

# The Crafton Courier

Official Crafton, PA Borough Newsletter

Winter 2023



## Poolhouse Construction Underway!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Crafton is demolishing and rebuilding the interior of the Crafton Pool Bathhouse. Work began on October 2nd. They've already come a long way! Completion is scheduled for April 2024 to ensure the Borough has time to get ready for the 2024 pool season.

A few of the upgrades planned for the Crafton Pool Bathhouse include a family restroom, a new direct route to the pool, new showers, new toilet stalls, and a new reception desk. The bathhouse will have all new plumbing and mechanical fixtures. We are even picking the new paint colors now!

The upgrades to the bathhouse will also include improved access for those with mobility issues. The plan includes moving handicapped parking next to the building to help meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The final round of work, finishing the concrete sidewalks approaching the building, is scheduled to be completed by the Crafton Public Works crew in the Spring of 2024. Crafton Borough Council and staff are excited to share the upgrades with the community in the Spring.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony prior to opening the 2024 season.



## Baker's Acres Dedication

Clyde Baker (center).  
Left to right: Helena Baker (wife), Mayor Perry, Sally Borkowski (daughter), Council President Oliverio, Jeff Baker (son), Julie Palmer (daughter)



Crafton honored Clyde Baker on Sunday, October 22nd with a ceremony designating the property the Borough acquired earlier in the year as Baker's Acres. The vision is to create an expanded and improved trail along the property that currently serves as an unofficial cut from Parkview St. (off Crafton Blvd.) through to Woodlawn, parallel to the Busway. A plaque was dedicated and placed along the trail near Woodlawn Avenue, declaring the area Baker's Acres. Baker purchased the property along the trail in the early 1960's and he regularly liked to visit with his wife. His children also spent many hours enjoying the property when they were young. It is an honor to recognize Mr. Baker and his long-lasting impact in the community.



## New Sign Up and Running

Crafton has a new digital sign at the park entrance on Steuben St. thanks to a generous donation from the Crafton Ingram Rotary. Lots of work and planning went into designing and constructing the sign. The base is constructed of bricks that have been recycled from brick streets. It was powered up in mid-October and has been displaying easy to read community announcements for all everyone passing by.

### Elected Officials

Coletta Perry, *Mayor* ..... cperry@craftonborough.com

### Borough Council Officers

John Oliverio, *President* ..... joliverio@craftonborough.com

Kirsten Compitello, *Vice President* ... kcompitello@craftonborough.com

Vince Ridilla, *President Pro Tem* ..... vridilla@craftonborough.com

### Borough Council Members

Erin Bollenbacher ..... ebollenbacher@craftonborough.com

Colton Chandler ..... cchandler@craftonborough.com

Justin Marks ..... jmarks@craftonborough.com

Pam Pulkownik ..... ppulkownik@craftonborough.com

### Magisterial District Judge

Hon. Jack Kobistek ..... (412) 921-5559

### Municipal Contacts

#### Borough Manager

Jim Price ..... manager@craftonborough.com  
(412) 921-0752 x 19

#### Chief of Police

Mark Sumpter ..... msumpter@craftonpolice.org  
(412) 921-2016

#### Administration

Police Secretary ..... (412) 921-0752 x 11

Borough Administration ..... (412) 921-0752 x 10

Code Enforcement ..... (412) 921-0752 x 26

Building Permits & Zoning ..... (412) 921-0752 x 18

#### Community Pool

Crafton Pool ..... (412) 458-0677

### Community Resources

Crafton Public Library ..... (412) 922-6877

Crafton Volunteer Fire Department ..... (412) 875-0022

Crafton Elementary ..... (412) 429-2500

Waste Management (Missed Pickups) ..... (800) 866-4460

Waste Management (E-Waste Pickup) ..... (800) 449-7587

Jordan Tax Service ..... (724) 731-2310

### Public Meeting Information

All Borough Council Meetings are currently being held in Council Chambers. Meetings are also available live via Zoom. Log-in and call-in information available on the Borough's website:

[www.craftonborough.com/borough-council](http://www.craftonborough.com/borough-council)

Council Chambers in the Community Center  
140 Bradford Avenue, Crafton, PA 15205.



