

AROUND TOWN

Established 1859

Spring 2025



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Borough Directory	2
Borough Hall Holiday Schedule.....	2
The Emmaus Commemorative	
Gardens Foundation.....	3
Emmaus Public Library.....	4-5
Emmaus Kiwanis Club	6
Emmaus Community Yard Sale.....	6
The Emmaus Veterans Committee	7
Help Wanted.....	7
Earth Day 2025.....	7
Emmaus Recreation and	
Entertainment Commission.....	8
Permits are Required.....	8
Volunteer Opportunities.....	9
Emmaus Community Garden.....	9
Police News	10-11
Refuse and Recycling Information.....	12
Curbside Yard Waste Pick-Up	13
Compost Site Hours.....	13
Explaining Tax and Rate Increases.....	14-16
Emmaus Community Connect.....	16
Emmaus Ambulance Subscription Program.....	17
The Knauss House.....	18
Sundays at the Emmaus Farmers' Market.....	19
Shelter House News.....	20
Emmaus Community Foundation.....	20
Emmaus Historical Society.....	21-23
Emmaus Board of Health.....	24
Woman's Club of Emmaus.....	25
Emmaus Rotary Club.....	25
2025 Street Projects	25
PFAS Update and	
Major Grant Announcement.....	26-27
Emmaus Arts Commission.....	28
Emmaus Main Street Partners	29
MOPAR Madness	30
Grass, Weed & Tree Trimming Regulations.....	31
Smart911 Rave Alert System.....	31

Borough Continues to Focus on Improving Our Parks and Recreation

Over the past several years, the Borough has invested in upgrades at the swimming pool and at our different parks. Between 2023 and 2024, the Borough made upgrades to amenities at the pool, installed a pickleball court at Furnace Dam, and replaced playground equipment at the Arch Street Park as well as at the Laura Street Playground.

Last Fall, our newsletter included a QR Code to take a survey regarding our neighborhood (pocket) parks. The QR Code was broken, therefore, if you tried to take the survey, a screen popped up that said you already took it. We encourage you to take the survey. The actual link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YYWVHDG>.



We obtained a grant from PA DCNR to reconstruct Lions Park. That project is required to be completed by mid-2026. The project was originally estimated to cost about \$700,000. We received a \$318,411 grant, which requires a 50% match. A recent contractor's estimate jumped the projected cost to over \$2 million. There were significant complications with stormwater runoff calculations, which would result in a very large stormwater removal cost for the project. Therefore, we have decided to downsize the project to focus on the baseball field and new equipment at the park. Moreover, our Public Works Department will do most of the work on the project to eliminate significant contractor costs. This will stretch the dollars to maximize what we can do with funds. In future years, we hope to phase in the rest of the project.

In addition, because of the recreation fees associated with the construction of the Phoebe apartments on 10th Street, the Borough has significant funds remaining. This will allow us to rebuild the pavilion at Furnace Dam, replace the roof on the bathroom, and install several other minor improvements at the park to accompany the Pickleball Court that was constructed last year.

Additionally, the Borough received \$144,000 in recreation fees for the construction of the apartment complex between S. 2nd Street and S. 4th Street. Those fees must be spent on the S. 4th Street ballfield area. That project is going to include improvements to parking, some improvements to water drainage, improvements to the ballfields, and the installation of a small playground structure at the park. This will go hand in hand with the trail project that is being built around the Shelter House and surrounding properties by the Wildlands Conservancy.

Our Recreation and Entertainment Commission has finalized our 2025 Summer Concert Series as well. Concerts will occur at both Triangle Park and at Community Park again this year. Be on the lookout for the list!

We are hoping to plan a significant community event for 2026, as it is the American 250 celebration. Discussions are in preliminary stages with our Historical Commission as well as our Recreation and Entertainment Commission. Our goal is to involve all of our civic organizations, businesses, and entire

continued on page 2

Borough of Emmaus

28 South 4th St. • Emmaus, PA 18049

610-965-9292 • Fax: 610-965-0705



www.emmauspa.gov

Borough Contact Information

Town Hall (Main #)	610-965-9292
Borough Manager	610-966-6357
Pavilion Rentals	610-965-0702
Public Works	610-965-9288
Refuse/Recycling	610-965-0702
Tax Collector	610-967-4598
Treasurer	610-965-5865
Water/Sewer Billing	610-965-9231
Zoning	610-967-1322
Ambulance Corps	610-967-5615
Fire Department	610-967-5630
Fire Inspector	610-965-0719
Mayor	610-965-9255
Police Non-Emergency	610-967-3113
Emergency 911	911

www.emmauspa.gov

Other Important Phone Numbers

Berkheimer (per capita tax)	610-599-3139
PA One Call	1-800-242-1776
Streetlights – Repair and Maintenance, PPL	1-800-342-5775

Trash/Recycling – Whitetail Disposal 610-936-9967;
emmaus@whitetaildisposal.com

Borough Continues to Focus on Improving Our Parks and Recreation *continued from cover*

community in planning for this event. More information will follow in upcoming months.

Lastly, Borough Council just approved a conceptual plan from our Public Works Director, Lawrence Carl, to make changes around the compost site area on Klines Lane. The site consists of many acres of land, including our Community Garden, the Fire Training Grounds, our Water building, a soccer field at the top of Klines Lane, an under-used soccer field back in the property, a baseball field near Cintas, a trailhead for the South Mountain trail, and the cyclocross track. The area is very congested and can be improved for the users. For example, the Knauss Homestead volunteers are concerned because gardeners are using a road through that property to get to the garden. If that road is closed, the gardeners must walk a long way to the garden. We are going to relocate the garden closer to Klines Lane and create a dedicated parking area. In addition, we are going to relocate the lower soccer field to an area near the upper soccer field, as there is an unused area just below it. The lower soccer field will remain open greenspace. The project will start this year with relocating dirt from other projects in the Borough to start the construction of the new soccer field. The project will be phased in over time, as we expect that our DPW team will do the project to significantly reduce costs.



BOROUGH HALL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Please note that Town Hall will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2025 in observance of Good Friday.

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The Emmaus Remembrance Garden - Honoring our memories, one brick at a time.

Spring is finally here! Cleanup and planting at the Emmaus Remembrance Garden will begin soon. Each year Emmaus Commemorative Gardens Foundation volunteers' plant new flowers, mulches, rakes and works hard to get ready for the annual veterans' bricks installment ceremony.

**Please mark your calendar for our 2025 Memorial Day Veterans Brick installation event to be held at the Emmaus Remembrance Garden on Saturday, May 24, 2025.
Order your bricks today – the deadline is Tuesday, April 1st and fast-approaching!**

Our 18th annual event will remember and honor our veterans' service to our country. We are privileged to install bricks at the Emmaus Remembrance Garden for service men and women to remember their contributions to our country and we hope you will join us for this special occasion.

All bricks can be easily ordered by credit card. Simply complete the online form on the ECGF web site at www.emmausremembers.org. If you prefer not to use a credit card, an option is available to print out the order form and mail it with your check to ECGF, 152 Seem Street, Emmaus, PA 18049.

The bricks offered are 4x8 and 8x8, with symbols available for an additional charge. Cedar benches are also available for purchase. This is a unique way to enhance the beauty at the Remembrance Garden while honoring a loved one.

Looking for a unique and intimate wedding setting? During the past few years we've seen an increase in weddings at the Remembrance Garden and encourage all couples looking for a lovely and affordable wedding venue to visit our website www.emmausremembers.org for information. To keep costs affordable for couples, the ECGF only asks for \$100 to reserve the space for four hours which includes a 4x8 brick. The venue works well, and we've had almost 20 weddings there over the past few years.

Our goal has always been to create and maintain a quiet place of remembrance for our community, and we want everyone to share and enjoy it. Please take a few minutes and stop by the Remembrance Garden to take a break from your busy schedule.

To follow the wonderful happenings at our Remembrance Garden, be sure to "Like" the Emmaus Remembrance Garden on Facebook! Do you still have questions? Contact Teri Sorg-McManamon at 610-390-7930, or email remgarden1@gmail.com.



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The Emmaus Public Library - Opening the Door to Knowledge!

Emmaus Public Library - 11 E. Main Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

www.emmauspl.org 610-965-9284

Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. & Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Spring 2025

The library's virtual library is open 24/7 at www.emmauspl.org
The library is closed on May 24th and 26th for observation of Memorial Day.

New Staff Introduction

The library welcomed its new Director, Allison Flory, in January. Allison hails from Bethlehem. She is looking forward to getting to know the communities served by the library including Emmaus Borough, Upper Milford Township, and Macungie Borough.

The library is also excited to announce its new Adult Services Librarian, Christine Wieder. Christine started in January. She is planning some exciting new programs.

Please stop by the library and say Hi!



Allison Flory,
Library Director



Christine Wieder,
Adult Services
Librarian

Note about Donations

The library is accepting donations of gently used materials to be sold by the Friends group at the Book Nook in the library. Donations are accepted anytime the library is open. Please bring items into the library to be assessed by our staff and volunteers!

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is April 20-26th, 2025 — The Emmaus Public Library is lucky to have over 50+ community volunteers. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Nancy Ritter at epldesk@cliu.org. The library is in need of teen volunteers to assist with the Summer Reading Club.

Celebrate Star Wars Day

May the Fourth Be with You! Join us on Saturday, May 3rd for a cookie exchange and a movie showing of the *Return of the Jedi* at 2 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes!

National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month, and the library will be doing all things poetry. The STEM table will be set up with the mathematics of poetry, and we'll have displays throughout the library.

Summer Reading

Summer Reading is coming, June 9th! It's open for everyone, from infants and toddlers to preschoolers, to kids and teens, and adults! Keep an eye out for Colorful events starting in June as we Color Your World!

Monthly Events

The Emmaus Public Library hosts a variety of events and classes for all ages every month. Please visit our website www.emmauspl.org for the most current schedule and to see all our special event offerings. Take a look at the following monthly events, which are just a small example of what the library offers:

- **Daytime Book Group**** 1st Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. Some copies are available to borrow at the front desk.
- **Pinterest Party:** 1st Monday of the month at 6 p.m. All supplies are provided for the first 24 people. First come, first served.



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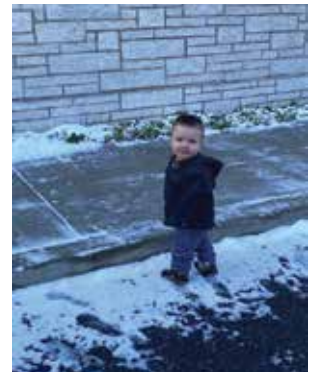
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- **Crochet Club:** Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Drop in for our weekly crocheting club! All skill levels are encouraged to join in. Bring your current crochet project or get started with advice from more experienced crocheters.
- **Notary Public Service**** Most Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. The library is now offering notary services, free of charge, by appointment only for the residents of Emmaus Borough, Macungie Borough, and Upper Milford Township. Please call the library at 610-965-9284 to make an appointment, indicating the type of notarization requested.
- **Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group**** 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Presented by Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter and hosted by South Mountain Memory Care, and facilitated by Careen Steel, CDP. Please RSVP to Register at 610-965-7662 or email csteele@southmountainmemorycare.com
- **Memoir Writing Group**** 4th Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. Join author Jerry Waxler and others on a ZOOM videoconference to write about your life.
- **Storytime!** Weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Toddlers and preschoolers are invited to join us with their adults for stories, singing, crafts, and having fun!
- **Block Party:** 1st Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. from October through December. For all little builders of preschool and elementary ages and their caretakers. Miss Sue will open the block cabinet in the children's wing, and we will make amazing things together.
- **Teen Writers Group**** 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Join Miss Sue to write from new prompts and talk about the process of writing – reading aloud not required!
- **Books 'n' Barks**** 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Read to the Lehigh Valley Therapy Dogs. There is no registration needed. Bring your own books or choose one from the library.



