



Borough of Perkasio

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

SPRING 2011

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Perkasie, PA 18944
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www.perkasieborough.org

- John Hollenbach, Mayor
- Matthew Aigeldinger, President
- Jim Purcell, Vice-President
- Martin Gahman
- Stephen Algeo
- Florence Frei
- Barbara Krantz
- Suzanne Kravitz
- Chris Nicolosi
- 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:
1st Mon. & 3rd Tues. at 7 p.m.
 - Planning Commission:
4th Wed. at 7 p.m.
 - Park & Recreation Board:
2nd Monday 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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Your Municipal-Owned Electric Utility

In the Commonwealth, there are 35 municipalities that provide facilities for the transmission and distribution of electricity to their residents. Municipal utilities, owned and operated by boroughs, are not regulated by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). The PUC has no jurisdiction over these electric utilities, the prices they charge, or the services they provide. This is typical for most states.

The PUC has jurisdiction over the following electric utilities that are currently offering service:

- Allegheny Power Penn Power
- Citizens' Electric Pike County
- Duquesne PPL
- Met-Ed UGI
- PECO Wellsboro Electric
- Penelec

The PUC's mission is to protect the consumer, who is the user of the electricity, to make sure that there is a balance between stockholder corporate owners and consumers. For instance, if a charge goes up for the

utility, the PUC determines whether the utility has the right to pass the charge along to customers or if the stockholders should absorb the charge. In municipal-owned utilities, the "stockholder" (in the town) and the customer are one and the same. Because the customer is the stockholder, there is no need for a regulatory body.

Municipal not-for-profit utilities are effectively regulated by other non PUC entities. Municipal utilities are regulated through oversight by the municipal Borough government. This government is made up of citizens of each Borough. These utilities are directly accountable to the people they serve through local elected officials. Municipal electric utilities serve the public interest by protecting consumers and ensuring the provision of safe, reliable utility service and infrastructure at reasonable rates. For these reasons, municipal electric utility services do not fall under the jurisdiction of the PUC.

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Expanded Accessibility in Our Parks

In September, Perkasio Borough resident Brandon Lederach completed a community service project that helped him achieve the rank of Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 1.

The Borough has strived to provide access to community parks, with paved paths and special swings. Now Lenape Park has two new handicap accessible picnic tables aimed at providing a better life for others in the community. One table is located in Menlo Park near the Lions' pavilion and the second table is located in the section of Lenape Park behind the Little League field and adjacent to the stage.

Brandon completed the project with help from his fellow Boy Scout Troop members and support from the Borough's Public Works Department. The Borough would like to thank Brandon for donating his time and talent to better the community in which he resides.



Borough Wins Grant to Stabilize Stream Bank



With the creek rapidly eroding the bank of the East Branch Perkiomen Creek (EBPC) down in Lenape Park, the Borough decided to apply for a Growing Greener Watershed grant in hopes of funding the monumental project of stabilizing the bank.

In early January, the Borough of Perkasié was awarded \$117,500 for the project. The entire project is budgeted at \$198,375.00. The Borough has proposed a match of \$80,875. A total of \$75,000 of the match will be labor by our Public Works Department, Perkasié Borough Authority, and Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority and volunteers. We estimate administrative costs to be around \$5,875.



The project entails removal of invasive species, installation of vegetated crib walls, and enhancement of the existing riparian buffer with native species of both smaller plantings (shrubs, live stake plantings) and trees. Vegetated crib walls are proposed to re-stabilize the embankments with a more natural solution, rather than poured concrete or gabion baskets. There is limited work area between the existing paved trail and top of bank.



Because of the size of the components of the crib wall (timbers, stone, earth backfill and live cuttings can all be transported and installed with relatively small earthmoving equipment), limited work area and equipment needed for installation, the crib walls are a feasible means to provide a permanent, environmentally sound solution. The crib walls will provide a cost effective means to reduce erosion, enhance water quality, prevent additional soil from entering the creek and improve wildlife habitat and ecological diversity. The secondary benefits of this project include improvement of the aesthetic qualities of the park through re-establishment of the riparian buffer area with native plantings to allow continued enjoyment of the park by the public.



The EBPC is heavily used for fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation associated with the many parks and other recreational areas along the stream corridor. The aesthetic value provided by the creek itself cannot be underestimated in the heavily developed areas through which it flows. The high volume of public use of Lenape Park magnifies the importance of this project and its impact on the public perception of the local environment.



The Borough could not have obtained this grant without the support of this community. More than a dozen community organizations stepped up to give a letter of support for the project. All of those organizations donated volunteer time, discount plantings, labor or other supplies. The Borough is also hoping to get more volunteers from Borough residents and businesses to help complete the work. The exact dates for the construction have not been determined yet. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the project, please contact the Borough at (215) 257-5065. Volunteers will be needed

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

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Purchasing Electricity

When speaking about the purchase of electric, there are three main charges that the consumer must pay when buying electric: *generation*, or the production of the electricity (the supplier); *transmission*, which is the movement of the electricity from where it is produced to a local distribution system; and *distribution*, or the delivery of electricity to your home or business.