**Crafton Borough Council** ..... 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7:15 pm

*Meeting announcements and schedule changes are publicized on the SavvyCitizen App and the Borough website.*



**Savvy Citizen**

Sign up for SavvyCitizen to stay up to date on community events, crime watch alerts and notifications.



Go to [www.craftonborough.com/get-notifications](http://www.craftonborough.com/get-notifications) and follow the instructions on the page.



The Calendar of events can also be viewed on the Borough's website under [www.craftonborough.com/calendar](http://www.craftonborough.com/calendar)

## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> to Dorothy Little



Mayor Perry had the great privilege to declare November 2, 2023 "Dorothy Waugh Little Day" in Crafton in honor of Dorothy's 100th Birthday.

*Dorothy surrounded by her son, daughter-in-law, and one of her granddaughters.*

### CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY



Keep up with us on Facebook and on Savvy Citizen for the latest event updates

#### WEEKLY

#### YOGA / MONDAYS @ 7 PM

For all skill levels! Each class is \$5.00. Bring water and a mat or towel & dress comfortably!

#### FAMILY STORYTIME

#### TUESDAYS @ 11:00 AM

Caregivers and little ones are invited to listen to stories and sing songs with Miss Gabrielle!

#### LEGO NIGHT / THURSDAYS @ 4:30 PM

Kiddos are invited to play, build, and learn with the Library's collection of Lego blocks!

#### MONTHLY

#### THE DINNER AT CRAFTON LIBRARY / FIRST FRIDAY @ 6:00 PM

Choose a recipe from the month's cookbook. Prepare it to share it!

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

## Gingerbread House Making



**Saturday, Dec. 2**

**Crafton Community Center**  
2 sessions: 9:00 & 10:30 am  
**\$5 per child**

You can sign up your child/children at the front desk beginning November 1st.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$5 per child due at sign-up with chaperones free. There will be light refreshments. There are no walk-in spots available. We usually sell out, so please sign up in November.



[www.craftonpubliclibrary.com](http://www.craftonpubliclibrary.com)

Mon. & Fri.: 9 AM – 5 PM /  
Tues., Weds., & Thurs.: 10 AM – 6 PM

Sat.: 10 AM – 5 PM

**412-922-6877**

**Program Calendar:**

<https://live-craftonpl.pantheonsite.io/events/month>







**Saturday  
December 2nd  
4:30 to 6:30 pm**

Put on your hat and mittens with your warm coat and come celebrate the start of the holiday season with us! Join Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Snow Princess to turn on the holiday lights in the park at 5:00pm. Enjoy the singing voice of the Snow Princess, write a letter to Santa, and enjoy a tasty treat from the Recreation Board.



**Holiday House Tour returns to Crafton - Sunday, December 10th - 1 to 6 pm**  
Presented by the Crafton Recreation Board, in partnership with Crafton Heritage



**Advance Ticket Sale Price - \$20 / Day of Tickets - \$25.00**

Advance Ticket Sales begin November 1, 2023

**Online Advance Ticket Sales\***

[www.craftonborough.com/christmas-house-tour](http://www.craftonborough.com/christmas-house-tour)

\*Online Sales will end December 8, 2023, at 3:00 pm



**In-Person Advance Ticket Sales -**

Crafton Public Library and the Blue Snail Gift Shop (CASH ONLY)  
and Crafton Borough Administrative Offices

Come and enjoy this family friendly day and support Crafton! All proceeds will go to support future community programs.

On the day of the tour, stop at the Crafton Public Library Box Office to pick up your tour booklet. At your own pace, you will tour Crafton's beautifully decorated homes. Stop by the Nativity Church, also available on the tour, founded 150 years ago by the Craft Family after which Crafton is named. The Nativity Church contains many pictures and historical documents about Crafton and the Craft Family descendants, who will be there to showcase the church.

Be sure to stop by the Blue Snail Gift Shop, who has graciously sponsored this year's tour. The shop is located at 24 E. Crafton Ave.