** Please send Adult Event RSVPs to Christine by email to epcollection@cliu.org or call 610-965- 9284 x210 and send Kids & Teens Event RSVPs to Miss Sue by email to epkids@cliu.org.

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Emmaus Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis is an international organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world – one child and one community at a time.

The Emmaus Kiwanis Club has been serving the East Penn community for over 70 years and continues to be actively involved. We fundraise – our annual Pancake Festival, Rose Sale and sale of Wawa coupons enable the club to support our community endeavors. We serve – our year ending highlights of 2024 include ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, participating in Miracle League Halloween along with Macungie's Turkey Trot to benefit local food banks, Emmaus Old-Fashioned Christmas, and sponsoring the

Club's 58th annual Charles Rhoads Special Needs Holiday Party for individuals with special needs.

The Kiwanis Club continuously looks forward to welcoming those who believe in our mission. A business meeting is held on the 1st Wednesday of each month, a program meeting on the 3rd Wednesday, and service or social activities at other scheduled times during the month.

The Emmaus Kiwanis Club is proud to bring our mission to life in our community. **We ACT, We HELP, and We CONTRIBUTE**, participating in and sponsoring service projects that benefit children in our community and throughout the world.

Mark Your Calendar for our Upcoming Events:

- 73rd ANNUAL COMMUNITY **EASTER EGG HUNT** – Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. (rain or shine). Emmaus Community Park. Free for ages 1 to 10. Hop over and meet the Easter Bunny
- 50th ANNUAL COMMUNITY **PANCAKE FESTIVAL** – Sunday, June 1, 2025. 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Fire Company #1, 50 S. 6th Street, Emmaus, PA 18049. 50 years! All the delicious pancakes you can eat! Basket Raffle, Music, Mascots, and more. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact us.

Kiwanis contributes to the community and our children in the following ways:

- Key Clubs – Emmaus and Parkland High Schools
- Builder's Clubs – Lower Macungie and Orefield Middle Schools, St. Mike's in Coopersburg
- Scholarships (6) to Emmaus High Seniors
- Childhood Reading and Literacy Programs
- Little Free Library at Emaus Fire Co 1
- Emmaus Halloween Parade
- Participation in Miracle League Activities
- Participation in The Kindness Project Activities
- Participation in Emmaus Library Activities
- Emmaus National Night Out
- Emmaus Remembrance Garden Clean-Up
- Buckeye Road Clean-Up
- Little Lehigh Stream Clean-Up
- Emmaus Old Fashioned Christmas
- Our Club's Annual Charles Rhoads Special Needs Holiday Party
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- Founding Member of East Penn Food Alliance

We invite YOU to join our Emmaus Kiwanis Club! The rewards in fellowship, service, and personal satisfaction are great. We would love to have you join us in our dedication to serving children and our community.

Follow us on Facebook and visit our website at emmauskiwanis.org for contact information.



EMMAUS COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Emmaus Community Yard Sales are held on the weekends after Memorial Day and Labor Day, when it is not necessary to obtain a permit to have a yard sale and no fee is required. This year, the Community Yard Sales are scheduled for Saturday, May 31, 2025 with a rain date of Sunday, June 1, 2025, and Saturday, September 6, 2025 with a rain date of Sunday, September 7, 2025.



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THE EMMAUS VETERANS COMMITTEE

News from the Emmaus Veterans Committee

The plans for the Emmaus Veteran's Memorial Triangle are progressing and the Committee hopes to have the project completed by Memorial Day. **The Committee is still in need of donations from residents and businesses** to reach the goal of \$125,000 to fund the project completely. Any amount is welcome and the Committee thanks anyone who has or will donate. All checks for donations should be made payable to the Emmaus Veterans Committee and mailed to:

EMMAUS VETERANS COMMITTEE

PO Box 161

Emmaus, PA 18049

The Committee is planning a **dedication ceremony** at the Emmaus Veteran's Memorial Triangle on Sunday, **May 18th at 2:00 p.m.** All veterans and residents of Emmaus and surrounding communities are invited to attend this historic event. Come and view the remarkable transformation of the Triangle that was designed by Still Waters Ground Maintenance of Emmaus. The project will be completed by them and the Borough of Emmaus Public Works employees.



ATTENTION!!! Changes to the upcoming Memorial Day Program on Monday, May 26, 2025.

Instead of the full parade with participants meeting at the Emmaus High School parking lot and marching to the Emmaus Veteran's Memorial Triangle, there will be a modified parade with participants gathering next to Triangle Park at 4th and Chestnut Streets at 9:30 a.m. The parade will then proceed along 4th Street for 2 blocks to the Veteran's Memorial Triangle at North St. Because of the shorter distance we are hoping to have a larger contingent of veterans and residents marching in the parade. Please contact your family, friends, and veterans about the change and encourage them to participate in the parade and contribute to this very important remembrance. The parade will end at the newly dedicated Emmaus Veterans Memorial Triangle Park. The ceremonies at the park will begin at 10 a.m.

The Emmaus Veterans Committee is seeking honorably discharged veterans for membership and participation in the Honor Guard. The Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, September, November, and December at 1:00 p.m. at Citizen's Fire Co. #2, 1017 Pennsylvania Ave., Emmaus. Please contact Joe Kavchok at kavchok@gmail.com for more information about how you can become a member, or with any other questions about the Committee.

Lifeguards, Concession Stand Attendants, and Front Desk

The Borough of Emmaus is currently accepting applications for part-time positions as **Lifeguards, Concession Stand Attendants, and Front Desk employees**. No experience is necessary, the Borough will provide training for any individuals with no prior experience. For anyone interested in lifeguarding, you will be eligible to have the cost of your certification reimbursed through the Borough upon completion of the season. Certification classes will be held on the 1st two weekends in April, so don't wait and apply now. Applications for positions can be obtained by visiting www.emmauspa.gov

HELP WANTED



Borough of Emmaus & Upper Milford Township

SAVE THE DATE FOR EARTH DAY 2025 COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Please join the Borough of Emmaus & Upper Milford Township Joint Advisory Council (EAC) on Saturday, April 26th from 8:30 a.m. (registration begins) to Noon for the Earth Day 2025 Community Cleanup event. The event will begin at Emmaus Community Park and will be held rain or shine. Help clean up litter and debris from areas around the Borough and the Township. Electronics recycling will be available from **9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., or until the truck is full**. Stop by with items to recycle like TVs, computers, printers, air conditioners, and batteries! There are some fees. Document shredding will also be available, at no charge, at the event from **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., or until the truck is full**. Any type of office paper will be accepted. There is no need to remove staples and document shredding will take place on site while you wait. Items not accepted are newspapers, cardboard, or books. Document Shredding is sponsored by Representative Milou Mackenzie, Senator Jarrett Coleman, and New Tripoli Bank. There is a limit of **4 boxes per household (office file size boxes only)**. The Earth Day event will be held rain or shine. For more information and price lists, please visit www.uppermilford.net or email infor@uppermilford.net.





The Emmaus Recreation and Entertainment Commission, in partnership with the Emmaus Main Street Partners, are currently planning the 2025 Summer Concert Series.

These events are **FREE** and open to everyone. This year's line-up of concerts will include a combination of genres, including classic rock, country, blue grass, and many others. This year we are also featuring a night of bagpipe music with the Kutztown Bagpipe Band and will feature the groovy classics of The Large Flowerheads.

A detailed list of dates and times will be published on our website at <https://www.emmausent.com>, or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EmmausENT. The schedule will be posted in early spring, sometime before Memorial Day. A detailed calendar of events will also go out in the Borough's summer newsletter and will be available on the Borough's website.



Do you have an idea for an event you would like to see in the Borough?

We would love to hear from you! Please send us an email at emmausrec@gmail.com, or attend one of our monthly meetings. The meeting dates/times can be found on Borough's website at www.emmaus.pa.gov.

Would you like to help plan our events?

The Recreation and Entertainment Commission needs more volunteers to assist us in making these events happen. Please visit our website at www.emmausent.com, for more information on how to become a member.

And, if you'd like to volunteer without joining the Commission, please send an email to emmausrec@gmail.com to explore volunteer opportunities.

Would you like to sponsor our events?

If you or someone you know would like to support us to continue to provide free community events, please email us at emmausrec@gmail.com. All donations are tax-deductible.

Permits are Required

Spring is right around the corner, and now is the time that many of us think about starting those home improvement projects we have been planning all winter long. If you are preparing to start a project, please remember that permits are required for many projects. The Borough has a Zoning Ordinance and a Building Code that contain requirements for many indoor and outdoor home improvement projects. Permits are required for: roof repairs, building repairs or remodels (causing structural changes), footers, foundations, framing, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, signs, solar panels, fences, sheds, dumpsters, demolition, solicitation/peddling, driveways, pools or spas, and zoning. Please remember that if you are planning to install a swimming pool, any swimming pool over twenty-four inches (24") inches in depth and/or has pumping equipment requires a zoning, building, and electrical permit.



Applications for all permits are available online! Download applications for permits from the Borough's website at www.emmauspa.gov. On the website under "Services," click on "Forms and Applications" and choose which application you need. Simply fill it out and either email the completed application to efuhrmann@emmauspa.gov or breed@emmauspa.gov or mail the completed application to Borough Hall at 28 S. 4th Street, Emmaus, PA 18049 or place it in the box marked "Payments." If you are unsure if you need a permit, or have any questions about permits, please call the Code Enforcement Office at 610-967-1322.



We Love Our Volunteers! Volunteer Opportunities

The Borough of Emmaus loves its volunteers and has openings on several Boards and Commissions! If you would like to be part of the process and volunteer for your community, we encourage you to explore one of these opportunities:

Emmaus Arts Commission – 6 vacancies. This Commission explores different artistic opportunities in the community and sponsors many of our wonderful community events. Some of the recent projects include the Gnome project, painting the picnic tables at the Triangle, the fire hydrant paint project, the Student Film Festival, and the SnowBlast event in February.

Joint Environmental Advisory Commission– 2 vacancies. This Advisory Council is a joint board with Upper Milford Township and the Borough of Emmaus. The Council oversees several events and projects throughout the year, including Earth Day, public education events, and different environmental projects such as stream bank restoration work along our creeks. Preferred Experience / Qualifications: environmentalist, knowledge of environmental concerns and issues, event planning.

Time Commitment: One meeting per month in either Emmaus Borough or Upper Milford Township.

Recreation and Entertainment Commission

– 8 vacancies. This Commission oversees a variety of community events and activities. The Commission oversees the Summer Concert Series, Movies in the Park, and events like car shows, Community Day, and others that the Commission finds beneficial throughout the year. Preferred Experience / Qualifications: event planning, parks and recreational professional, attends community events, fundraising experience.

Time Commitment: minimum of one 1-hour meeting per month. During spring, summer, and early fall, time commitment will be more.

To apply to volunteer, simply download the form at this link, fill it out, send it, and we will be in touch. Miscellaneous Forms | Emmaus Borough, PA (civicplus.com)



Interested in Food to Table Meals? Grow it Yourself in the Emmaus Community Garden!

