# Borough of Beaver

469 THIRD STREET, BEAVER, PA 15009

(724) 773-6700

beaverpa.us

www.beaverpa.us September 2010

### Community Garden a Success

When Mike and Rebekah Sabo read about the new community garden in the spring Beaver Borough newsletter, they thought it would be a fun family activity. But according to Mike, that wasn't their only motive. "We were also hoping that the kids would be more interested in eating the vegetables if they grew them themselves!"

Twenty-five individuals took part in this pilot garden project down beside the water treatment plant. The Sabos cultivated one of the 13 available plots, each 500-square-feet in size, which were available to residents for a \$15 fee.

Mike says his family planted a variety of vegetables including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, squash, eggplant, and onions, and everything turned out well. "We've grown tons of tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers," he says.

The Sabo's daughter, Miah, 4 (pictured at right), and their son, Barry Kuhn, 12, both enjoyed working on the garden, too. Mike says Miah enjoys pulling weeds and picking the veggies. "She enjoys watering the most," he adds.

The community garden is the Sabo family's first shot at a vegetable garden, and it hasn't been without its challenges. "The biggest problem has been the invasion of the groundhogs," says Mike. "They are getting to eat more of the veggies than we do!"

All in all, Mike says that the garden has been a wonderful activity for his family. "With our hectic lifestyles today, every minute of time together is a treasure. Plus, we've had the opportunity to meet and work together with several people from our community. I think it's been a big success."



In the future, Mike hopes that the gardening area can be expanded so that even more families can participate.

For information on future community garden opportunities, contact the Borough at (724) 773-6700.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- September 18 Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County 5K Run/Walk, 7 a.m., Irvine Square Gazebo
- **September 24** Beaver Area Heritage Foundation "Beaver Tales," 7 p.m., Gazebo
- October 2 American Heart Association Heart Walk, 6:30 a.m., Gazebo
- October 2 BHS Homecoming Concert, Beaver Bopcat Alumni Band, 4 p.m., Gazebo
- October 23 Beaver Area Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- October 27 Halloween Parade, 6 p.m.
- October 28 Trick or Treat, 6-8 p.m.
- **November 11** Veterans Day Parade, Third Street, 10:30 a.m.
- November 26 Light-Up Night, Santa 6 p.m., Program 6:30 p.m.

These events are brought to you by the Borough of Beaver, Beaver Area Chamber of Commerce, Beaver Fire Dept. and the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation.

### **Leaf Collection**

Fall will be here before you know it. After the trees have changed color and provided us with all the beauty of the season, you can help us with leaf collection and removal.

Leaf collection will begin around **October 18** and end approximately **December 3**. Leaves are picked up each week according to the normal no parking schedule. If you rake your leaves into the street before then, please rake them away from the curb to keep the gutters clean.

As always, your patience is appreciated. We can't always clean the scheduled streets each week, but we will get them before the end of the collection period. Thank you!



## **Borough Notes**

#### Be Heard and Informed

Please remember that citizen concerns can be addressed via the Borough website (beaverpa.us). If you are unable to attend council meetings, the minutes from each meeting are also available on the website. In addition, the open records law permits citizens to view most Borough records and receive a copy of such for a small fee.

#### **Pets and Licenses**

All dog owners must acquire licenses for their pets. Licenses are available at the Beaver County Courthouse, in the Treasurer's Office ((724) 728-5700, ext. 11226). Dogs must be kept on a leash or within a fenced-in yard while outside. While walking your pet in the Borough, it is your responsibility to clean up any droppings. Violators are subject to a \$300 fine.

#### **Audit Info**

The 2009 Borough audit is available at the library and borough building for public inspection. The 2011 budgeting process has begun, and the preliminary budget will also be available for public inspection. These, as well as other public documents, are available upon request for a nominal fee as per the Open Records Law.

#### **Property Maintenance**

Beaver takes great pride in its clean, well-kept, and inviting appearance. All property owners are encouraged to keep their homes and property properly maintained (i.e., hedges trimmed, grass cut, no outside storage of building materials, etc.). Thanks for helping to keep Beaver beautiful!

#### **Street Parking and Snow Removal**

In order to allow us to conduct an effective weekly street sweeping and snow-removal program, please pay attention to the street signage throughout the town. In addition, please keep all fire hydrants clear of snow. The fire department recommends a 3-foot clearance around the hydrants. Thanks for helping to keep all residents safe!

#### **Yard Waste**

Beaver Borough offers its residents a yard-waste disposal facility along the Ohio River. This facility is for the disposal of yard waste only, such as grass, weeds, and branches. An access road to the facility is located at the corner of Beaver Street and River Road. Residents wishing to use the facility must purchase an annual dumping permit at the Borough Building for \$10. The facility is available to residents only—no contractors.

# Beaver's Zoning Ordinance

Although it plays an important part in determining what kind of a town we live in, you may only think about what a zoning ordinance means when it impacts your property or quality of life in some way.

