafton Police Department (www.craftonpolice.org) for monthly Crime Watch Reports and Special Alerts. Meet the members of the department and Mayor O'Connell. The homepage provides "Click On" access to a variety of public safety topics such as Crime Watch, D.A.R.E., Kids, News, and more. Subscribe to the Crime Watch Newsletter and receive Crime Watch reports and Special Alerts by e-mail.

TWO NEW POLICE OFFICERS HIRED BY CRAFTON BOROUGH



Patrolman Daniel Berry Patrolman Jason Chedwick

We welcome two new police officers to Crafton Borough. Patrolman Daniel Berry and Patrolman Jason Chedwick started their official duties in Crafton on August 1st. Learn more about them, Chief Rost, and all of the Crafton Police officers when you visit the Crafton Police Department's Official Website, www.craftonpolice.org

DONATION TO D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

Dennis Piper, of DEP Computers Inc. (*Crafton*) donated a DELL laptop to the D.A.R.E. program. The laptop will be used to help instructors teach the 6th grade classes by using the powerpoint software. The police department is very thankful to Mr. Piper for his generous donation.

Project D.A.R.E. (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*) is a substance use prevention education program designed to teach elementary school children the skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. This unique program uses uniformed police officers to teach a formal curriculum to students in a classroom setting. Project DARE gives special attention to fifth and sixth graders to prepare students for entry into Junior High and High School, where they are most likely to encounter pressures to use drugs.

Crafton Borough School Crossing Guards

The Borough is in need of substitute school crossing guards. You must be 18 years or older, Reliable, Dependable, and Punctual. Must be able to clear a police criminal history check. Must be physically capable of performing the activities involved with this position. Must be able to work in all types of weather conditions; available four (4) hours per day -- \$9.73 per hour. If interested, please stop by the Borough Secretary's office for an application or call 412-921-0752 ext. 10, for more information.

Crafton Public Library

Library News and Upcoming Events

* **October 13 – October 27 – *Library Closed.*** The library will be closed October 13th through October 27th and will reopen on Tuesday October 28th, 12 noon for regular service. They will be moving books and other items on the Mondays, Oct. 13th and 20th as well as the Fridays, October 17th and 24th. Volunteers are welcome to help. There will be limited hours available on Oct. 15th and 16th, from 6-8pm and on the 17th from 9am-5pm for pick-ups of ordered materials only. There will be no pick-up service from Oct. 20th to Oct. 27th. Any patrons returning items may do so at other local libraries, such as Greentree or Robinson.

* **December 6 - 10:00 am - *Gingerbread House Making.*** Community Room – Crafton Community Center. This is a great time for the whole family. Advance sign up and payment at the library; cost \$5.00 per person – sign up begins November 6th. Children must be accompanied by an adult (no charge for adult) – materials must be purchased in advance; no walk-ins that day. Light refreshments will be available. As always, check with the library for details 412-922-6877. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Crafton Public Library.

Library Expansion News

The past few months have been very busy at the Crafton Public Library. After a wall-breaking ceremony in late spring, the children's room expansion has progressed under the watchful eyes of library director Kathy Robinson and her staff. Additionally, during the month of October the final touches will be applied to the main library with a total repainting of all the walls and a recarpeting of the floors. These renovations may result in temporary closing of the library. Once the children's area has been relocated, shelves will be moved and reconfigured to broaden the adolescent reading area and to better accommodate the other sections of the library, such as video and large print books. A new circulation desk will also be built to better serve the public. These major improvements are the first since the library moved to its present site in the early 90's. All of these improvements come after a successful 2 year capital campaign to raise the needed funds to build the children's room.

The Board of the Library would like to publicly thank all of you who have donated money or contributed your services to the library over these past few years packing or moving books, baking cakes, calling bingo, writing grants, organizing fundraisers, or licking envelopes. It is sincerely appreciated. Additionally, we would like to thank the Crafton Woman's Civic Club, the Estate of W. Rittenhouse, architect Mark Viola, designer Neil Stouffer, Ken Hartland of PPG, Representative Tom Petrone and his staff, and the local foundations that have supported us in making an idea a reality.

As things get back to normal over the next few weeks, come in and look around, apply for that free library card, and become a regular user of your Crafton Public Library! Additionally, the Friend's of Library's Gingerbread House Making will be back Dec. 6 at 10AM, but we regret that there will not be a Fall book and bake sale and request that you please hang on to your book donations until the Spring of 2009, when the book sale returns. An **Open House and Grand Opening Party** are being planned for after the holidays, so please make plans to join us.

Visit www.craftonpubliclibrary.com

Here and There

Thanks to the hard work of a local resident, Crafton received some very favorable coverage in the local media over the past few months. **West Crafton Avenue resident Dick Marshall's** lovely, flower-filled garden was chosen as the best in Pittsburgh in the small garden category by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for 2008. It was a runner-up in a previous year and this year took the top prize. Dick does all of the gardening himself and also has many statues and other garden items that complement his innumerable shrubs, trees, and flowers. Congratulations, Dick, on this prestigious honor.

Additionally, Crafton was highlighted on the initial **2008 Urban Hike Tour** this past May. Urban Hike participants traveled to Crafton gathering at the Sharp Edge parking lot before hiking the length of back bone road (Crafton Blvd.) to upper Crafton and then looping back around. About 30 participants aided by members of the Crafton Historical Society, Library Board, and Council walked the streets of Crafton learning about its' history, historically significant houses, famous people, and eagerly eating donuts at Pittsburgh's only 24 hour Donut Shop: Big Daddy's on Bradford Ave. After quite a few hours of hiking and one big thunderstorm, Urban Hike members ended their afternoon drinking Belgian beer and eating good food at the Sharp Edge. The trip was recounted with a very favorable view of Crafton and it's residents, by Sherrie Flick on the on-line Sept. 16 issue of the Popcity newsletter, which can be accessed at www.popcitymedia.com.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Crafton-Ingram Food Pantry – Crafton United Presbyterian Church

Please remember to donate to our local food pantry, located at the Crafton United Presbyterian Church, 80 Bradford Avenue (412-921-2293). Your donations will benefit needy Crafton families.