Did you know Emmaus has a community garden with 56 plots? For \$20 for Borough residents and \$35 for non-residents, you can grow as many vegetables and flowers as you can squeeze into your 15' x 30', fenced-in plot. Gardeners have access to water, compost, and many basic gardening tools. To be added to the 2025 wait list, please send your name, address, email address, and phone number to emmausgarden18049@gmail.com. We hope to see you at the garden!




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Police News:

"Uncovering the Latest Scams: What You Need to Know"

The Emmaus Police Department, along with police departments across the country, have noticed an extraordinary increase in fraudulent scams. Most of these scams usually take place online through email and social media. However, scammers also use phone calls and text messages.

What are scammers?

Scammers are people that are trying to find a way to access your personal information, financial accounts, or other types of accounts. Most of these scams are untraceable as these scammers use avenues to hide behind emails. They will also use phone numbers that are not theirs called spoofed numbers and text messages.

Current scams that the Emmaus Police Department is aware of:

Scammers have attempted to fraud individuals by sending an email or text message falsely portraying themselves as a bank, an account you might have a service through, a legitimate business or offering a service they are trying to convince you that you need. These communications look like they are being received from a recognizable business. In these emails or text, they will include a link directing you to click on and then provide personal identifying or bank or credit card information. These links also might take you to a site where they can gain access to your device.

Another type of scam that the Emmaus Police Department has seen is phone calls from spoofed numbers. In instances like this, you might receive a phone call from a phone that is familiar such as a business, a family member and we have even seen the police department's phone number used. The caller will then try to either gather personal information or financial information to fraudulently scam the individual they are calling.

Scammers are usually trying to gain access to cash. Most scammers trying to gain access to cash will request you purchase gift cards as payment. They will then ask you to provide them with the gift card numbers as well as the pin numbers for them. If anyone were to ever ask you to purchase a gift card to use as a form of payment, please know this is absolutely a scam and do not purchase them and provide the information to these scammers. They might also ask you to withdraw cash from your account and that they will have someone come to your house and pick up the cash. Again, please understand that these are all types of fraudulent scams.

Some scammers will also try and obtain your personal information in attempts to impersonate you. They will attempt to gain access to your name, social security number, date of birth and other personal information that could allow them to open a new account, credit card, and take out a personal, automobile or even mortgage loan.

Scammers may also contact you and pretend to be someone you know or say that they are trying to help someone you know. In these situations, they will attempt to obtain cash in some way. Make sure to verify the information they are providing is accurate. If you were to question this in any way, do not provide any information or funding to the caller without further confirming the information.

The last form of fraudulent scams are text messages or emails being received from a delivery service. The scammers use technology to send these communications claiming to be delivery companies such as UPS or USPS. In the communication they will request you click on a link to verify information to correctly deliver your package. These are scams as delivery services will not contact you in that manner to request information.

No Shave November and Double Down December



The officers at the Emmaus Police Department and Emmaus Ambulance Chief Priest participated in No Shave November and Double Down December once again this year. The donations received from our officers who participated raised a total of \$1,260.00 which will benefit East Penn families in need.

K9 Dog Sales

Come to the Emmaus Police Department and purchase your very own stuffed K9 Leo for \$20.00. We accept cash only Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.





Dustin M. Grim, Supervisor
Melissa L. Detweiler, Funeral Director

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A Great Loss to Our Community

All of us at the Borough are deeply saddened to announce the recent loss of our beloved retired Chief of Police Chuck Palmer. On January 11th, 2025, Charles Robert Palmer began his eternal rest in the comfort of his home.

Chief Palmer graduated from Whitehall High School in 1981 and attended Lehigh Carbon Community College to study Criminal Justice. Before finishing his degree, Chuck enlisted in the United States Army, serving as a Sergeant (E-5) in the Military Police Corps and the Airborne Corps at Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg) in North Carolina. One of his first notable missions as a paratrooper came in 1983, when he participated in Operation Urgent Fury, the U.S. military's effort to rescue American students at St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada. Throughout his service, he held pivotal roles, including Traffic Accident Investigator as well as Desk Sergeant, Unit Armorer, and Assistant Squad Leader at Camp Ames, Korea as the youngest soldier ever to be entrusted with these duties at that time. While at Camp Ames, he demonstrated leadership and dedication by starting and representing the camp's 1985 Flag Football team, earning a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Army Recreation Services. This recognition reflected his ability to foster morale, inspire camaraderie, and build community-qualities that defined him throughout his career.

Following his military service, Chuck remained in North Carolina and put himself through the Police Academy, launching his law enforcement career with the Southern Pines Police Department in 1987. Known for his strong rapport with residents and colleagues alike, he demonstrated steadfast commitment and courage in the line of duty, including critical moments where his quick thinking and bravery left a lasting impact. His time in Southern Pines set the foundation for the integrity and professionalism that would define his distinguished career in law enforcement.

Returning to the Lehigh Valley, Chuck began a law enforcement journey that left a profound impact on his community and peers. After brief roles with the Lehigh County Sheriff's Department and the Allentown Police Department, he found his long-term home with the Emmaus Police Department, where he served for 27 years. Rising through the ranks, Chuck ultimately became a highly respected Chief of Police, known for his humility, wisdom, and steadfast leadership. A natural mentor, he guided countless officers, instilling in them the principles of service, professionalism, and lifelong learning. Always striving for growth, Chuck continually pursued certifications and training throughout his career, setting a powerful example of dedication. Whether in quiet moments of guidance or decisive acts of leadership, his legacy of trust and commitment made a true difference in the communities he served.

In his free time, Chuck cherished the simple joys that connected him to the people and places he loved. A lifelong motorcycle enthusiast, a passion that began alongside his brother in their youth, he treasured every ride. For Chuck, the journey was as much about the companionship as the destination. He also had a deep appreciation for seeing the world, enjoying island vacations with his family, exploring new places and cities with friends, and traveling abroad including a trip to Scotland - his father's homeland. Even in retirement, his adventures continued including cross-country motorcycle trips, hiking and experiencing the beauty of our National Parks, and even taking his grandchildren on their first trip to Disney World. Whether golfing, playing horseshoes, or tossing a cornhole bag with friends, he valued time spent together above all else, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, countless cherished memories, and just as many Busch Lights.



Chuck was a man of quiet strength and unwavering integrity. A natural leader, he inspired those around him not with words, but with action. To many, he was the greatest man they'd ever known—a steady presence who would do anything for anyone, always challenging those around him to ask, "What's the right thing?" Family was everything to him, but Chuck's definition of family extended far beyond blood. To all who knew him, he was a trusted confidant, a compassionate mentor, and a constant source of support. His approachable warmth, sharp wit, and calm presence resonated with everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Chief Palmer will forever have a lasting impact on our community as well as all the law enforcement individuals and others that knew him. He was a true leader among his peers, as well as a true friend. He focused on community policing, creating events such as Coffee with a Cop, having lunch with students in our schools, working with our Mayor to create the National Night Out event in our community, and having community dinners at many of our senior housing complexes. He focused on integrity, visibility, and partnerships between the Police Department and the community and partnered with East Penn School District to establish the SRO program. He forged partnerships between different departments and different organizations within the community, counseled his peers, and provided the quiet leadership that one could truly appreciate.

Chuck, we truly miss you and will be forever grateful for everything you have done for us. Thank you for being the leader that you were and the person that many of us hope to be. Rest in Peace Chief.

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Refuse and Recycling Information

Effective January 2025, all refuse and recycling collection will be done on one night. All refuse and recycling must be placed at the curb on Wednesday night for Thursday pick up.

All refuse must be placed in cans and all recycling must be placed in bins. Please make sure that that refuse is in a separate can from recyclables, and they are clearly marked as such. Trash bags lying on the ground are not acceptable and may result in Whitetail Disposal's refusal to collect the refuse and/or recycling and enforcement from the Borough's Codes Department.

Refuse and Recycling Can Requirements

In April 2019, the Borough of Emmaus adopted Ordinance No. 1088 which states that "all residential properties utilizing curbside solid waste collection, shall be required to utilize containers that shall be durable, water-tight, and made of metal or plastic. Individual plastic bags and loose waste shall be prohibited from curbside collection. The size of each container shall not exceed a ninety six-gallon capacity."

Recycling Requirements

RESIDENTS MUST USE A CONTAINER FOR RECYCLABLES. DO NOT PUT YOUR RECYCLABLES IN A BAG! If you need a recycling sticker for your recycling bin, they are available by stopping at Borough Hall, 28 S. 4th Street, Emmaus, PA 18049, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In addition, if your recycling is contaminated or includes items that are not acceptable, according to the list below, all of it will be **REJECTED**. You will receive a sticker from Whitetail detailing the reason why your recycling was rejected. Because of the new recycling requirements at a state, federal, and international level, this policy will be strictly followed.

Whitetail does not accept demolition or construction material including drywall, bricks, lumber, or shingles, hazardous waste including radioactive, reactive, toxic, ignitable, corrosive, pathological, or acidic, and tires.



Refuse and Recycling Holiday Schedule

Memorial Day - All refuse and recycling will be picked up on Friday, May 30th.

July 4th - No change.

Labor Day - All refuse and recycling will be picked up on Friday, September 5th.

Thanksgiving Day - All refuse and recycling will be picked up on Friday, November 28th.

Christmas Day - All refuse and recycling will be picked up on Friday, December 26th.

Please place materials curbside the night prior to your service day so Whitetail Disposal can guarantee collection.

E-Waste Recycling Schedule

E-Waste Recycling

Whitetail Disposal provides a 30-yard container at **33 Klines Lane, March through November**, specifically for E-Waste collection. The E-Waste Dumpster is available on the **2nd Monday of the month** from Noon or until the dumpster is full. The site is closed from December through February.

Whitetail Disposal employees provide the manpower to assist residents with disposal of these items.

Guidelines for dropping off items:

- Items will only be accepted on designated days during designated hours.
- Residents visiting the site shall show the attendant their identification signifying that they are a Borough resident. Items from outside the Borough of Emmaus will not be accepted.

- Residents can drop off three electronic devices at no charge, with a maximum of 2 TV's per resident. Exceeding three electronic devices being dropped off in a single month by a resident or business within the Borough of Emmaus will cost an additional \$10.00 per item.
- **NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE ACCEPTED.**



The 2024 E-Waste Recycling Dates

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| • March 10th | • June 9th | • September 8th |
| • April 14th | • July 14th | • October 13th |
| • May 12th | • August 11th | • November 10th |

A Special Thank You to Our Business Sponsors

This publication is produced at no cost to the Borough of Emmaus residents thanks to the generous sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout the newsletter. The Borough recognizes these businesses as community supporters and encourages its residents to shop locally.

Bulk Items – You must contact Whitetail Disposal for all bulk item pick-ups.

- Please call Whitetail Disposal at 610-936-9967 or email Emmaus@whitetaildisposal.com for any questions or concerns on bulk items and to arrange a pick-up. One bulk item per week will be collected.
- To arrange a pickup contact Whitetail Disposal no less than 24 hours **PRIOR** to your regular pick-up day. Identify yourself as a Borough of Emmaus resident. Whitetail Disposal will instruct you on collection of your item(s).
- Each Bulk item is limited to no more than **70 LBS.**
- **Mattresses and box springs must be wrapped in plastic. Toilets must be bagged.**
- Construction materials will **NOT** be collected.
- Appliances containing Freon will **NOT** be collected.