**Box Office Hours: 12:45 PM to 3:45 PM | Crafton Public Library, 140 Bradford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.**

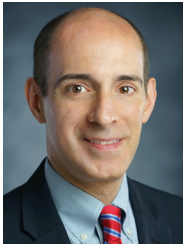
We need docents for the homes. Our shift schedules will allow you to tour, too. Please contact [recreation@craftonborough.com](mailto:recreation@craftonborough.com)



**Santa to Visit Crafton - Saturday December 16th**

*Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, right down Crafton Lane*

Santa will leave the fire house at 9:00 AM and work his way throughout the borough, on Crafton's own firetruck, to see the children before the big day. This is one of the fire department's oldest traditions, going back many decades. Come outside and say hi to Santa Claus on the morning of December 16. Listen for the sirens to warn of his arrival. He can't wait to see all the children!



## Council President's Message.....

As we wind down 2023 (already), Crafton is progressing forward with many projects and initiatives to make our community even better.

*Since the last newsletter, we have quite a few accomplishments including:*

1. **2023 Budget** – The Finance committee conducted a mid year assessment to the budget and the financials are on track as planned.
2. **2023 Road Paving Project** – Six streets (identified by Robotics, not including project work) were paved at a cost of \$289K.
3. **Park Digital Sign** – The sign was placed in Crafton Park repurposing old bricks from our streets. Thank you to the Crafton Ingram Rotary for their generous donation for the sign.
4. **Garbage/Recycling** – Renewed contract for the last option year with Waste Management for garbage collection and recycling keeping the same terms (unfortunately with a price increase per the contract). We will begin looking at options for 2025.
5. **Pool Season** – We had another successful pool season with extended dates and hours based on resident feedback. Thank you to the pool and administrative staff for all the hard work!
6. **Inventory** – Our summer intern completed a complete inventory of street signs, shade trees, crosswalks, and military banners with condition and location noted. This information is being used to replace and repair outdated or missing items.

### We are working on the following projects:

1. **2024 Budget** – Staff, Council, and Finance Committee have been putting together a fiscally responsible budget for Council approval on December 14.
2. **Board/Commission Vacancies** – Filled all open seats except for 2 openings. Residents should apply on the borough website to get involved. There will be additional openings in 2024.

3. **Pool Bathhouse Renovation** – The final design was approved by Council and construction has begun. Completion date is April 1, 2024.

### Our future projects include:

1. **Broadhead Sewer Separation Project** – This is a major project that will improve our sewer systems (as required by Alcosan consent decree) in addition to fixing the corresponding roads with \$4.7M in grants awarded. Council approved the final design with construction to begin in 2024.
2. **Strategic Planning** – Council and Staff will be working on a Strategic Plan to prioritize future community and development initiatives.
3. **Grants** – Awarded DCNR Grant for \$39.1K for a study on the trails on Chartiers Creek, Busway, and Switchback.

As a reminder, Council meetings are open to the public, and I encourage residents to attend (2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 7:15 PM) in person or via Zoom to keep up to date on what is happening in our community. If you have any questions about anything on the agenda or happening in the community, please feel free to reach out to me.

I personally want to thank the Rec Board, staff, and all the volunteers for making our Fall Festival one of the best events this year! We even attracted the attention of the local news. There is a lot of work that goes into planning and organizing our events, and it is truly appreciated. I hope to see everyone at the Celebration of Lights and Holiday House Tour (back from a 3 year hiatus). I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and continue to appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Respectfully,  
**John Oliverio**, Council President

## Mayor's Message .....

*Let's talk about driving safely and legally...* The Crafton Police Department recently installed a Motorola Solutions License Plate Reader (LPR) on one of our units. It was purchased through a \$25,000 grant from The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. LPR has proven to be very effective in traffic-related enforcement. All of our Crafton Police officers have been trained on the technology and have been using it during their tours of duty over the last few months.

I was shocked to find out just how often these violations are being flagged:

- Expired vehicle registration
- Expired inspections
- Expired insurance
- Driving while license is suspended (all reasons including DUI)
- Unlicensed driver
- Driving with a suspended vehicle registration

*Please make sure your license, vehicle registration, insurance, and inspection are in order.* And please refrain from driving if your

license is suspended or you are not a licensed driver. Or you may find yourself being stopped and having a citation issued, or worse. Above all, if you are stopped by one of our officers, please remember to be polite and to follow their instructions. They are doing their jobs and trying to do them with everyone's safety and rights in mind!

