

**the**

# Borough Broadcaster

Winter Newsletter

Malvern, PA

January 2016

## *News from Borough Council*

Borough Council welcomes its newest elected members, Jamie Grossman, John Meisel, Carroll Sinquett and Zeyn Uzman, who were sworn in on Monday, January 4, 2016 by Senior Magisterial District Judge, Chester Darlington. Also sworn in that night was Christian Arena who was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Matt Radano. Mr. Arena was sworn in by Mayor Burton.

Borough Council also completed their search for a new Manager, to replace Sandra Kelley who retired as of December 31, 2015. The new Manager, Christopher C. Bashore, was appointed at the Borough Council meeting on January 4, 2016 and will resume his duties effective January 25, 2016. Chris currently serves as the Manager in a municipality in Berks County and has previously worked in Chester County, Montgomery County and Delaware County as he was climbing to the top in his profession. He has ten years of municipal experience and is excited to be coming to the Borough of Malvern. Please show him your support by stopping by to welcome him to our beautiful town.

Council adopted the 2016 Budget in December with no tax increase. That's always good news for the taxpayers! The sewer rate will also remain the same although Council is considering a loan to pay for Malvern's percentage share of the break in the Valley Creek Trunk Sewer line in Tredyffrin Township that runs through Valley Forge National Park. The National Park Service will celebrate its Centennial on August 25, 2016, so all repairs must be completed before that date. Work has already begun but there are many miles to cover. All seven municipalities who convey sewage through this trunk line are responsible for costs associated with the trunk line. We are currently negotiating the final costs to the municipalities.

The 2016 Budget included the Multi-Modal Transportation Grant monies to upgrade the traffic signals at Warren Avenue & King Street, pedestrian sidewalk improvements on North Warren Avenue from the Septa parking lot to Pennsylvania Avenue, and a crosswalk from E. Broad Street to the Septa lot. We will again apply for a streetscape project grant for Woodland Avenue and hope that the third try is the charm. As far as public safety improvements, the Public Safety Committee has received a rough draft of some recommendations from the Traffic Engineer that they are reviewing and will be making recommendations to Council for implementation. Monies have been included in the Budget for these traffic calming measures. In other 2016 Budget news, highlights include the purchase of a new police vehicle, a new hopper for the street sweeper, a lawn tractor, a speed sign, telephone upgrades to our equipment, and new benches for Burke Park. You should see a lot of activity in the Borough this summer. We continue to work with Malvern Retreat to establish a greenway trail that will access their property at Channing Avenue and end at our Ruthland Avenue property and then into Randolph Woods to the Duffryn Trail in Willistown Township. The Retreat is working very diligently with us in this endeavor. They are very good neighbors!!

As always, if you have any questions about anything going on in town, contact any member of Borough Council, the Mayor, or the Borough Manager. Information is updated regularly on the Borough website at [www.malvern.org](http://www.malvern.org), on Facebook, and emergency notifications are sent through the ReadyNotify system. If you have not yet signed up for e-mail notifications, please visit our website and click on "Join our Email List" If you haven't signed up for ReadyNotify notifications, see the procedures below and be sure to sign up today!! Be informed!!

There are a lot of exciting things going on in the Borough of Malvern!!

**SEWER BILL ENCLOSED**

## *FREE!! Shade Trees for Spring Planting!!*

In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS), the Borough would once again like to make available to residents, at no charge, a limited number of shade trees. Our town arborist, Joe Bones, will select from PHS stock those trees with the highest survival rate in our borough. You will be able to choose either a small (full size up to 20 feet), medium (mature at 30-45 feet) or large (mature at 60+ feet) tree from our stock. When we get them, they will be about 8-12 feet tall. We will deliver them to your yard for planting this spring. To see what your tree may look like in three years, please visit Randolph Woods. We've planted trees in the grassy areas adjacent to the wooded areas and the stream. The trees are now 15-20 feet tall and quite beautiful. If you are interested in a tree, please contact us at: [malvernstc@yahoo.com](mailto:malvernstc@yahoo.com). Be sure to include your full name, address and size of tree you are interested in planting. Since we have only a limited number, it will be on a first come, first served basis. Contact us today!! The deadline is February 5th!

## *Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, Inc.*

The Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund will continue their Revolutionary Lecture Series in 2016. The next Series are as follows:

Monday, February 8, 2016 – Results of the Paranormal Tour of the Paoli Battlefield by Laurie Hull

Monday, March 14, 2016 – Kidnapping the Enemy: the Special Operations to Capture Generals Charles Lee and Richard Prescott by Christian McBurney

Monday, April 11, 2016 – The British Soldiers by Don Hagist.