For any questions or for additional information, please visit <https://www.whitetaildisposal.com/municipality/emmaus-borough/>



Curbside Yard Waste Pick-up

The Borough's waste hauler, Whitetail Disposal, does not collect yard waste. Yard waste pick-up is available through the Emmaus Public Works Department.

From March 31st through October 20th, yard waste will be collected by Public Works personnel on **Mondays** except holidays (Monday, May 26th and Monday, September 1st - Curbside yard waste will be picked up on Tuesday).

There is a **5-bag limit** and yard waste must be placed at the curb in approved yard waste bags. **More than 5 bags will be left at the curb.** The Borough encourages anyone with large quantities of bags to utilize our Compost Site located on Klines Lane.

Yard waste is limited to organic biodegradable materials such as grass, leaves, hedge trimmings, leafy plants and small sticks and twigs. Separate grass, twigs, and hedge trimmings into different bags. Bags contaminated with stones, trash, mulch, or dirt will not be collected. Material not separated properly will not be collected. **Bags exceeding 50 lbs. will not be collected.**

There are two ways to contact the Borough to have your bags collected.

Phone: 610-965-9288, after hours, please leave a message, or

Email: pweiant@emmauspa.gov

Please be sure to leave your address and the number of bags. Bags will only be collected for those residents that either call or email. Contact must be made by 11:00 a.m. on the day of pick-up.



Compost Site Hours of Operation

Closed in observance of Holidays: 4/18, 5/26, 7/4, 9/1, and 11/11

Compost Site Hours March 17th to November 22nd

Monday and Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (No Loading)

Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to dusk (No Loading)

Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Loading until 3:30 p.m.)

We only accept organic yard waste. No lumber, root balls with dirt, garbage, dirt, building materials, etc. is allowed.

Unscreened compost, wood chip mulch, and screened compost are available for hand loading or a loading fee of \$25.00 per scoop or partial scoop. Only pick-ups or small trailers will be loaded.



Explaining Tax and Rate Increases

It's no secret that Borough taxes and rates increased for 2025, as the increase made headlines in the newspaper as well as on social media. It's important to explain the increases and the financial challenges facing the Borough to clear up misunderstandings.

Did Your Taxes Go Up?

Unfortunately, yes. Borough taxes increased for 2025. There is a lot of misperception that Borough Taxes, County Taxes, and School Taxes are controlled by the same entity. Please understand that the Borough has no control over your school taxes or county taxes, as we are three completely different entities. We understand that school taxes increased by 4.12%, or by an average of \$179 for this school year, bringing the total millage rate up to 21 mills. Borough taxes are unfortunately increasing by 25.61%, or by about \$426 this year, bringing the total millage rate up to 10.4455 mills. In addition, water rates went up about \$32 per year and sewer increased by \$78 per year. Lastly, as we discussed in our previous newsletter, refuse went up by \$110. We know that it's a lot of money, and it's important to discuss why each increase occurred.

Why the Increases?

This was by far the most difficult budget that the Borough has worked through in a very long time. Our elected officials and many of our employees live in the Borough as well, and they did the best they could to try to reduce any increase. The 1st draft of the budget projected a more than \$3 million deficit. After all of the cuts, the final draft, unfortunately, still carried a \$1 million deficit.

First, it is important to note that our budget is broken down by funds. By law, the Water Fund cannot pay for Sewer Fund expenses. The Fire Fund cannot pay for Water Fund expenses, and no other Fund can pay for General Fund expenses. If there are costs incurred for Water or Sewer, the Borough uses the Water Fund or Sewer Fund to fund those expenses. This is through water or sewer fees, not through taxes. The Fire Department is funded through the Fire Tax, and the costs to have street lighting are funded through a street light tax. The General Fund pays for general administrative expenses, police, some ambulance expenses, parks and recreation, codes enforcement, refuse and recycling, and some public works operations. Just over 35% of the General Fund is paid for by property taxes. The rest is paid for by fees, Act 511 taxes, fines, grants, and permit revenue.

Our cash carryover balance from 2023 to 2024 was \$2,385,120. For four years, the Borough did not increase General Fund taxes. In planning the 2024 Budget, Council budgeted to carry over only \$391,686 into 2025, meaning the cash reserves were being spent down to cover increasing expenses. Borough Council had not increased General Fund taxes in 4 years, until they increased them by 1.98% for 2024. As most of us know, expenses have increased by a lot more than 1.98% in the past 5 years. In fact, inflation per year, since 2020, increased on average just under 5% from 2021 – 2024. While our expenses increased at home, they also increased at the Borough. Rather than increasing General Fund taxes to cover increasing costs during this time, Borough Council did their best to offset increasing costs by spending down reserves rather than increasing taxes. Going into 2025, we spent down the bulk of the surplus funds to cover expenses. In the Fire Fund, Borough Council did not increase taxes from 2022 – 2024. We did create a Street Lighting Fund Tax and a Special Road Fund Tax in 2023 to dedicate more funds to street construction and repairs.

In the Fire Fund Budget, the Fire Tax was increased for 2025. Council committed to a Fire Tax increase over the Summer when we did a public presentation regarding the purchase of a Fire Rescue apparatus. Unfortunately, Fire Rescue Trucks no longer cost \$300,000. The cost

is closer to \$1.2 million. There is a 3-year lead time on the truck. It was Council's position that we would save as much money as possible towards the purchase of the vehicle before it is delivered, rather than paying over 5% interest to fund the entire purchase. Ultimately, this decision saves taxpayer dollars, however, it also meant that we would be required to dedicate more funds each year to saving for the apparatus purchase to reduce the amount of financing we will need to take out in a loan.

Our staff and Council worked very hard to cut costs everywhere possible, however, there were costs for 2025 that increased that we could not cut immediately. Police pension costs increased by \$54,807. Healthcare Rates increased by 11.6%, with an overall cost increase of \$124,995. Workers' Compensation increased by 34% due to a formula change at the federal insurance rate level, increasing costs by \$54,780.42. Other insurance costs increased by \$13,073. Electricity Costs increased by over \$40,000 (a 30% increase), after we received bids by nearly a dozen different vendors. Natural Gas increased by over \$13,000. Retiree Healthcare Costs increased by \$56,105. While we have eliminated post-retirement benefits for new employees over the past 8 years, those that have retired or are nearing retirement have those benefits.

Refuse Costs increased by \$518,628, resulting in an increase from \$375 to \$485. As a comparison, the City of Allentown's new refuse rate for 2025 jumped to \$605 in 2025 and is increasing to \$740 in 2026. Whitehall Township's rate for 2025 is increasing to \$615. These increases aren't because they wanted to simply increase rates. Refuse collection is a bid process, and there aren't a lot of bidders. We had two bidders for our refuse collection, including Whitetail Disposal and JP Mascaro. Whitetail's bid, over the course of 3 years, was \$1,267,904 less than JP Mascaro's. Over the course of 5 years, it was \$2,610,924. That would have resulted in a rate much closer to Whitehall and Allentown. It is also important to note that our refuse rates include the cost of leaf collection, holiday tree collection, and the costs of running the compost site, as well as E-waste, bi-annual Dumpster Day, and bi-annual Household Hazardous Waste Day. While we are certainly not thrilled with this increase, we are fortunate that it wasn't more. We were also fortunate that we were able to previously lock refuse rates down for four years, as were able to lock down a previous contract at a time where rates were exponentially increasing in other places. Unfortunately, that contract ended, and we were legally obligated to put the service out to bid. We are required to take the lowest qualified bid. Based on the new contract, the Borough anticipates that we will be able to hold the new rates for at least the next three years.

In the General Fund, overall revenue dropped off as well, as a result of lower cash carryover, a decrease in expected ambulance revenue. Additionally, construction is down, meaning permits and other revenue from fees are expected to drop by over \$30,000 in 2025. As a result of slowed construction, we are expecting to see lower park and recreation development fees as well, which have been instrumental to upgrading parks in the Borough.

Borough Council and departments worked to decrease nearly every budget, as the majority of General Fund operational budgets are lower in 2025 vs. 2024. The majority of General Fund operational budgets are decreasing, with the exception of the Police operational budget, which increased by \$200,000. That included an increase of \$107,638 in union contract wages, \$45,133 in Pension costs as mandated under PA law, and \$36,778 in healthcare costs. That means only \$30,196 increased in all other costs, including utilities and other operations. In the Ambulance Department, overall costs decreased by \$15,781, as

the Borough eliminated having a 2nd ambulance on during the day. In addition, we eliminated a full-time position, as well as several part-time positions within the department. Operating costs for the Public Works Department have decreased by \$57,165 and the Parks budget has decreased by \$143,371, due to the elimination of the Parks Director position. The pool budget is increasing by \$22,586, due to wages, repairs, paint, and electric costs.

While there are many costs that the Borough has to incur, Council and our departments worked to cut as many costs as possible to try to offset the increased cost burden. This resulted in the elimination of numerous positions in the Borough, including an upper management position in EMS and Fire, the elimination of the Assistant Borough Manager position, the elimination of the Parks Director position, the elimination of the 2nd ambulance operation during the day which included the elimination of a full-time position and several part-time positions, the elimination of a full-time Public Works position, and the elimination of hiring a police officer position. This resulted in a reduction of \$542,843 in labor costs in 2025. Net labor costs, in 2025, are \$133,573 lower than in 2024.

Engineering costs increased by \$170,000. The majority of these costs are in the water and sewer budgets, as we are faced with PFAS issues as well as the sewer plant and sewer line upgrade costs.

For 2025, the Debt Services Fund decreased from \$1,115,259 in 2024 to \$954,827 in 2025 (decrease by \$160,432). The Capital Fund decreased from \$2,619,098 in 2024 to \$1,209,038 in 2025 (decrease of \$1,410,060). The original request total from departments for 2025 was \$3,704,070.

Fire Fund costs increased by \$329,557. Overall wages had a net decrease, as a result of the elimination of a management position within the department. Healthcare increased by \$36,000 and \$200,000 is earmarked for apparatus. In addition, as a result of a county mandate to switch over to a new communications line, we are forced to purchase all new radios in all of our emergency services departments. These radios cost over \$5,000 each! We are expecting to spend over \$500k on this project over the next several years between EMS, Fire, and the Police Department.

In the Water Fund, there are two major projects and expenses that the Borough is dealing with. First, through several inspections, the Borough discovered that there is some structural danger to several of our water holding tanks at our wells and our reservoirs. Our Borough Manager obtained a \$1.2 million grant to make repairs to these well tanks, which will extend the life of the tanks for up to an additional 50 years. There is a 30% match to this project (\$360,000), which must be completed by 2026. To replace a single well tank, the cost is estimated to be about \$4 million. Therefore, this preservation project is essential to complete. In addition, operational costs increased by \$198,506. This includes an additional \$150,000 in engineering costs for the capital projects. Electricity costs increased by \$20,000 to operate the wells. This means actual operating costs increased by \$28,506. Moreover, we also recently announced the receipt of \$11.8 million in Penn Vest Funds to help offset the capital costs to mitigate the PFAS in Wells 1 & 2, located near Klines Lane. There will be about \$100,000 per year ongoing maintenance cost for this. The budget also includes \$207,685 in capital projects, which include mostly repairs and upgrades, tools, and the ongoing replacement water meter project, as water meters at each property are nearing their end of life.