**Thank you!** I'd like to add my thanks to the Recreation Board volunteers who have been doing such a great job planning and executing on all of the community events. People are still talking about what a great event the Fall Fest was. We're all looking forward to another wonderful Celebration of Lights and the return of the Holiday House Tour.

Finally, thanks to the residents of the Crafton Plaza and Crafton Towers for their invitations and warm welcomes to their events this year. It's such a pleasure to get to know y'all!



**Coletta Perry**, Mayor





## Manager's Message .....

As we head into winter, I wanted to take a moment to thank our hard-working public works crew, code enforcement team, and our dedicated seasonal staff for a job well done this summer and fall. There were several challenges this spring when opening the pool (short staff and mechanical issues), but our team pulled together and made sure things were up and running in time for Memorial Day. I would also like to thank our amazing Recreation Board for a Fall Fest that earned accolades from all who attended. I have been told by many community members how much fun they had, and how much they appreciated all the different activities, especially for teens and young adults.

**Jim Price**  
Crafton Borough Manager

## Brick Streets Survey Results

The results are in! 292 people took the Brick Streets Survey during the eight weeks it was available. Of those, 281 are residents of Crafton, the rest visit or do business in the community. That represents about 5% of Crafton residents. Or, about 8% of households, assuming a relatively low number of multiple respondents from the same household.

The majority of respondents think the brick streets add charm and value.

However, an even larger majority said they were not willing to pay extra to save the bricks. See <https://craftonborough.wufoo.com/reports/qdxfw8e12t6ula/> for more results of the survey, complete with informative graphs.



## Code Enforcement

It's easy to ignore issues on our properties as the colder months roll out and into the holidays and then to the slower cozier months beyond.

You might be dashing out to stash the trash in your cans and ignore the gathering mess from some of it being ripped open or blowing out of the can.

Or maybe your gutters are full of debris and then they fill with ice and pull away from the roof or sag down sending melting ice in waterfalls in front of your windows and water into your basement.

Or you get caught off-guard for the first snowfalls and don't have the salt or working shovel to clear your sidewalk. You might even still have residual weeds like Quackgrass or Crabgrass junking up your yard or tree lawn.

Whatever the case, please be mindful of your property and maintain it even in the colder months—especially the sidewalks.

**According to the code, snow and ice are to be removed within 24 hours of when the snow or ice stops accumulating.**

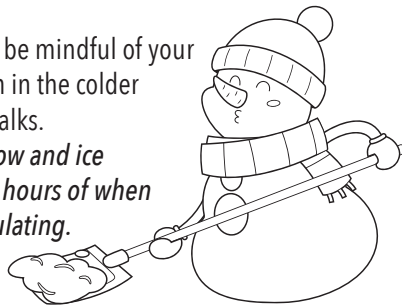
Two years ago people were walking on main roads due to sidewalks being snow-covered and icy. Let's all try to keep that from happening again!

The code is clear that trash/bulk waste are not permitted to accumulate on property. Trash *must* be kept up with all winter. Rodents do not hibernate and scattered waste is unsightly and bad for the environment, no matter the time of year.

Many things can still be repaired/maintained in colder months when contractors are slower. Tree pruning in February and March is another good example of maintenance one can do with success.

**Have a safe and fun-filled winter season!**

**Crafton Code Enforcement**



## Welcome Borough Engineer

### Larry Keenan



Larry Keenan became Crafton's first in-house Civil Engineer on October 16th. Larry comes to the Borough from Colliers Engineering and Design where he spent four years creating land development plans, grading plans, coordinating with utilities, agencies, and contractors, analyzing and updating NPDES drawings (the plans for eliminating Pollutant discharges into waterways—think Clean Water Act). Larry is both an Engineer and Construction Manager in Training with more than 15 years experience. He graduated from Penn State in 2008 with a Master's of Science in Engineering Management. He is also LEED certified in Neighborhood Development. Additionally, Larry is a certified professional in erosion and sediment control, municipal stormwater management, and Green Infrastructure. Larry's depth of knowledge means he hit the ground running, helping the administration manage several large infrastructure projects and working to streamline day-to-day operations.

