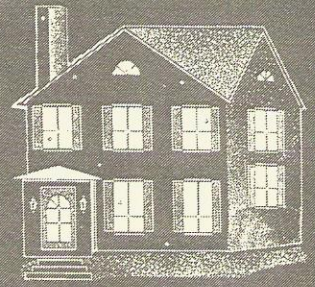


# JONESTOWN BOROUGH NEWS



WINTER 2018

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VOL. 88

## From the Desk of the Mayor...

I hope everyone is doing well this Winter and, if you are like me, you are looking forward to sunshine and clear skies again. We only have about a month of cold yet ... Spring is coming!

In this newsletter I would like to update you on our grants and some other exciting projects that will improve the Borough of Jonestown. But first let me explain some basic budget numbers so you have an idea as to how the money comes in and how it is spent on our roads.

Please keep in mind that our budget is approximately \$440,000 a year with around \$60,000 of that coming to us in the form of liquid fuels (state road money given to us based on miles of road). This money has to be used for road repair and is also audited.

We also had the availability to use about \$35,000 a year in storm water funds that could be used for drainage and storm related activities on our roads. It is important to note that the dreaded storm water fee has been repealed by council just a few months ago and you will no longer be seeing a bill come in the mail. Rarely do you ever see a government entity take a tax away, but this council did! The tax was hated but we would never have been able to complete the W Chestnut St road project without this extra funding.

I would like to also note that there was no tax increase this year. We did, however, need to get serious about some cuts to balance the budget. It is a priority to keep taxes low and cut spending before raising taxes. It is the opinion of myself and Council that this is how government should operate. I am proud of them for standing behind the people!

As you remember last year was a great year for road work and one of the grants I worked on last year was W. Chestnut St between Broad and N. Water Street. This project was long overdue and we were only able to accomplish this through a \$216,000 grant from the Lebanon County Conservation District. We added storm water and full depth base repair for a total cost of about \$320,000. In total this cost taxpayers \$104,000 and we got an amazing project done that would not have been possible without the grant. If you haven't seen this project in completion, please take a drive on this great road that will serve our community for many years!

This year we applied to DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) for a grant to pave a major portion of the roads in our park. The trails often wash away during a rain and it has caused a maintenance nightmare that has been expensive and cumbersome to upkeep. Former Mayor George Kaufman and myself attended a workshop last year and learned about this grant. Our grant writer for this particular project was Suzanne Dubeck, a Jonestown native. She graciously volunteered many hours of her time to benefit the Borough. Assisting Suzanne was our Maintenance Foreman Richie, Jonestown Engineer Erik Harmon, former Mayor George Kaufman and myself.

The details are yet to be completed, but we have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$42,500! Another piece of good news is that out of pocket expenses for the Borough will be about \$5,000 and we will have roughly \$60,000 in park improvements! We are required to contribute \$8,000 of in-kind contributions (man hours/equipment costs). Due to Maintenance Lead's hard work, we were awarded a \$5,000 matching Marcellus Shale grant in 2016 that will be applied to this project.

This Park project will consist of the paving of trails and ADA handicap parking inside the park with additional ADA compliant features throughout the park. What an exciting project that will go a long way to saving time and money in the future and keeping taxes low! We are hoping for the fall of 2018 for start and completion of the project, but it is possible that it may be delayed until 2019 depending on when we get the approval to start.

Lastly, I am going to announce we may receive a new grant but is not yet finalized. We have cleared all the major hurdles but this grant is normally a very hard grant to receive due to door knocking and resident participation. The project is for W. Chestnut St from Broad St. to N. Lancaster St. and E. Chestnut St from N. Lancaster St. to N. Mill St. This is a Redevelopment Authority of Lebanon County Grant and is a CDBG grant based on income levels falling below a set threshold. Surveys were mailed out to residents affected and living on or near these streets. These surveys required resident participation. Through door knocking and those who returned the survey, we received almost 100% participation! I couldn't have done it without you!!! You will be rewarded with a new road! This grant is for full depth base repair along the entire stretch of road and I am hoping for the entire amount of \$157,000 with only approximately \$5,000 in Borough Tax dollars needed for engineering costs. This is a huge grant for Borough tax payers! It is likely this project will start in 2019.

Two years and 3 grants later we are going to realize a tax payer savings of about \$420,000! That is almost one full year of budget and we are getting things done that we never thought possible!

In closing I wanted to also let you know that the bridge crossing the Swatara Creek on Lancaster Street is slated for repair by the state beginning January 2019. Please be aware as this will impact traffic greatly for some time. This is a state project. More information will follow on this project.

Your Mayor, Vince Sellers

## Jonestown Borough

### Easter Egg Hunt



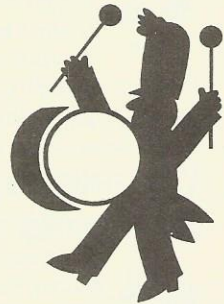
Please join us on  
**Saturday March 31, 2018**  
beginning at 1:00 pm

Location: Jonestown  
Community Park

Sponsored by:  
The Jonestown Lion's Club and  
Jonestown American Legion

## JONESTOWN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – MAY 28th 2018

This is an invitation to all organizations, groups and individuals to walk in our parade which forms at the Swatara Bridge in west Jonestown at 8:30 am and begins at 9:00 am. This is your opportunity to come out and kick off the summer by paying tribute to all those men and women who have served, still serve and who have died serving our country to keep us free. Carry a flag, a banner, or decorate your car, bicycle or wagon. Young or old, you are invited to join this once a year tribute to our military. For more information and to please RSVP, (I need to know for forming the parade), call Oriana Spittle at 717-926-7440 or 717-865-5117.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the 8th ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY!!

The 8th annual Jonestown Block Party will be held in the square on Saturday May 26, 2018. Join us as we close the square for an evening of fun for the whole family! Free live entertainment, free admission, and free parking. Dozens of food, games and craft vendors will be participating. Volunteers and local businesses/organizations needed to participate. All vendors/attractions subject to change without notice. Local businesses/organizations, vendors and volunteers interested in participating please visit the Jonestown Borough & Community page on Facebook; [www.facebook.com/JonestownBorough/](http://www.facebook.com/JonestownBorough/).



Office Location: 295 South Mill Street

Office Hours: 8:00–1:00 pm Mon-Fri  
PH: 717-861-5414

Mayor's Cell: 717-821-1829

Board Council Mtg:  
1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

## Food for Thought

"If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together."