In the Sewer Fund, rates increased significantly. This is due to the PA DEP mandate to separate stormwater from the sewer system. As a result of this mandate, there are significant costs to every municipality in Lehigh County. We have been told by LCA many different total costs for the project over the past number of years, ranging from \$350 million to \$800 million. As the project has continued to be refined, the newest estimate for the project is around \$318 million. Between

2026 and 2030, the cost is estimated to be up to \$135 million, with the other costs to follow. The Borough of Emmaus share of this is millions of dollars. Our costs could reach over \$1 million per year over 20 years, depending on the final costs of these upgrades. LCA has conducted a series of public presentations, as you can visit their website for more information: <https://www.lehighcountyauthority.org/wastewater/sewer-overflows/>. We have seen cost estimates for the Borough to pay to LCA for 2026 to be estimated at up to \$750,000. The latest projected cost for the Borough for 2026 was \$540,000. This means that the Borough will need to raise that money in 2025 to be paid in 2026. Moreover, not only does the Allentown sewer plant and the main lines going to the plant need to be upgraded, but the Borough needs to continue to work on eliminating water from infiltrating the sewer as well. We have spent several million dollars over the past several years to work to alleviate this issue, however, this is going to cost millions of dollars, as the large bulk of our lines were installed in the early late 1950's / early 1960s. We currently have a \$420,000 grant (includes a 30% match requirement) to address manhole leaks on the western side of the community, however, we also need to reline many miles of piping as well. The Borough anticipates taking out a \$4 million loan in the next year or two to continue to address this DEP mandate. Also, in the 2025 budget, operational costs increased by \$35,386. Of that, \$27,891 is for sewer flow to the LCA Western Interceptor.

Because of all of these extremely high water and sewer capital costs, we used a consultant and software company named Waterworth to project out water and sewer rates for the next 10 – 20 years, based on the different cost and payment scenarios for PFAS, LCA, and other Capital. We are also continuing to pursue grant money and other funding, as the expected costs for water and sewer all across Lehigh County are anticipated to continue to climb as a result of these issues.

It is important to examine what our rates look like versus other communities in Pennsylvania. In November 2024, LCA released a comparison of what a bill for both water and sewer combined looks like for their customer base as well as what the averages are across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We compared that to our Borough residents' average projected bill for 2025. Based on the average usage of 15,000 gallons, the study shows that the average water / sewer bill (combined) in Pennsylvania is \$85 per month. The lowest in PA is \$46 per month and the highest is \$151 per month. LCA's average monthly bill is \$77 per month. With the increases in the Borough of Emmaus 2025 rates, the average monthly bill for our residents for water and sewer combined will be \$68.67 per month.

Major Capital Costs in 2025:

- Library Roof: \$150,000. The roof is completely rotted and badly leaks into the building.
- Dump Truck – paid by Liq. Fuels, Demolition Funds, and eliminating another line item
- Radio Purchases in each department – Lehigh County Project - \$70k (mandated)
- Police Car \$104,500
- Ambulance - \$50k towards purchase (3-year lead time – purchase price \$262k)
- MS4 work (stormwater line work mandated by PA DEP) - \$50k
- Pool Repairs - - \$66,646 – need to fix the leak which is causing a loss of 55,000 gallons of water per day.
- Lions Park – Grant Project – Need \$100,000 towards grant project (\$318,411 grant). This is a 50/50 matching grant. We have downsized the project due to the new projected cost of the original plans.



continued page 16

- Concession Stand ADA and Floor - \$9,200 to meet health code and Codes requirements
- Furnace Dam improvements – paid for from Phoebe recreational funds. This will include a new pavilion, a roof repair to the bathroom, and several other improvements at the park.
- S. 4th Street Ballfields improvements – paid for from apartment complex recreation contribution funds. This will include parking improvements, ballfield improvements, and the installation of a small playground.
- Community Park – seal driveways \$14k to avoid several hundred thousand dollars of paving
- PFAS remediation – Wells # 1 and # 2 - \$11.8 million project – capital cost to be covered by grant and loans
- Water Tank Rehab project - \$1.2 million grant – match 30%

- Replacement Water Meters and Other Repairs
- Sewer – LCA / Allentown Upgrades – starting in 2026 – projected future cost to Borough - - \$18.7 million.
- 2025 / 2026 Sewer Loan for borough's upgrades to the project - \$4 million
- \$425,000 I & I grant (water inflow & infiltration in sewer) – 30% match needed to repair pipes as part of the DEP mandate.

Lastly, Borough Council and staff continue to examine the efficiencies and costs in each of our departments. Borough Council plans to conduct a survey to the community to gauge your priorities for different services provided by the Borough. We anticipate this survey to be ready for Summer and will release a link as soon as it is available.



1 Create an account

Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email, phone number and address.

2 Enter the info that matters most

Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.

3 Help your Fire Department when seconds count

That's it. Just keep us updated when things change overtime so we can always be prepared.

WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION CAN I PROVIDE?

Any information you provide through Community Connect is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable sharing. We have made it easy for you to know what may be important by organizing your secure portal into buckets of information you can enter:



Your Property



Your People



Your Needs



Your Pets

HOW SECURE IS MY DATA AND HOW IS IT USED?

Data that you provide Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations. Your information is never used for any other purpose. All logins are password protected with bank level encryption and security. If you're comfortable logging in to your online bank you'll be comfortable logging in to Community Connect.



Community Connect is
Safe & Secure

Emmaus Ambulance Subscription Program

In times of medical emergencies, the last thing you should worry about is how to cover the cost of an ambulance ride. That's why the Emmaus Ambulance Corps is proud to, once again, offer our Subscription Program—a practical solution designed to protect you and your loved ones from unexpected out-of-pocket expenses while ensuring you receive the timely, professional care you deserve.

How to Enroll

Enrollment is simple and convenient. By mid-January, residents should have received a flyer in the mail with all the details about the Subscription Program. Signing up is as easy as following one of the options below:



1. Scanning the QR code provided on the flyer to access our online enrollment portal.
2. Stopping by the Emmaus Ambulance station to complete your registration in person.
3. Mailing the enclosed envelope with your completed subscription form.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to safeguard your family's health and finances—join today!

Wheelchair Van Services

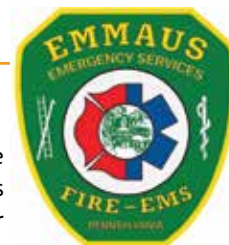
Did you know that Emmaus Ambulance also offers wheelchair van services? This specialized transportation is ideal for individuals who need assistance traveling to and from medical appointments. Our wheelchair van service ensures that everyone in our community has access to safe, reliable transportation for their healthcare needs.

Whether it's for regular check-ups, therapy sessions, or other medical visits, we're here to help. To schedule a ride or learn more about this service, give us a call at **610-967-5615**.

Have Questions? We're Here to Help

If you have any questions about the Subscription Program or our wheelchair van services, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our dedicated team is available to provide more information and assist with your enrollment. Please call us Monday -Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. at **610-967-5615** with any questions about the program.

Take a proactive step to protect your family and enhance your peace of mind. Join the Emmaus Ambulance Subscription Program and experience the confidence of knowing you're covered when it matters most.



Emmaus Emergency Services Welcomes Briana Falko

The Borough of Emmaus is excited to introduce Briana Falko as our newly hired Fire Administrative Assistant. Briana grew up in Catasauqua and Emmaus and graduated from DeSales University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Theology. She is happily married and has a 2-year-old little girl. Briana brings knowledge of Emergency Services as she was previously employed by Lehigh County for 7 years as a 911 dispatcher. When Briana isn't at work, you can find her running after her daughter, working out at the gym (no cardio, please!), or reading up on astrology, spirits, ghosts, or the "other side." We are excited to have Briana as part of our team!



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Knauss Homestead Preservation Society

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Hello and Happy New Year from everyone at the Knauss Homestead Preservation Society!

We have some great events lined up for 2025, including what will be our biggest celebration yet! We are planning for a new and improved Peach Festival, taking place on Saturday July 26th! We'll have lots more parking options for those who have missed out in the past due to limited parking and competing events. We'll also be presenting our brand-new research room full of amazing genealogical finds, historical photography, and more. There's lots to see!

We will also be giving a presentation in conjunction with the Emmaus Remembrance Garden and the Emmaus Historical Society on Wednesday, May 21st. We'll be talking all about the history of the Knauss Family, as well as the homestead itself. There's lots you may not even know, including ties to Thomas Edison himself! We hope to see you there.

We've also got some exciting improvements ready to roll out in the first part of 2025, including tons of genealogical research resources, previously unseen photos, and access to a special genealogical group that can help you trace your own roots. Whether you're certain of your connections to the Knauss and Ehrenhardt families, or you want to find out for sure, we can help!

To get notified when we'll be launching, please visit knaushomestead.org and sign up for our newsletter



Join Us for the Opening Day of Trout Season at Furnace Dam

Once again, Furnace Dam will be stocked with trout for Opening Day, Saturday, April 5, 2025. Fishing is great fun for the whole family, creating precious memories for kids and parents, and introducing young and old to the joys of outdoor recreation. Join us for the excitement of Opening Day!



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Sundays at the Emmaus Farmers' Market



**RAIN OR SHINE AT EMMAUS TRIANGLE PARK
MAY-DECEMBER 10 A.M.-1 P.M. (UNTIL NOON IN DEC.)
WINTER MARKET THROUGH THE END OF APRIL
ON THE 2ND & 4TH SUNDAY, 10 A.M.-NOON**

Did you know the Emmaus Farmers' Market runs all winter long into spring? Fourth Street will remain closed for the market, so our regular season vendors are in their same spots all year long! Join us from January-April 10 a.m.-noon at Triangle Park on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. Thank you to all our customers who venture out during the cold months and keep us running all year long, RAIN, SNOW or SHINE!

This spring we celebrate our 22nd season in Emmaus, and our 6th season in the beautiful downtown Triangle. May the 4th be with you at the Triangle this year! That's right, our **summer season kicks off on MAY 4th**. We have **FOUR NEW VENDORS** joining us beginning in May! You may see a few new vendors appear this winter. Live music returns with local favorites such as the always fun and eclectic Emmaus Public Singing Society. Did we mention we have over 30 vendors lined up for you? Walk to Triangle

Park every Sunday for your weekly produce and meats, enjoy the weather with locally inspired food & coffee, live music and meet up with friends. We are outdoors at the Triangle and continue to bring you local fruits & vegetables, a variety of dairy products, bread & baked goods, raw honey, coffee & lattes, herbs, spirits, pasture raised meats & eggs! You will also find many local non-profits to learn about and support in and around the Lehigh Valley.

We are always in need of 501(c) non-profits at the Community Table. If you are interested, please email the Marketing & Events Coordinator, Jen Schuster at info@emmausmarket.com. Is there something you'd love to see at our market? Send us an email! We pride ourselves on being one of the few producer-only markets in the Lehigh Valley. Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for any new updates and visit our website to sign up for our weekly newsletter to stay up to date with weekly market happenings: www.emmausmarket.com. Don't forget to stop by the market tent to get your #RoosterRewards card punched and represent your favorite farmers' market! See you Sunday!



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Shelter House News By Dave Biles, President

601 South 4th Street, Emmaus, PA • <https://shelterhouseemmaus.org/>



As we enter the new year, the membership renewals for 2025 are arriving in our post office box. Lesley Lojko, Membership Secretary, reported that in addition to the payment of the yearly dues, the Shelter House is also receiving several

financial donations. These additional funds are used for the payment of our annual operational expenses such as electric, phone, heating oil, post office mailbox, insurance coverage, and Borough water/sewer and refuse removal.