Crafton has millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure investment projects in the pipeline spanning the next several years. Engineering costs for those projects, in 2023 alone, are anticipated to be appx. \$950,000.

Larry will be Crafton's expert professional engineering advocate on these projects and will help reduce costs, and more than pay for his salary, in some of the following ways:

1. Perform some work that would otherwise be done by our outside engineers (Gateway) at greater expense.
2. Analyze project plans and recommendations with an eye to finding more cost effective solutions and overall cost savings.
3. Closely monitor Gateway engineers activities and billings.
4. Research and apply for additional grant funding for borough infrastructure and development projects.



# Fall Festival



Crafton Recreation Board would like to thank everyone who came to Crafton Park on September 30th to celebrate Fall Fest with us. There were many activities – axe throwing, face painting, and a beer tent. We saw many smiling faces when people got their funnel cakes and lots of toe tapping when NorthCoast Mix played our favorite Polkas. The food trucks, craft vendors, and Touch-A-Truck appeared to be busy all afternoon. The kids loved the inflatable obstacle course and playing at the Mini Golf.



**See y'all next fall!**



## 2023 Haunted Crafton another rousing success!

Participants made 62 donations, totalling \$927. Plus, we had lots of food donations. All the proceeds and donated items are earmarked for the Crafton Ingram Foodbank.

Thanks to all of the homeowners who decorated their homes and participated in the 4th Annual Haunted Crafton Audio Tour. Your homes definitely looked creepy and your stories were spooky and amazing. We also appreciated everyone who donated to the Crafton Ingram Food Bank.

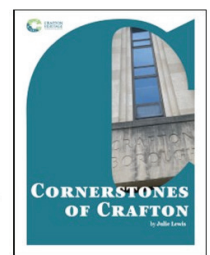
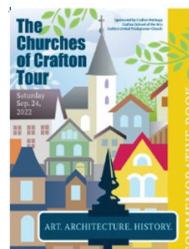
Thank you to all who made this event happen, especially Leah Klocko as our Narrator. To inquire about her services, contact her at [nightfrog983@hotmail.com](mailto:nightfrog983@hotmail.com) and **Otocast** for their technology that makes this self-guided driving tour possible.



**CRAFTON HERITAGE**  
Our families. Our stories. Our home.

[craftonheritage.org](http://craftonheritage.org)

*We bring you the stories of Crafton through articles, events, and more.*



Tell us your story! [contact@craftonheritage.org](mailto:contact@craftonheritage.org)



# Senator Wayne D. Fontana Expansion of Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program



Currently, Pennsylvania homeowners age 65 and over, widows and widowers age 50 and over, and people living with a disability 18 and over can apply for the PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. It's not too late to apply for a rebate for the 2022 calendar year as the program will accept applications through Dec. 31, 2023.

Beginning in 2024 for the 2023 calendar year rebates HB 1100 will raise the qualifying household income limits to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters. This legislation also increases the largest basic rebate to \$1,000. Future increases in the income limit will be tied to inflation under this bill.

Qualified applicants can apply online at [mypath.pa.gov/](http://mypath.pa.gov/). If you need assistance applying, **please call my Brookline office at 412-344-2551 or my Kennedy office at 412-331-1208 to set up an appointment and my staff will be happy to help.**

I'd also like to remind everyone that I publish an online newsletter each Tuesday. My ENews focuses on state issues, legislation and happenings within the district. You can receive these weekly News & Views editions by signing up at

[www.senatorfontana.com](http://www.senatorfontana.com).

Senator Wayne D. Fontana  
42nd Senatorial District



## NO SHAVE



## NOVEMBER

The Crafton Police Department Officers will put their razors away for the month of November to participate in the American Cancer Association's "No Shave November."

The rules of No Shave November are simple: Put down your razor for the month of November and donate your monthly hair maintenance expenses, or more, to the cause!

Typically, Officers must be clean shaven on a daily basis. However, the policy will be suspended this month. Crafton Police Officers who participate will donate their own money, making a minimum donation of \$35.