A zoning ordinance is a law consisting of a map indicating the location of various zoning districts — residential, commercial, central business, etc. It also states the zoning regulations, describing what uses are permitted in each zoning district, including standards for the physical layout of buildings, parking, signs, setbacks, side-yards, or other physical structures on the land.

These kinds of zoning regulations make a significant impact in guiding the community that Beaver is today. Although at times the regulations may seem restrictive, the goal is to carry out the objectives of a community plan by guiding appropriate development, supporting a harmonious living environment, and help maintaining property values.

In July, Borough Council hired a professional planning consultant firm, Olsen Associates of Butler, to assist our Planning Commission in finishing a complete update of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. The current ordinance was adopted over 20 years ago, and the newly updated ordinance has been developed to be consistent with the Borough's Comprehensive Plan. It is anticipated that the draft ordinance will be readied for public comment during at least one public hearing this winter, before being considered for adoption by the Council.

Residents can now access Borough ordinances online at www.beaverpa.us. The draft ordinance and public meeting notice will be posted on the Borough website, so please watch the site for further information.

(The Planning Commission meets the third Monday of each month at the Borough Building.)

The Beaver Borough newsletter is published by the Education and Special Services Committee of Beaver Borough Council:

John Wolbert (Chair), Michael Deelo, Michael Lacey

Editor: Valentine J. Brkich (www.valentinebrkich.com)

# Manager's Message

2010 has brought us plenty of excitement. The record-breaking snow storms in February challenged us as a community. Our Public Works employees worked long days to clear the streets so that our daily lives could continue with little disruption. I thank the Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department and you, our residents, for meeting and overcoming this great challenge. When winter hits us later this year, continue to help your neighbors who are in need and show everyone why we are truly someplace special.

In order to continue providing the services you need for years to come, the Borough has made significant investments in purchasing a new backhoe, front loader, dump truck, pick-up truck, police car, and skid steer. Beaver Borough thanks



Representative Jim Christiana for securing us a \$37,000 grant for the skid steer and a \$13,000 grant to support our K-9 Unit.

We have also been working on a feasibility study to assess the need for upgrades and improvements at our community pool, as well as the need for recreation enhancements that could be provided in a multi-purpose indoor recreation facility.

As Borough manager, I am committed to providing the services you need and desire. Please call us if there is anything we can do to improve your community living in Beaver Borough.

Sincerely, John Barrett

### Chamber Unveils New Website

The Beaver Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) is proud to announce the launch of its updated website:



www.beaverareachamber.com

Browse our local business directory, check out current details on all of our events and even sign up for the Chamber e-Newsletter. Check it out today!

And don't forget to become of fan of the BACC Facebook page.



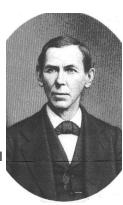
# A Respectful Community

As proud residents of Beaver Borough, we all have a responsibility to our neighbors and community to make every effort possible to maintain our properties. Sometimes it's the little things that make a difference, like cutting your grass, keeping weeds from growing in your sidewalk, raking yard waste, etc. But sometimes it takes a major investment, like painting your house, replacing your sidewalk, or tearing down an old garage.

All of these are important, and we need to respect the rights of others to live in a clean and well-maintained community. By doing so, everyone respects you as a responsible community member.

### History Corner — John F. Dravo

John F. Dravo was born in West Newton, Pa., on Oct. 29, 1819. While still a young man, he moved to McKeesport, where he entered the coalmining and shipping industry. In 1868, he got involved in the manufacture of coke and established large plants at Connellsville. Dravo also organized and became general manager and treasurer of the Pittsburg[h] Gas, Coal and Coke Company. He also planned and founded the town of Dravosburg, Pa.



Dravo was a vocal activist for river improvement, the temperance movement, and the abolition of slavery. He was also one of the organizers of the first Republican Convention, held at Pittsburgh's Lafayette Hall in February 1854.

In 1881, Dravo was appointed Collector and Surveyor of the Port of Pittsburgh by U.S. President Garfield, a position he held for four years. In 1884, he was named president of the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh. Then, in 1886, he was elected to the PA State legislature, where he introduced the Constitutional Prohibitory Amendment.

In addition to being a Trustee of Allegheny College and president of Beaver Female College, Dravo was also one of the main organizers of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad.

On November 23, 1843, Dravo married Eliza Jane Clark. Together, they had ten children. In 1868, the family moved to Beaver and purchased a home on First Street (now River Road). This home was destroyed by fire in 1891 but was replaced by a large stone and brick home, which still stands today on the southwest corner of Dravo Avenue and River Road.

(Sources: All Sorts of Pittsburgers Sketched in Prose and Verse (1892) by Arthur Burgoyne; BOOK OF BIOGRAPHIES (1899), Biographical Publishing Company.)

### VFD News

#### beavervfd.org

#### Meet the Fire Chief

### — John R. Grosskopf

John R. Grosskopf is a 1985 graduate of Beaver Area Senior High. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps (1985–1989), John joined the Beaver Volunteer Fire Department in October 1989. In February 1991, he was called back to active duty for Operation Desert Storm. He became Fire Chief in January 2007.