In Pennsylvania communities that are serviced by public power companies regulated by the PUC, customers can choose the company that generates their electricity - also known as the electric supplier. This means that the customer has the power to switch to a competing supplier who can offer the lowest price, or provide a specific service such as green/renewable energy.

Deregulation law in Pennsylvania allows only the generation portion of the customer bill to be open for competitive supply. This is just one part of the three parts of the customer's electric service. Generation supply costs make up most of an average electric bill. The electric utility that distributes the electricity to that household, and their remaining charges, will be the same.

Revenue Source

With that being said, Perkasio Borough's revenue structure has depended on a markup of electric for government services in lieu of higher property taxes. With a real estate tax millage rate of only 5.75 (4.75 for the Borough, 1.0 for the Fire Company), the local tax rate is in the bottom third of all municipalities in Bucks County. The Borough relies on its electric fund to supplement its general operating fund and its capital reserve fund, which helps

pay for projects like road improvements, public works and police vehicles, infrastructure improvements, and debt service. Typically around 20% of our operating budget (general fund) and our entire capital fund are funded by electric sales. Thus some of the electric customer's charge goes toward these expenses. If Borough electric users were able to unilaterally switch electric suppliers, another source of revenue would be needed to supplement the revenue loss. So while electric customers in other areas have the ability to switch their suppliers, Perkasio Borough uses its Borough-wide buying power to try to obtain the best price from a number of suppliers. Simply said, the Borough does the aggregate buying, in wholesale bulk markets, on behalf of its residents and businesses.

Looking at the Future

As we move forward, the Borough is exploring new options, trends and ideas to lower the cost of electricity for all. We are looking at renewable energy supplies including solar power and multiple energy suppliers. Multiple energy supplies reduce Borough risk and market exposure through diversification of energy supply. Renewable energy supply options include innovative ideas such as purchasing electricity from plants that utilize methane gas from landfills. Our goal is to provide economical and superior electric services at competitive rates that are lower than the local investor-owned utilities such as PPL and PECO Energy.

As a customer-owned and customer-controlled business, municipal electric utilities play a vital role in maintaining the economic health of their communities, providing local jobs and contributing to the overall community quality of life. Because residents of a municipal electric utility are also the owners, they have a vested interest in their utility.

Perkasio Historical Society Seeks Donations

The Perkasio Historical Society is looking for donations of Perkasio items for the Perkasio Museum. Founded in 1954, the Society helps preserve the history of Perkasio Borough. If you have a donation, please feel welcome to contact Matthew Lynch at (215)257-9379 or Rick Doll at (215)453-1062. Along with the museum, the organization also cares for the Perkasio Carousel, the 1832 South Perkasio covered bridge, and the Stoudt cemetery. The Historical Society is a non-profit organization run completely by volunteers and relies on the support of the community. Historical Society meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the

month. All are welcome to the dinner meeting. A donation of \$10 per person is requested for the dinner and a program of local interest. To make a reservation, please call (215)721-4497. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call (215)257-4626. The Museum will be open on Saturday, May 21st for the Perkasio Olde Towne Springfest Event.. From 10 am to 2 pm, visitors are welcome to visit. There will be two walking tours of Perkasio Olde Towne held that day as well.



Picture: A postcard from 1906 shows the old "Toboggan" formerly located on the hillside between Menlo Park and Lenape Park.



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From Your Electric Department:

Calculating Your Electric Bill

EXAMPLES FOR CALCULATING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL:

If you used 695 KWh...	If you used 1728 KWh...
Flat rate = \$14.13	Flat Rate = \$14.13
$$.1763 \times 200 \text{ KWh} = \35.26	$$.1763 \times 200 \text{ KWh} = \35.26
$$.1596 \times 495 \text{ KWh} = \79.00	$$.1596 \times 800 \text{ KWh} = \127.68
	$$.1375 \times 728 \text{ KWh} = \100.10
Total Current Electric Bill = \$128.39	Total Current Electric Bill = \$277.17

From Your Public Works Department:

Free Yard Waste Drop-Off Events for All Borough Residents

The Borough has added a once a month yard waste drop-off program to the Recycling Center. The Borough will accept yard waste on the first Saturday of the month year-round from **7:30 am-3:30 pm**. **PLEASE NOTE THE TIME.** Yard waste **must** be in a paper bag or loose in cans. Plastic bags filled with yard waste will not be accepted and trash may not be mixed in with yard waste. **Grass clippings will not be accepted at this drop-off event and will continue to be picked up curbside in a Borough bag.**