



Borough
of Perkasie

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

SUMMER 2008

620 W. Chestnut St.
Perkasie, PA 18944
Phone: (215) 257-5065
Fax: (215) 257-6875
www.perkasieborough.org

- J. Robert Hunsicker, Mayor
- Martin Gahman, President
- Richard Hendricks, Vice-President
- Eadie Burke
- Ray Conville
- Harry McGonigal
- Chris Nicolosi
- Jim Purcell
- Bill Delaney
- Maria Slowik

MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Borough Council:
1st Monday at 7 p.m.
- Borough Council:
3rd Monday at 7 p.m.
- Zoning Hearing Board:
4th Monday at 7:30 p.m.
- PBA:
3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.
- Planning Commission:
2nd & 4th Wed. at 7:30 p.m.
- Park & Recreation Board
1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- PWTA:
4th Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Please check
www.perkasieborough.org for
updates to schedule.

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Menlo Aquatic Center Opens

The newly remodeled Menlo Aquatic Center is open for summer fun! At the end of last year's pool season, the Borough asked patrons to complete a survey on their experiences at the pool. Thanks to the many great suggestions we received from last years members, we have made improvements and additions to make the new pool even better.



Several changes were made in the concession area. Healthier food options such as fresh salads, trail mix, and yogurt were added. In an effort to improve customer service and shorten wait time, a snack bar manager has been hired to oversee the daily operations and staff.

New equipment has been added to the pool! More lawn furniture, picnic

tables, tents, a swim station for swimming lessons and tubes was added. Additional changes have been made to the programs following the survey. Swim lessons for 3 to 5 year-olds have been added to the schedule, and a swimming station has been ordered to cater to smaller children.

For the safety of the children in our community, the swim test rules will remain the same for all slides, the diving board and the rock wall. Once a day, the staff will give an introduction on how to practice for the swim test, so that young swimmers can be better prepared.

The completion of the locker room remodeling project is slated for 2009,

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Electric Rate Hike Likely

As the Borough closes in on the end of its 5-year contract with Detroit Edison Co., an increase in electric rates seems eminent. And with the expiration of electricity caps fast approaching, all residents of the Commonwealth can expect a rate hike.

A provision of the 1996 Electricity Generation Customer Choice and Competition Act capped the

unbundled generation, transmission, and distribution rates for residential consumers for a period of at least 4 ½ years. The last of these caps is set to expire on December 31, 2010. The rate caps set during Pennsylvania's electricity restructuring helped create an artificial sense of low energy prices over the last decade. In reality, the prices of coal and natural gas, which are used to generate electricity, have

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Emergencies. Severe Weather. Threats to Homeland Security.

Perkasie Borough wants you to be informed before, during, and after an emergency. That's why the Borough has partnered with two agencies to provide a broad range of emergency notification for its residents. Below you will read about **ReadyNotifyPA** and the **Community Alerting Network (CAN)**. The Borough of Perkasie strongly recommends its citizens to sign up for both emergency notification programs. **ReadyNotifyPA** is a 5-County regional notification system intended to provide all-types of emergency notifications that are relevant to an entire area (i.e. Bucks County).

The **Community Alerting Network** allows Borough Emergency Services to send very detailed and specific messages to smaller groups (a neighborhood or block) based on emergencies that may only effect part of our community.

Depending on the scale of the situation, both alerting systems are powerful tools being utilized by Perkasie Borough to help communicate with its most valuable resources- you and your family. Please take the time to sign up for both tools TODAY!

For more information on CAN and ReadyNotifyPA, read below!

Community Alerting Network (CAN)

If an emergency event is either pending or happening, borough emergency management officials will be able to produce an informational message and have the message sent to the affected residents within only a few minutes by utilizing the CAN functions.

For example, if there would be a severe weather event to occur within the next 4-6 hours, officials will contact CAN and select the area of the Borough to alert, such as those residents along the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek due to the potential for flooding. CAN will dial all of the home and cell phone numbers registered and send out the voice message with whatever information or in-

structions that would be needed at that time. Information may identify the potential for flooding, recommendation for seeking alternate sheltering due to flooding and/or sheltering information, just to name a few examples.

CAN activations can encompass small geographic areas of the Borough or all geographic areas of the Borough, depending upon the scope of the emergency event. If your home phone is listed, you do not need to register. If your number is unlisted, or wish to receive notifications on your cell phone **sign up today at www.perkasieborough.org**.