The Shelter House Endowment Fund began back in the early 1900's with an endowment from the estate of Emanuel P. Yeakel, a long-time member of the Society, and has been our "lifeline" in being able to continue the years of dedication of preserving this historic Emmaus colonial log cabin. Additional money donations from several of our long-time members help pay for special projects such as the new video program of the story of the Shelter House and how the early colonial settlers traveled from Germany to Philadelphia and went on to settle in the Lehigh Valley.

Another recently restored Shelter House item has been the photo and information panel located at the stairway from the parking area to the walkway to the Shelter House entrance. The project was

initiated in March 2024, and after several delays in photo processing and production delays, the new panel was received in mid-December. In the meantime, I was able to do light sanding to the metal stand and repaint it and it should last another twenty years! The project was funded by a donation by long-time members Fred and Mimi Foerster. Unfortunately, Pastor Foerster had been in ill health for many months and passed away on December 31st without being able to visit the Shelter House to see the colonial reproduction furnishing and the newly replaced photo and information panel.

When it was decided to replace the original weathered panel, I did some research in the Shelter House files and discovered that back in 2007, not only the information and photo panel to be installed at the present location, but the large Shelter House sign at the entrance to the driveway was to be provided. Evidently, this was a project for not only the Shelter House, but included signs for the other Emmaus historic locations, including the Knauss Homestead, the 1803 House, and the Moravian God's Acre Cemetery. The entire project was provided by the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor organization of Easton.

Great News! The Shelter House website is up and running. Please visit the website at www.shelterhouseemmaus.org. The website includes a link to the video we developed that is a primer on living in colonial times, and particularly in the historic Emmaus log cabin.



Building a Brighter Future for Emmaus Together

Emmaus is a special place to call home, and the **Emmaus Community Foundation (ECF)** is working hard to keep it that way! Through thoughtful projects and initiatives, ECF is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all residents while preserving the history and charm that make our borough unique.

Currently, the foundation is focusing on key improvements to some of our most beloved spaces, including **Emmaus Community Park, Lions Park, Furnace Dam Park, and Boro Line Park**. These projects aim to upgrade facilities, create more enjoyable public spaces, and ensure these parks remain vibrant for generations to come.

In addition to park improvements, ECF is championing **historic preservation** and **community art initiatives**, ensuring that the stories

and spirit of Emmaus endure while inspiring future generations. These efforts reflect the heart of our community—where history, nature, and creativity intersect.

The foundation thrives on the generosity of donors and volunteers. Supporting ECF is a meaningful way to invest in our community's future while making an immediate impact today.

To learn more about their ongoing projects, get involved, or make a donation, please visit emmauscommunityfoundation.org/projects. You can also use the QR code below to make a donation. Let's work together to keep Emmaus a beautiful, welcoming place for all!

The Emmaus Community Foundation Board Members thank you for being part of what makes Emmaus extraordinary.

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EMMAUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

218 Main St., Emmaus, PA 18049, 610-966-6591, www.emmaushistoricalsociety.org

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every Saturday as well as extended hours during special events.



The end of 2024 brought a time of reflection and began a time to contemplate the new year. At the Emmaus Historical Society, we are excited to share with you the programs, events and activities planned so far for 2025.

As always, the primary purposes of the Society are the promotion and encouragement of the historical study and research into all aspects of the Borough of Emmaus. There are many ways we try to accomplish this.

First, we continue to grow our membership. Through our membership, not only do we gain funds for our operating expenses, but we also gain people who have invaluable knowledge of our community along with memorabilia that many so graciously donate. Our membership drive and renewal process are currently underway. Don't forget to renew or join and consider inviting a friend, family member or neighbor to also join. Remember you don't have to live in the borough to be a member.

Next, the museum offers displays that change throughout the year and provides a glimpse into many facets of past community life. Hearing our visitors say, "I remember that!" or answer their children's questions, "What was that for?" always brings feelings of satisfaction. So, the displays educate, stirs memories and entertains. Please plan on visiting often.

Our monthly programs are great opportunities to hear about many interesting topics. This year's programs are ready to go. There is a

wonderful variety of topics that surely will be enjoyed by many. The first program of the year, which I hope you had a opportunity to see, was a presentation of the Fries Rebellion Movie. This was spearheaded by LMTS and is a gem for the Lehigh Valley. Right around the corner is **Thursday, March 20** - A Generational Look at the 9th Grade Experience presented by Chris Stuchko. The final two for the Spring are **Wednesday, April 23** - Wonderful Nice: The Curious Legacy of the Pennsylvania Dutch presented by Bradley Smith and **Wednesday, May 21** - Knauss Homestead and the Emmaus Remembrance Garden.

Some of our past programs can be viewed at www.youtube.com/@emmaushistoricalsociety1986.

Along with the programs, we have some exciting fundraising activities and events scheduled so far. These include the bus trips. So don't forget to sign up and put these dates on your calendar.

Finally, the Emmaus Historical Society Board members would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have so generously donated to our Capital Campaign. We look forward to finalizing plans for the garage renovations and making this area more conducive for the displays and our visitors.

We would also like to thank our volunteers who have helped us throughout the year. We are actively looking to fill various volunteer positions so if interested please call the office.

2025 will be a year to celebrate our community through our programs, activities and events. Looking forward to seeing you all!

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EMMAUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2025 SPECIAL EVENTS

FOR INFORMATION: WWW.EMMAUSHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!!



Fundraising Events

Lucky Bucks BINGO!
St. John's Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 16, 2025
(Doors Open at 1pm)

Yergey Brewing Fundraising Event
Saturday, May 31, 2025 - 12pm to 9pm

Bus Trips

Philadelphia Flower Show
March 6, 2025

Swing - Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
May 6, 2025

August Bus Trip
TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Deck the Halls - American Music Theater
November 12, 2025

For Bus Trip Tickets Call Nancy Matika, 610-967-5715

Special Yearly Events

Passport to History
Saturdays - March 22 - June 28 - September 27, 2025

Emmaus Heritage Day Festival
September 20, 2025

Historical Society Members Wine & Cheese Social
December 5, 2025

Emmaus Old Fashioned Christmas
December 6, 2025

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EMMAUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FOR INFORMATION: WWW.EMMAUSHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!	VISIT SATURDAYS 10AM TO 4PM	FEBRUARY 19
<p>Monthly Programs are held at 7pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, Emmaus, PA FREE to the Public! Members and Non-members Welcome</p>	 <p>610-966-6591</p>	<p>The Fries Rebellion Movie</p> <p>Presented by Sara Jane Williams</p>
MARCH 20	APRIL 23	MAY 21
<p>A Generational Look at the 9th Grade Experience</p> <p>Presented by Chris Stuchko</p>	<p>Wonderful Nice: The Curious Legacy of the PA Dutch</p> <p>Presented by Bradley Smith</p>	<p>Knauss Homestead and Emmaus Remembrance Garden</p> <p>Presented by Maggie Fisher and Mike Waddell</p>
JUNE 18	SEPTEMBER 17	OCTOBER 15
<p>Annual Member Picnic held at Emmaus Community Park</p> <p>5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>The Silk Mills of Emmaus, Their History and Heritage</p> <p>Presented by Jeanne Harakal</p>	<p>Hess's Department Store: An Icon from the Past</p> <p>Presented by Lehigh County Historical Society</p>
NOVEMBER 19	DECEMBER 17	
<p>The Story of the First Pa German Thanksgiving</p> <p>Presented by Jason Searock</p>	<p>Annual Christmas Party with Entertainment</p> <p>5:30 p.m.</p>	

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A Message from the Emmaus Board of Health

Embrace Safe Driving for You and Your Family - HEAR YE, HEAR YE



The Emmaus Emergency Services Department has recently obtained Car Seats and Booster Seats for children through a PennDOT (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation) program. If you need a car or booster seat, please call 610-967-5615, press 2 and speak with K. Hoffman or email her at khoffman@emmauspa.gov. You may also get an appointment to have your car seat installed properly at the Borough's emergency services fitting station, located at 100 N. 6th Street, Emmaus.

The NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) estimates that correctly used child restraints reduce fatalities by 71% for infants younger than 1 year old and by 54% for children 1 to 4 years old in passenger cars. In light trucks the fatality reductions are 58% for infants and 59% for children 1 to 4 years old (Kahane, 2015; National Center for Statistics and Analysis [NCSA], 1996:). In addition, research conducted by the Partners for Child Passenger Safety Program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia found that belt-positioning booster seats reduce the risk of injury to children 4 to 8 years in crashes by 45% when compared to the effectiveness of seat belts alone (Arbogast et al., 2009). However, unrestrained children continue to be overrepresented in motor vehicle fatalities, which indicates that additional lives can be saved by increasing restraint use among children (Sauber-Schatz et al., 2014).

Pennsylvania law requires children under four years old to be in a child passenger restraint system, also known as an infant car seat, in a vehicle: Children 4-9 years of age, and at least 40 pounds shall be secured in either a forward-facing car seat or belt-positioning booster in the rear vehicle seat, if available. Children 8 or older, or who are 57 inches tall or 80 pounds, may use the lap and shoulder seat belt if it fits properly.

Lap and shoulder combination seat belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50% (Kahane, 2015). For light-truck occupants, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60% and moderate-to-critical injury by 65%. All new passenger cars had some form of seat belts beginning with lap belts in 1964, shoulder belts in 1968, and integrated lap and shoulder belts in 1974 (Automobile Coalition for Traffic Safety [ACTS], 2001).

The NHTSA indicates that one of the safest choices drivers and passengers can make is to buckle up. Many Americans understand the lifesaving value of the seat belt. The national **use rate was** at 91.9% in 2023. Seat belt use in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 14,955 lives in 2017. It is important for everyone to understand the potentially fatal consequences of not wearing a seat belt and learn what you can do to make sure you and your family are properly buckled up every time.

Did you know that there are safe ways to transport children with Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, Autism, low birth weight and those in hip or leg casts? More information is available at Automotive Safety Indiana University.

APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING MONTH

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating or drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with radio

stations, stereo, entertainment, or navigation systems.

According to the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Association) and VTTI (Virginia Tech Transportation Institute) study, the principal actions that cause *distracted driving* and lead to vehicle collisions are:

- Using electronic devices.
- Reaching for an object inside the vehicle.
- Looking at an object or event outside of the vehicle.
- Eating.
- Applying cosmetics (makeup).

Facts about distracted driving?

- 80% of car accidents are caused by a driver being distracted, 2% of distracted driving accidents are the result of eating or drinking. Your attention span to the road decreases by 40% when you listen to music or podcasts in the car. 20% of drivers admit to doing their hair while driving.

The **three main types** of distracted driving are:

• **Visual distractions**

Taking your eyes off the road, such as reading a message, watching a video, or grabbing something from your bag.

• **Manual distractions**

Taking your hands off the wheel, such as eating, drinking, or adjusting the radio.

• **Cognitive distractions**

Taking your mind off the road, such as having a conversation, using a voice-activated infotainment system, or following GPS directions

- **Talking and texting** – People who use their cell phones to talk or text while driving is by far the most common reason for distracted driving accidents. In fact, the National Safety Council estimates that **26% Of All CAR CRASHES INVOLVE CELL PHONES**.

Five facts about texting and driving:

- **Increased Accident risk:** Texting while driving increases the risk of an accident by six times.
- **Slowed reaction time:** Reading a text message slows a driver's reaction time.
- **Increased risk of wandering:** Drivers who text while driving are more likely to wander out of their lane.
- **Causes accidents in seconds:** It can take as little as three seconds for an accident to occur after taking your eyes off the road.
- **Creates reduced Cognitive functions:** Talking on the phone reduces your brain's cognitive ability.