Admission price is \$49 per person which includes the 18<sup>th</sup> century American Fare Buffet, all soft beverages, family style sweets, all taxes and gratuities, the lecture by a noted historical author or historian, and a donation to the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund.

Also included is a raffle for a night's stay at the General Warren Inne.

Doors open at 5:45pm followed by the buffet and lecture. Please secure your spot today by going to <http://rememberpaoli.org/lecture-series/>.

## *Malvern Public Library News*

Malvern Borough congratulates Rosalie Dietz, Executive Director, Malvern Public Library, on her retirement effective December 31, 2015. Rosalie worked at the library for the past 20 years and served as their Director for the last 16 years. Rosalie was a driving force at the library and you could often hear her infectious laugh when you entered the library. The Malvern Library was a fun place to visit and we know the new Director will have pretty big shoes to fill.

The residents of the Borough of Malvern will dearly miss Rosalie but wish her much happiness, good health and plenty of fun in this next chapter of her life! Good luck, Rosalie! We miss you already!!

## *Malvern Festivals - Save the Date*

**Blooms Festival** is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st from 11 AM - 4 PM.

**Harvest Oktoberfest** is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th from 11 AM - 4 PM.

## *Parks & Recreation - Save the Date!!*

Malvern Borough's Parks & Recreation Committee will hold their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m.** This event is a BYOB (bring your own "basket", that is). The Easter Egg Hunt is for **Ages 10 and under**. **Be sure to check the Borough's website at [www.malvern.org](http://www.malvern.org) for the location!** If there appears to be a chance of rain, please check the Borough's website to see if the event has been rescheduled to the rain date of Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.. Put the date on your calendar TODAY. Don't forget your baskets!!

### *News from the Codes Enforcement Officer ....*

Winter is upon us and even though it has been relatively mild thus far, there's still plenty of winter left for a season of snow and snow covered sidewalks and walkways. Please remember that after the snow has stopped falling, the **Malvern Borough Code** requires that sidewalks must be cleared 36 inches wide within 24 hours after it has stopped. In addition, where icy patches result on sidewalks, please be sure to put down salt or some other material that will minimize the chance of someone slipping or falling until the sidewalk is clear and dry. If you have a neighbor who is elderly or unable to clear their sidewalk, perhaps several neighbors could help them out by clearing their sidewalk for them. This will help to ensure that all of the sidewalks in Malvern are passable this winter season. Remember also, it is unlawful to place the snow from sidewalks into the street.

Even though the requirement for sidewalks doesn't apply to the walkways on your property, it may be a good idea to clear them as well, especially any that lead to the main entrance to your home, just in case of an emergency. That way First Responders will have a clear and safe path to you in your home if needed.

Speaking of First Responders, while you're outside clearing your sidewalks, take a look at the address numbers that are required to be posted in the front of your house. Check to see that the numbers are legible, are not obstructed by vegetation and can be readily seen from the street.

### *Planning Commission Update*

The Planning Commission recently completed a 'Walkability Study' of the Borough and presented recommendations to Borough Council on sidewalk maintenance, priorities for additional sidewalks / trails, and new signage at key locations. We also participated in the creation of the Borough's first 'Official Map'. Early 2016 activities include the revision of key elements of the Subdivision and Land Use Ordinances.

The current Planning Commission members include Amy Finkbiner, Vice-Chair; Lynne Hockenbury; Dave Knies, Chair; Chris Mongeau; Mark Niemiec, Treasurer; Geoff Rubino, Secretary; and Carroll Sinquett. Residents are encouraged to attend our scheduled meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month - 7:30 PM at Borough Hall. Meeting agendas, minutes, and a log of our activities are routinely posted on the Borough website - [www.malvern.org](http://www.malvern.org).

### *Stay Informed... Just a "click" away*

The Borough wants you to be informed of all activities occurring within the Borough. To assist you, we encourage you to visit our website at [www.malvern.org](http://www.malvern.org), and click on "Join our E-Mail List". Click on the information that you would like sent to you via e-mail. Once that information is available, an e-mail alert will be sent to you. Like us on Facebook "*Borough of Malvern*"

### *2016 Household Hazard Waste Events*

As the Chester County Solid Waste Authority has not yet set their 2016 Schedule, please visit our website at [www.malvern.org](http://www.malvern.org) for this information. Typically, their first event would be April 9<sup>th</sup> at the CAT Pickering Campus in Phoenixville.

### *Malvern Winter Farmers Market*

The Malvern Winter Farmers Market is held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, inside at the First Baptist Church, 148 Channing Ave. from 10 AM – Noon.