ReadyNotifyPA

When situations arise in Southeastern Pennsylvania that may affect you and your family, **ReadyNotifyPA** lets local officials notify you quickly.

ReadyNotifyPA can send an E-mail or a text message to your cell phone or other E-mail enabled device. You let **ReadyNotifyPA** know how you'd like to be notified. The alerts are free; however, your cellular provider may charge

for text messaging. Receiving text messages is easy and not just for kids.

Be among the first to find out and stay informed during an emergency. You choose the county or counties – Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia – that will send you alerts. Pick the county or counties where you spend most of your time – it can be where you live, work or play.

Sign up today at www.ReadyNotifyPA.org.

"If you are a special needs resident and cannot evacuate yourself, please call (215)340-8700 for special instructions."



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increased drastically. Therefore, although the rate might seem excessive, the increased price more accurately reflects the true market price of electricity today.

Many alternative energy providers desiring to offer services in Pennsylvania could not afford to do so while the caps were in effect. Now that the caps are lifted, these other companies can compete in the energy market for Pennsylvanians' business. More competition among energy suppliers should translate into lower costs for the consumer.

In the Commonwealth, there are 35 municipalities that provide electric for their residents.

Traditionally, Perkasio Borough has usually managed to provide electric for a price less than neighboring municipalities and companies such as PP&L.

"The Borough has had very successful negotiations in the past with electric suppliers," said Dan Olpere, Borough Manager. "When we locked in our contract 5 years ago, it kept our rates low when most households around the state had significant increases. Now that our contract is expiring, we are anticipating a rate hike, but we are striving to stay lower than our neighbors."

We will have a better understanding of impacts of these increases when electric bids are opened in early August.

Supplementing Energy Needs with Wind

If you have ever wondered how wind power works, head to Lenape Park!

Governor Rendell and the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority selected Perkasio Borough to receive a 1.8 kW wind turbine through the Small-Scale Community Wind Project on July 21, 2006. Perkasio Borough was one of 15 local municipalities, public authorities, and school districts to receive a wind turbine.

"Each turbine generates enough electricity to power a typical home," said Dan Olpere. "Here in Perkasio, our turbine generates enough electricity to power the Borough's Public Works Building, although the two are not directly connected."

The program was brought back to life by Governor Rendell after years of inactivity. A \$193,000 grant

was awarded to Southwest Windpower to place the advanced technology wind turbines in highly-visible locations across the Commonwealth.



Perkasio Borough received the wind turbine and basic installation at no charge. The wind energy system is mounted in the ground on 35-foot tower will generate 1.8 kilowatts of electricity. It is valued at \$10,000.

The wind turbine was installed in Lenape Park, on the Constitution Avenue side, near the Skate Park. The location was selected for its visibility. The Borough hopes the windmill will get people thinking about wind power as a way to supplement some of their energy needs. It was largely an educational project and was not intended, at this size, to generate significant amounts of electricity.

Menlo Aquatic Center Opens

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when the restroom area will be renovated. Budgeted for 2009, the new tile floors will be extended from the locker rooms into the restrooms, and new sinks, toilets and stalls will be added.

Membership passes will be on sale during hours of operation at the Aquatics Center.

The pool will be open 7 days a week from June 21st to September 1st.

Please visit www.perkasioborough.com for a complete list of hours of operation.



The Lazy River, a popular attraction at the newly remodeled Menlo Aquatic Center.



PRST STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Perkasié, PA
 Permit No. 28

620 West Chestnut Street
 P.O. Box 96
 Perkasié, PA 18944
 Phone: (215) 257-5065
 Fax: (215) 257-6875



Holiday Collection Days

Holiday	New Pick-up Date
Labor Day Monday, September 1	Tuesday, September 2
Thanksgiving Thursday, November 27 (Trash) Friday, November 28 (Recycling)	Monday, December 1 (Trash) Friday, December 5 (Recycling)
Christmas Thursday, December 25 (Trash) Friday, December 26 (Recycling)	Monday, December 29 (Trash) Friday, January 2 (Recycling)
New Years Day Thursday, January 1, 2009	Friday, January 2, 2009

To receive the E-Newsletter, e-mail the Borough at dbenner@perkasieborough.org. In the subject line, insert "Please add me to Perkasié Borough's e-mail distribution list".