Recommended items: Spaghetti sauce, Pasta, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal, Instant Potatoes, Hamburger or Tuna Helper, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Ramen Noodles, Canned Fruit, Crackers, Jello, Tea Bags, Canned Juice, Pudding, Tuna, Soup and other nonperishable food items. Also, Soap, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Clothes and Dish Detergents.

Note: The Crafton-Ingram Food Pantry has been approved as a Contributor Choice Agency for the United Way of Allegheny County – When making a contribution through the United Way, please indicate the Crafton-Ingram Food Pantry code number as #9062449.

Hard to Recycle – Drop-off Collection

The Allegheny County Health Department and the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) are sponsoring a drop-off collection for those hard to recycle items, such as appliances (with or without Freon), tires (without rims), cell phones, televisions, and computer components – **Saturday, November 15th** at the Mall at Robinson parking lot; lower level near Sears, from 10am to 2pm. Fees vary per item, starting at \$1.00 Check the PRC website at www.prc.org or call 412-431-4449 ext. 236 for details.

CRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTER

The Crafton Community Center was recently dedicated to the Vincent and Italia Rea Family for their generosity to the Borough, In addition to housing our Council Chambers, a large community/party room is available for rental, seating approx. 100 people. As a public building the community center is both alcohol and smoke free. For additional information please contact the Borough Secretary's office at 412-921-0752 ext 10. The rate for a 4-hour rental is \$150.00, plus an additional \$25.00 for use of the kitchen, if needed. The rental application form is available on the Crafton Borough website, at www.crafton.org or at the Secretary's office.

CRAFTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

More Than A Local Fire Company

The members of the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department are volunteers; but more importantly, they are our friends, neighbors and family. They give their time freely and generously to protect you and those you love.

Volunteers Needed

The CVFD is always seeking new membership. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter and willing to help your community in a very important way, contact Chief Hermes at 412-921-6322 or Mike at 412-937-0517 to volunteer.

Education Scholarships and Tuition Reimbursement programs for Volunteer Firefighters

Volunteer fire departments are experiencing difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters. Recently, Allegheny County announced the opening of the application process for 200 Volunteer Firefighter Scholarships. The Allegheny County Fire Volunteer Education, Service & Training Scholarship Program (FireVEST) is now accepting applications for 200 full scholarships for an associate's degree, certificate, or diploma in any of CCAC's more than 170 degree programs, as well as training at the Allegheny County Fire Academy. FireVEST creates a strong incentive to enlist new firefighters and keep existing volunteers.

Applications are due by November 15, 2008 and scholarships will be awarded for CCAC's spring 2009 semester, which begins on January 12, 2009 – For more information visit www.county.allegheny.pa.us/new/2008, or visit www.ccac.edu, search keyword "FireVEST", or contact the Allegheny County Fire Academy at 412-931-3158 ext. 5 or e-mail firevest@alleghenycounty.us

Tuition reimbursement for Volunteer Firefighters is also being considered. Senate Bill No. 1315, Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Services Postsecondary Education Tuition Reimbursement Program Act, was approved unanimously by the Senate on June 9, 2008, and has yet to be approved in the House of Representatives. If it is approved, and becomes law, the program will be administered by the PHEAA – providing up to 50% tuition reimbursement for Volunteer Firefighters.

CVFD AND *CRAFTON CELEBRATES MONTE CARLO NIGHT

The CVFD and ***Crafton Celebrates** have joined together in their fundraising efforts holding a Monte Carlo and Night at the Races on Saturday, October 18th. Cost is \$25. per couple or \$15. per person. Doors open at 6:00 pm at the Fire Department Hall. For tickets and more information, call the CVFD at 412-875-0022 or the Crafton Borough Office at 412-921-0752 x 10.

~ ~ ~

*Reminder: **The Crafton Celebrates Committee** meets on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 pm, in the Crafton Community Center, 2nd floor. Volunteers are needed to help with the planning of next year's Fourth of July festival in Crafton Park. Stop by the meeting or call the Borough Secretary's office for more information.

**Crafton will celebrate Halloween with Trick or Treat on Friday,
October 31, 2008 from 6:00 pm 8:00 pm.**

We offer these few tips to help you stay safe.

Costumes:

1. Make sure that you can see. Use make-up or a mask that is properly fitted and has wide eye holes.
2. Wear reflective tape on your costume and your treat bag.
4. Make sure that your costume is made of fire resistant materials. This includes accessories such as hair pieces or beards.
5. Keep away from fires and candles.
6. Make sure that your costume fits right and does not present a tripping hazard. Wear well fitting shoes.

Trick or Treat Safety:

1. Walk on sidewalks, not in the street. When crossing the street - look both ways, cross at intersection and in crosswalks.
2. Trick or Treat only at houses you know. Accept treats only at the door. Don't go into anyone's house.
 4. Don't get into anyone's car and don't talk to strangers.
 5. Don't eat any treats until an adult checks them for you.

Homeowners:

1. Keep your porch and steps clear of obstructions. Make sure that your porch and steps are well lit.
2. If using candles, make sure that they are placed out of the way so that Trick or Treaters' costumes don't come near them.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