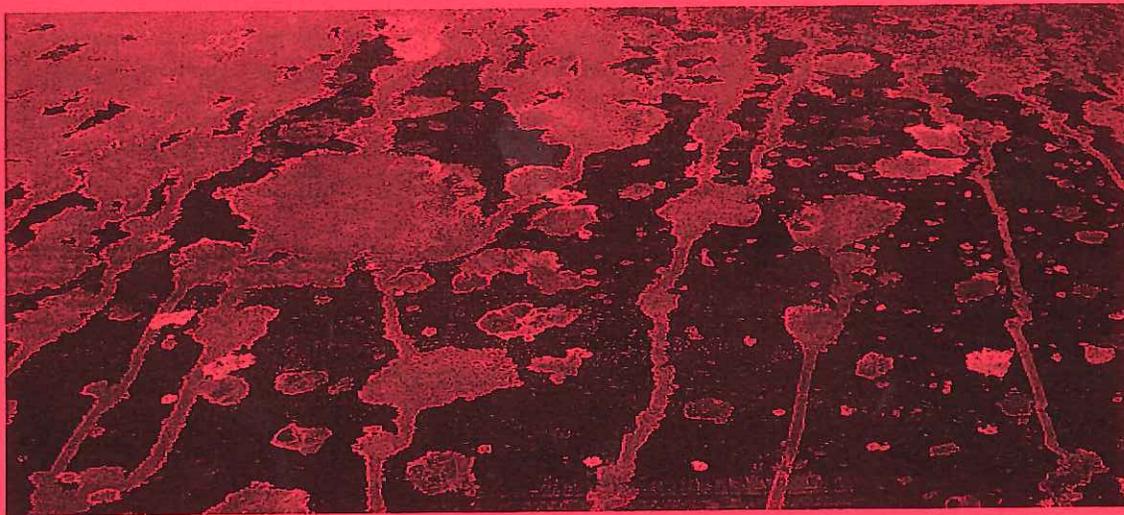
Don't let winter's chill keep you from fulfilling your pledge to eat local! Despite the freezing temperatures, our produce farmers are growing amazing produce, locally, in their hoop houses. The sun can warm up a simple plastic covered hoop house to 70 degrees and warmer - perfect for growing lots of veggies. You'll be amazed to see the variety! Want to know how they do it - ask them at the market - they love to talk about their growing practices. This time of year our livestock farmers have plenty of meats and poultry, farm fresh eggs, and cheeses. Fresh baked breads and sweets, even treats for Fido! All that and more! Stop by to support the Malvern Farmers Market!!

## ALTERNATIVES TO SALT FOR TREATING ICY SIDEWALKS AND

Spreading salt on roads and driveways reduces ice formation, allowing for safer travel for pedestrians and motorists. Too much salt, however, can corrode metal on cars, damage gardens and trees, and pollute our local streams. All landowners can be part of the solution by using alternative products or by using salt at recommended times and rates.

There are several products that can be used instead of salt. Here are a few options to consider:

- Sand, kitty litter, and coffee grinds – These products provide great traction. Sand can easily be swept up and disposed of afterwards, but kitty litter often creates mushy clumps. These products will absorb sunlight, contributing to melting.
- Ashes – For those with a wood burning fireplace, ashes are a great option. They provide a lot of traction and absorb sunlight, so will melt ice quickly on a sunny day. And they're free!
- Beet juice – Increasingly being used by highway departments on its own or mixed with salt, this safe and natural product allows ice to melt even when air temperatures are extremely cold.
- Potassium acetate, calcium magnesium acetate – Acetates are super-effective even at extremely low temperatures and are biodegradable. The drawback? Price. They cost several times as much as rock salt and can be difficult to find. This is a good solution for small areas in environmentally sensitive locations, such as floodplains.
- Other "chlorides": calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride – Salt (sodium chloride) is not the only chloride product that can melt ice. These products are generally more expensive than rock salt, but work better at low temperatures. Calcium chloride is the preferred choice over magnesium chloride, as it works at lower temperatures and is applied at a lower rate, leading to less chloride in our streams. Potassium chloride is considered safest for pets and plants, but is often more expensive and does not work well at lower temperatures. All chloride products contribute to pollutant loads in our streams and their use should be minimized.



If salt is the only reasonable alternative for your property, remember:

- Remove as much ice and snow off the top as you can before applying salt to speed up melting
- A little salt can go a long way:
  - Rock salt should be applied at about a handful per square yard
  - Calcium chloride should be spread even thinner, about a handful for 3 square yards
- The air temperature matters. Rock salt is five times more effective at melting ice at 30°F than 20°F, and ineffective below 20°F. Calcium chloride is better for temperatures down to 0°F.
- Applying early can prevent ice crystals from forming and minimize the amount of salt used overall.