NOTE: ABOUT 3, 000 PEOPLE DIE IN CRASHES INVOLVING A DISTRACTED DRIVER EACH YEAR.

Resources: NHTSA; PENDOT-PAAAP (Pennsylvania American Academy of Pediatrics; NCSA, 1966; Automotive Safety Program Indiana University

Article prepared by Georgine Snyder for The Emmaus Board of Health

Woman's Club of Emmaus

The annual Girls of the Month celebration by The Woman's Club of Emmaus will be held in the Emmaus High School Cafeteria on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The Girls of the Month Program honors outstanding Emmaus High School senior girl students in specific academic fields. The event is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

The 2024-2025 Girls of the Month are:

- Lillian Price- Art,
- Ava Grace Saab -Drama,
- Amanda King- Family/Consumer Science and Business/Computer Application,
- Carina McCallum-Journalism,
- Priya Mancheril- Mathematics,
- Anna Romina Chavilla-Ramirez-Music, and
- Sarah Lorenzo- Science.

The Woman' Club of Emmaus will host a Spring Dessert Card Party on Thursday, April 24, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus. The entrance fee is \$10.00. The event raises funds to support scholarships for Emmaus High School seniors and other community services. Please consider attending this fundraiser. We not only play cards but also several board games. There are delicious desserts and our famous "attic treasures" as gifts. For information and reservations contact Mary Alice at 610-392-9367 or Pat at 610-434-7836.

The Woman's Club of Emmaus, which has been in existence since 1940, is a community service Club with a primary focus on supporting education and community activities. We are always looking for additional service-minded community women to join our club. If you are interested in joining, please contact Colette Walbert at cew629@ptd.net.

Emmaus Rotary Club News – Service Above Self

The Emmaus Rotary Club is a community-focused organization serving the East Penn community for 100 years. The Club initiatives include Education, Health, and Community Development locally and globally. The Club manages the East Penn Feeding Program in partnership with the East Penn School District.

The Emmaus Rotary Club meets on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at Delizioso Italian Grill, 1985 Brookside Road, Macungie, PA 18062. Additional meetings are also held on the third Wednesday of the month to connect with community leaders and to plan projects.

The Emmaus Rotary Club recently held its family friendly "Over the Moon Valentine's Dance" on Saturday, February 15th at Triple Sun Spirits. The fundraiser was great fun and benefited the East Penn Food Coalition – Food Packing Program.

Upcoming Events:

On Saturday, May 31, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Rotary Club will host a Summer Festival at the Emmaus Community Park, to raise funds for the East Penn Food Coalition. The festival will include food, arts and crafts, entertainment, and activities for kids. Please visit the Emmaus Rotary Club's website at www.emmausrotary.org for more information on this event or to learn more about the Club and becoming a member.



2025 Street Projects

Several years ago, the Borough committed to improving our streets, although it may not seem like it at times. In 2024, the Borough spent over \$1 million on street work, completely reconstructing south 2nd Street, repaving Broad Street, Weiders Lane, Elm (from 2nd to 5th), 16th Street, part of DeLong and Tilghman Streets, and part of E. Main Street. We did oil and chip work on Glenwood Street, Fernwood Street, the majority of the Country Heights area, Buttonwood and part of 12th Street.

In 2025, the borough estimates spending \$618,000 on street projects, including paving a portion of S. 6th Street as well as a portion of N. 2nd Street. The Borough also plans to perform oil & chip work on Evergreen Street, part of Furnace Street, and part of Adrain Street.

In addition, as we are all aware, UGI is continuing to do work in the community. Yes, we are required to allow them to do work, as they are governed by the Commonwealth of PA. It is important to understand that, while it is extremely inconvenient, upgraded gas lines are being installed throughout the community. In addition, every street that they rip up is required to be repaved. They are only required to repave the lane of street that they are working in, however, that will result in new paving in much of the community. They cannot pave immediately after completing the installation of the line, as the road needs time to settle. Otherwise, we would have a brand-new road that collapses. Generally speaking, a utility will wait about 4 months before a street is to be repaved. (This varies of course). We also just received a new map for anticipated work from UGI, as it identifies work through 2027. In 2025, Penn Dot authorized them to dig up Chestnut and Main Street, among their numerous other projects. While we have posted the map below, visit our website to see a larger version of their project map.



PFAS Update and Major Grant Announcement

Borough Receives Significant Grant Funding

We have previously stated that the Borough filed lawsuits against firefighting foam manufacturers, as they knowingly supplied foam with PFAS chemicals, yet they never disclosed that information to thousands of fire departments across the nation. Unfortunately, the lawsuits are not gaining traction at this point. With that said, our Borough Manager has been working on applying for sources of funding to offset the costs to our community. One major source of funding just announced a significant grant award to the Borough.

On January 22, 2025, the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVest) voted to award the Borough with \$11,780,000 in funding. In that, \$9,731,255 is a grant! This does mean that we will have a loan in the amount of \$2,048,745 as well. Interest for the 1st 5 years is 1%. From year 6 to the maturity date, the loan interest rate is 1.743%. The loan is up to 20 years. This is going to be a huge help for us at a very low interest rate and well below the current market rate of over 5.5%. While we wished for a 100% grant, we were told to expect only 50%, as there were at least 12 PFAS applicants and dozens of funding requests across the state.

The Borough of Emmaus is very thankful for the PennVest funding, as the financial assistance is going to help alleviate the financial burden on our community members. We want to thank Representative Schweyer and Senator Miller, for their advocacy and hard work in pushing to help get our project funded. We also want to thank Rebecca Hayden at PennVest for her guidance and advocacy for our project throughout the application process. We also want to thank our as well as our engineers at Gannett Fleming for assisting our Borough Manager with the grant application, design work, and helping guide the Borough to get to this point, as it has been a long journey and we are excited that the project is out to bid, with bids being due in early February. It is our goal that construction will begin by late March with completion by the end of Spring 2026. Although there will be ongoing costs in the future, this is going to alleviate a huge financial burden by saving millions of dollars for our community members. There is a lot of work to do, and we still have concerns about lower levels of PFAS that are in other wells in town. Those are a result of surface water and underground springs feeding our wells along the creek. In the future, the Borough plans to address those wells as well, as they are very close and / or are bordering the DEP and EPA thresholds.

PFAS Information

Each quarter, we provide you with updates regarding the status of the PFAS mitigation efforts within the Borough. As you are aware, the two wells located adjacent to the Fire Training Grounds near Klines Lane greatly exceed the PA DEP and EPA allowances. On a quarterly basis, the Borough tests every drinking well for different chemicals, including PFAS. Upon learning that two of our wells were greatly above allowable PFAS levels, the Borough immediately shut down the most infected well. We were unable to shut down the 2nd well, as it would compromise the available water supply to the community. We have continued to test that well on a continuous basis. The most recent readings of Well # 1 were conducted on December 20, 2024. Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) levels were 192 ng / L (parts per trillion) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) levels were 22 ng / L (parts per trillion).

PFAS are a class of synthetic chemicals that include more than 9,000 types of compounds, valued for their strong chemical bond that resists heat, oil, grease and water. This makes them popular ingredients in consumer, industrial and commercial products

like nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and firefighting foams. Unfortunately, PFAS are also “forever chemicals” that don’t degrade. Instead, they make their way into global ecosystems. “PFAS are incredibly persistent,” says Erika Schreder, science director for Toxic-Free Future. “They are not known to break down in the environment at all, so when we’re producing these compounds, we’re really making a permanent change to our environment by adding them.”

The dangers PFAS pose are still under investigation, but they have been linked to many potential health concerns. “What we’ve seen at the lowest concentration is effects on the immune system,” Schreder says.

“What we find is that kids who have greater exposure to PFAS have less of a response to vaccines, and these compounds actually suppress [the] immune system. Many PFAS have an impact on important organs like the liver and kidneys and are linked to increased cholesterol as well as cancer.”

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cites additional risks including fertility and pregnancy complications, developmental delays in children and increased risk of cancers.

Exposure to PFAS appears unavoidable in modern life because they’re used extensively in thousands of everyday products. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that more than 97% of the U.S. population has PFAS in their body.

In each newsletter, we try to give some different information that we’ve found about PFAS. A recent Morning Call article stated that 1 part per trillion equates to a grain of sugar in an Olympic sized swimming pool. In 2020, researchers from the Environmental Working Group discovered that no less than 200 million people in the United States were drinking tap water contaminated with PFAS. We encourage you to do your own research regarding PFAS and the dangers of PFAS, as we have distributed past articles and research. PFAS is linked to cancer as well as other possible health hazards. In this update, we have copied information directly from the American Cancer Society Website: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/chemicals/teflon-and-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa.html>.

“In most cases, the American Cancer Society does not determine if something causes cancer (that is, if it is a carcinogen). Instead, we look at other respected organizations that classify potentially cancer-causing exposures.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organization (WHO). One of its goals is to identify causes of cancer. IARC has classified PFOA as “carcinogenic to humans” (Group 1), based on sufficient evidence it can cause cancer in lab animals and strong evidence that it has some of the key properties of a carcinogen in people who are exposed to it. IARC also notes there is limited evidence in people that PFOA can cause testicular and kidney cancer.

IARC has classified PFOS as “possibly carcinogenic to humans” (Group 2B), based strong evidence that it has some key properties of a carcinogen in people who are exposed to it, and on limited evidence that it can cause cancer in lab animals. IARC also notes there is inadequate evidence that PFOS can cause cancer in people.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), an electronic database that contains information on human health effects from exposure to various substances in the environment. The EPA has not officially classified PFOA as to its carcinogenicity.

In a draft (not final) report, the EPA's Scientific Advisory Board examined the evidence on PFOA, mainly from studies in lab animals, and stated that there is "suggestive evidence of carcinogenicity, but not sufficient to assess human carcinogenic potential." The board agreed that new evidence would be considered as it becomes available.

Other agencies have not yet formally evaluated whether PFOA can cause cancer."

Primary exposure occurs when people consume contaminated drinking water; eat contaminated produce, meat and fish; handle and use products containing PFAS; and work in chemical-producing industries.

What is the future of PFAS?

It's difficult for researchers to study and assess the potential dangers PFAS pose to human health due to the sheer number of them found in so many products. Research led to the banning of certain types of PFAS and an overall decline in their production in the U.S. since 2002. But, Schreder says, "PFAS are still heavily used as a class, in many different uses."

The EPA is working to better understand PFAS and their impact, implementing penalties and oversight for manufacturers that continue using the chemicals in their products. In 2022 the agency declared two of the most commonly produced PFAS as hazardous substances (discussed below), a designation that will create federal standards for cleanup efforts.

"Many governments have recognized that we need to move from chemicals like PFAS that are persistent and toxic and mobile in the environment," Schreder says.

"We're seeing governments take action to restrict these chemicals, and we're seeing companies move away from their use, because it's become clear that they're extremely problematic as a class, and we need to move to safer alternatives."

What is PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) was one of the most heavily produced PFAS, widely used in many consumer goods until it was banned in 2016. Manufacturers used PFOA in nonstick pan coatings, water- and stain-resistant textiles and food packaging, like fast-food wrappers, to prevent oil from soaking through. It was also an ingredient in firefighting foams.

The exact dangers of exposure to PFOA are not fully understood, but the compound has been identified as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

PFOA exposure has been linked to adverse effects on endocrine systems and hormone levels, possibly increasing breast cancer risk. Other studies linked PFOA with liver damage, immune system suppression as well as chronic kidney disease.