This year our No Shave November donations will go to the American Cancer Society in memory of Pat Shaw. Pat Shaw was a good friend, supporter of the Crafton Police Department, and many of our community organizations and events. Use this link to add your donation to ours:

<https://raiseyourway.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.personalCampaign&participantID=10937>



## R.I.P Chief Hermes

Sadly, this past September, the Crafton VFD lost one of their most heralded members in the history of the department. Chief H. Roy Hermes passed away at the age of 89. Roy served as Fire Chief for over 30 years and was an active member for over 60 years, with a total of 72 years of service, from 1951-2023. Chief Hermes was instrumental in leading the fire department into the twenty first century as fire service evolved. Rest in Peace Chief. We will handle it from here.

## Join Our Team !!!

**Crafton Volunteer Fire Department needs you!**



We are your friends, your family, and your neighbors. We are students and retirees, teachers and engineers, mechanics and military personnel. So far this year we have responded to 361 emergencies, including, fires, motor vehicle crashes, fire alarms, service calls, and EMS assists. Of the 361 responses, 121 have been EMS assists with the rest being fires or fire related dispatches.

You only need to be 18 or older and it is not a requirement to be a Crafton resident. We will provide you with all the training and equipment you need to protect our community safely and effectively.

**CVFD - 130+ years strong and counting!**

**Stop at the station on Tuesdays between 7:00 and 9:00 PM to pick-up an application.**

## FREE Leaf Compost and Wood Chips are available for daily pickup

Bins are located in the Parking Lot behind the Amphitheater at Crafton Park on W. Steuben Street



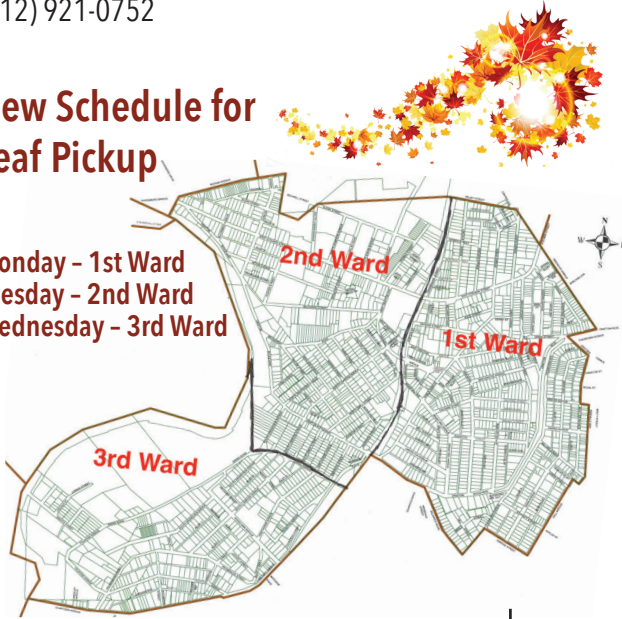
# Crafton Borough

100 Stotz Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
(412) 921-0752

PRESORT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit 2354

## New Schedule for Leaf Pickup

Monday - 1st Ward  
Tuesday - 2nd Ward  
Wednesday - 3rd Ward



To participate in fall leaf collection, please rake leaves to the curb/street prior to 6 am on your collection day. Curbside leaf pickup will continue through the early weeks of December, weather permitting. If the weather does not cooperate with leaf collection efforts, a notice will be sent out via SavvyCitizen to alert residents of any schedule changes. Leaves that are bagged in biodegradable/eco-friendly bags can be picked up by the Public Works Department. Contact the Administrative Office to request pickup.

Please be aware that the leaf vacuum equipment does generate "leaf dust," which is unavoidable. Leaf dust may accumulate on parked vehicles during the operation of this equipment. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## 2023-2024 Recyclables Collection Schedule – Regular weekly trash pickup is on Tuesdays

*except when there is a legal holiday on Monday.*

Trash will be delayed one day due to the following holidays:

**Christmas Day** - Regular Trash and Recycle will be collected on Wed., Dec. 27

**New Years Day** - Regular Trash will be collected on Wed., Jan. 3, 2024



**Be sure to keep your sidewalks clear of snow!**

*Borough Code requires all sidewalks to be clear of snow within 24 hours of accumulation.*

### DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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### FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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### MARCH

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31						

### APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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### MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Recyclable items must be placed LOOSE in a container clearly marked recycle. Bagged recycle WILL NOT be picked up!**