Despite the ban, people still encounter PFOA by drinking contaminated water, eating fish and other foods that come from contaminated water, or handling imported goods that contain the chemical.

What is PFOS?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) was the other most widely detected and produced PFAS class chemical until it was also banned in 2016. Starting in the 1940s, PFOS was used in many consumer and industrial products including carpets, upholstered furniture, nonstick cookware and leather products, as well as paints, varnishes, floor finishes and furniture wax.

The dangers of PFOS are still being studied, but the EPA identified it as possibly carcinogenic. Also, PFOS have been found to cause

birth defects and other reproductive harm. And there appears to be a relationship between PFOS exposure in pregnant mothers and fetal health issues.

Exposure risks remain in imported products from countries that still permit PFOS in manufacturing. However, the dominant source of human exposure is our diet, via contaminated drinking water and food products.

PFOA vs. PFOS

Similarities

- Forever chemicals
- PFAS class chemicals.
- Banned by the EPA.
- Linked to various human health issues.
- Valued for their resistance to heat, water, oil and grease.

Differences

- PFOS have been linked to fertility and pregnancy issues.
- PFOA are a suspected endocrine disruptor.
- PFOS are 10 times more toxic than PFOA;
- Each compound has a different fluorine-carbon chemical bond.

What is the Borough's Current Progress?

It seems like this has been taking forever to mitigate the PFAS in our water system. What we originally believed to be a simple fix to install a filter onto our water system quickly turned into quite the complicated and educational process. PA DEP required the Borough to do a comprehensive study of our entire water system, including engineering, hydraulic studies, looking for new water sources, considering outsourcing, and examining every possible avenue for mitigation. This process took over a year to complete. During a series of two public meetings reviewing the findings, over 200 community members attended and were adamant that the Borough mitigate our water system rather than outsourcing it. This triggered a long engineering process and partnership with PA DEP to obtain approvals and permits, while ensuring that the system could be mitigated to the point of reaching an undetectable PFAS level.

Engineering was completed in mid-2024, as the Borough applied for DEP permits. The process took approximately 6 months for approval. In addition, PA DEP has required the Borough to apply for additional permits, as there will be wastewater due to backflushing the system. We are still in the process of obtaining those permits, however, we also re-engineered the system a bit as a back-up, just in case we can't obtain the permits. If we don't get that permit, we will be required to haul the backflushing material in tanker trucks to an industrial waste facility rather than discharging it directly to the sewer system. We will provide future updates on this permit process.

In the meantime, the Borough has also placed the project out to bid. There are over 20 interested contractors bidding on the project. While we won't know the winning bid by the time we submit this article, we are expecting bids to be finalized in mid-February with construction to begin in late March. We have submitted the purchase order for four 20-foot high, 12-foot wide carbon resin tanks as well. Construction will include the installation of the tanks, complete rehabilitation of all plumbing and pumps in both wells, and construction of building to house the tanks and associated equipment. We expect the project to be completed by the end of Spring 2026. It is expected that the total cost of the project to mitigate the two wells will be approximately \$12 million. Expected maintenance each year of the system is expected to be approximately \$100,000, as the carbon tanks require re-bedding approximately every 10 months.



The Emmaus Arts Commission

Emmaus Arts Commission EmmausArts.org Find us on FB / Instagram @EmmausArts

The EAC has chosen a \$250 award winner for our "EAC Healing Art Award" for the Healing Through the Arts: "Hope and Healing Juried Art Show". The event takes place at Lehigh University, College of Health *Health, Science, & Technology Building*. Artwork can be viewed from Feb. 17-March 31, 2025. <https://hta.org/>



The "Emmaus in Bloom" Sculpture should be installed at the Emmaus Public Library soon! Stay tuned as we complete this initiative in honor and memory of the late, Richard Farmer.

Innovative Art Center

Have you heard about the Emmaus Creative Arts and Innovation Center? It is better known as JuxtaHub. If you are looking for a space to meet local artistic people, try new things, create, explore, and innovate. JuxtaHub offers aR/vR experiences, a digital and physical maker space, community classroom studio, gallery space, and artist studios. Hone your creative skills and build your community with events, classes, workshops being offered this Spring.



We are looking forward to the EHS Spring Art Show in May. Every year, the members of the EAC choose an AP Art Portfolio student to receive a \$500 award. Many students use this money to buy art supplies, build their brand, or take college classes in their next artistic adventure.



20th Annual Student Film Festival:

This year marked the EAC's 20th Annual Student Film Festival: Nevermore 2024. The SFF was open to all middle school-high school-aged individuals in the greater Lehigh Valley area. We got creative and used an Edgar Allan Poe theme to inspire new creativity in our participants.

We are excited to have created a relationship with DeSales University film and video department. Thank you to our many sponsors especially the Spotlight Sponsor, The Knauss Homestead. Please reach out if you'd like to donate, sponsor, or partner with us for the 21st Annual event. Check out our website for links to local news coverage and our recap newsletter with photos and more information!



The EAC was created by the Emmaus Borough Council to encourage civic participation in the arts through the promotion of the arts within our community. Find out more information on upcoming events and what's happening with the EAC by liking us on Facebook or by visiting emmausarts.org If you are interested in supporting the EAC, make a donation or contact us about volunteering! We accept applicants of all ages and stages to assist with our events and initiatives, it is a great experience for students.

Hydrant painting schedules will be released in May. Fill out an application on our website. We will contact you with details.

Share your creativity! We would love to see how you have been staying creative. Use #emmausartiseverywhere on your social media posts. Please like and share Emmaus Arts on Facebook or follow on Instagram @emmausarts





Happy 2025 from the Emmaus Main Street Partners!

The days of warm sunshine and blooming flowers are just around the corner, but the community of Emmaus has continued to thrive throughout these last couple months despite the cold days of winter. We have had the pleasure of welcoming several new businesses like Café 23, Let's Go Coffee and Board to Death Games that helped us all stay warm and entertained during this time. We had the pleasure of welcoming these businesses with ribbon cutting ceremonies but did you know that ribbon cuttings aren't just for new businesses, they're for anniversaries too! We believe every year a business can continue to serve the community is worth celebrating so let us know if you are celebrating a milestone anniversary this year as we would love to celebrate with you!



Bringing the community together through events is a large piece of the work we do here at the Chamber and we have recently hosted 2 key Emmaus initiatives! The first was our Annual Soup Crawl held on February 8th with a record number of attendees and business participants! Thank you to all those who came out to support our businesses and enjoy some delicious samples of soup!

We were also thrilled to continue our partnership with the Emmaus Historical Society again this year for our annual Lucky Bucks Bingo held on March 16th. Emmaus you showed up yet again for this fun afternoon of games, raffles and food, making this the 3rd year in a row we have sold out this event! Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EmmausMSP to be the first to know about events like these.



If you love Emmaus as much as we do, we want to hear from you! We are always looking for volunteers from the community to help us support our businesses by helping out at events or even serving on our board. We look forward to another great year here in Emmaus helping to stimulate our economy and improving the quality of our community!

Save the Date for 2025 Events!

Emmaus Golf Tournament - Monday, June 16th

Farewell to Summer Festival** - Saturday September 20th from 11am- 3pm

Small Business Saturday - Saturday, November 29th

Old Fashioned Christmas** - Saturday December 6th from 4-7pm

**These events will require the Main Street portion of the Triangle to be closed for at least an hour before and after the events.*

***For this event, South 4th Street will be closed in addition to the Main portion of the Triangle*

Are you a new or existing business in the area that is interested in learning more about the Chamber and Emmaus Main Street Partners? We have ample ways to get involved - we have something for everyone! Contact us today at HaydenR@LehighValleyChamber.org for more information.

Hayden Rinde – Main Street Manager
haydenr@lehighvalleychamber.org
 484-828-9777

Emily Brosky, Main Street Coordinator
emilyb@lehighvalleychamber.org
 610-739-1273

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*** TENTATIVE SCHEDULE for 2025 ***

APR 12 (4-7 pm)
APR 26 (4-7 pm)
MAY 10 (4-7 pm)
MAY 31 (4-7 pm)
JUNE 14 (4-7 pm)
JUNE 28 (4-7 pm)
JULY 12 (4-7 pm)

All Makes and Models
are welcome.
Our proceeds are donated
to **Dream Come True**, a
LOCAL charity for terminal
and chronically ill children

JULY 26 (4-7 pm)
AUG 09 (4-7 pm)
AUG 30 (4-7 pm)
SEPT 13 (4-7 pm)
SEPT 27 (4-7 pm)
OCT 11 (3-6 pm)
OCT 25 (3-6 pm)

Cruisers and spectators are welcome!
All cruise nights are weather permitting. Check our Facebook Page for changes.
PLEASE NO HOTRODDING OR ALCOHOL PERMITTED AT OUR CRUISE EVENTS!
Please be mindful of our neighbors here in Emmaus!

Were you kind to rewind?

Time for a mammogram.

No matter the era, this is your friendly
reminder to schedule your annual
mammogram at LVHN.org/mammo.



Grass, Weed & Tree Trimming Regulations

During the year, especially as the growing season begins, the Borough receives complaints regarding the lack of property maintenance and uncut grass. As a reminder, a property owner is responsible for the property from the **front curbline to the rear curbline**. Please help keep our community beautiful by cutting and/or removing the weeds at your curb.

The Borough of Emmaus Ordinance 675, Chapter 10, Part 3, Section 301, states that weeds and grass may not exceed 6" in height. After given proper notification by way of a door hanger or a certified letter, and failure to cut the grass and/or weeds within the allotted time frame of notification, the property owner may be subject to a fine of up to \$300 per offense per day, together with costs for removing, spraying, trimming, or cutting by the Borough or its contractor. A delinquent property owner is also responsible for associated costs, plus administrative and legal fees as permitted by law.

The Borough of Emmaus Ordinance 675, Chapter 25, Part 1, Section 103, requires that any tree on private property or along the streets or alleys must have a clear height of 14 feet over the street and 10 feet over the sidewalk. Also, any trees, shrubs or hedges located in the clear sight triangle cannot exceed 2 feet above grade. After given proper notification by way of a door hanger, or a certified letter, and failure to trim overgrown trees within the allotted time frame of notification, the property owner may be subject to a fine of up to \$300 per offense per day, together with costs of trimming by the Borough or its contractor. A delinquent property owner is also responsible for associated costs, plus administrative and legal fees as permitted by law.

The Borough appreciates the phone calls that are received concerning property maintenance issues, however, in order to serve our residents properly, we ask that a return phone number is given for follow-up. You can also report a complaint via the Borough's website at www.emmauspa.gov. On the home page, click on How Do I, then click on Report a Concern/Issue.



Smart911 Rave Alert System

The Borough of Emmaus uses Smart911 Rave Alert System for its auto dial announcements. Smart911 is a free, private, and secure portal that currently services over 31 million users. By opting into Smart911, you can provide the Borough with your information and choose to receive auto dial announcements via text, email, telephone, or all three. All Borough residents are encouraged to create a profile now with Smart911 at www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=PABoroughOfEmmausPW to provide the Borough with up-to-date information or visit the Borough's website to register. After you have registered, you can visit www.smart911.com to access, update, or change any of your personal information. Have you gotten rid of your landline? If you have any changes to your phone numbers, you can update the information yourself or you can call the water/sewer billing department at 610-965-9231 or email tpohlmann@emmauspa.gov or pweiant@emmauspa.gov.



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Spring 2025

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-Keshua Breidinger

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