"The Beaver Volunteer Fire Department is committed to providing the highest quality of emergency and non-emergency response to the community," says Grosskopf. He adds that the members of the department are proud of the long tradition of excellence in serving the community, and all are focused on continuing

to raise the level of service in ways to better serve the residents and visitors of Beaver.

"I realize that change does not always come as rapidly as we would like, but together we can make positive improvements for the betterment of the department and for the people of Beaver."

John has been employed at BASF Corp. for 20 years as a Shift Coordinator. He is married to Rebecca Durham of Newport, N.C., and they have two daughters, Alexa and Rachel.

For more information on the Beaver Volunteer Fire Department and its services, visit **www.beavervfd.org**.



### **Police Blotter**

The Citizens' Police Academy (CPA) will begin new classes on **September 13**. CPA classes offer insight into how police officers perform their duties and how the department serves the community. The 10-week series consists of one 3-hour class held each week from 6–9 p.m. Certified police officers, supervisors, and civilian instructors with particular expertise will conduct each topic.

#### **Requirements of Participation**

- Minimum 18 years of age
- No felony convictions
- No misdemeanor convictions within one year of application
- Applicants must agree to a criminal background check (no charge)

Applications are available at the Beaver Police Department, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Complete information is available on the application forms. For questions, please call (724) 773-6709.

#### Meet the Police Chief

#### - Dan Madgar

Daniel L. Madgar attended Beaver High School and is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps (1986-1990). After attending the Allegheny County Police Academy, he joined the Beaver Police Department in 1990 as a patrolman. He also graduated from LaRoche College's FBI National Academy Class 214 in 2002. Madgar acted as Sergeant from 1997-2007 and became Beaver's Police Chief in 2007.

Madgar was instrumental in starting the Beaver/Vanport Citizen's Police Academy, which holds classes for the public to gain an understanding of the daily operations of the police department.

"We feel the overall mission of the police department has been successful in deterring crime," says Madgar. "I also believe many major issues have been resolved in Beaver due to the commitment of our men and women, as well as through the support of the community."

#### beaverpolice.us



Madgar and his wife, Eileen, have three children.

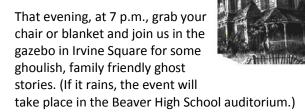
Chief Madgar welcomes any input from the community. He can be reached by calling the Beaver Police Department at (724) 773-6709, or by e-mail at dmadgar@comcast.net.

#### **Special Thanks**

Thank you to Mel Bundy and his committee of the Citizens' Police Academy for maintaining the beautiful flower plantings at the Police Memorial located near the courthouse.

# Beaver Tales and Ghost Stories

The second annual "Beaver Tales" storytelling event will take place on Friday, **September 24**, as nationally known tellers share their craft and delight audiences at our area schools.



For more information, contact Shirley Pow at powshirley@aol.com or Sue Kaufman at luciensnanny@verizon.net.



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16** 

Beaver Area Senior High School

Come see bands from all over Beaver County and the Pittsburgh region compete in this high energy battle of the bands.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association's website at www.pimba.org.





Residents can now receive important advisories, community updates, and official information by text message and email! Agencies near you are already publishing! Sign up and learn more at www.nixle.com

## **Business District Update**

#### **Keep Our Borough Beautiful**

The next litter clean up will be on **Saturday, Oct. 16**. If you'd like to lend a hand, meet us at Cafe Kolache at 9 a.m. sharp. No experience necessary! Gloves, bags, and vests will be provided. <u>Please remember</u>: Cigarette butts are litter. The dirt around the trees on 3rd Street is for flowers, *not ashtrays*. Please dispose of your cigarette butt in the designated receptacles located along the street. Thank you.

#### **Special Recognition**

The Beaver Business District Authority has chosen A Cook's Wares, at 485 Third Street, as its 3rd Quarter Downtown Recognition recipient for 2010. Owned by Gail Bitar, A Cook's Wares offers various cooking classes at \$30 per class. For more, call (724) 775-7915 or visit www.cookswares.com.

#### Welcome to Our New Businesses!

#### Biba – Latin Inspired Cuisine

406 Third Street; Jason Benegasi, owner; (724) 728-7700

#### SMC Consulting, LLC

379 Insurance Street; (724) 728-8625

#### Pilates on Third

486 Third Street; Tonya O'Brien, owner; (724) 709-8614; www.pilateson3rd.com

#### Smithcraft Signs and Awards

489 Third Street; Paul King, owner; (724) 775-5848

For more on what's going on downtown, contact Town Center Associates at (724) 728-0500, or visit www.towncenter.info. To subscribe to the *Third Street Focus*, visit www.beavercountymainstreets.com and click on "Beaver."

## Library Happenings

The Beaver Area Memorial Library will be hosting a fundraiser on **Saturday, Oct. 23**, at 6:30 p.m. **HeART and Home** will feature original artwork for the home by local artists. Pieces will include painted chairs, small furniture, mirrors, and more. Baskets will also be raffled off. This special evening will also include two boutiques—one with jewelry and evening wear, the other with handmade knitted items made by the Chix and Stix knitting group. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Appetizers, champagne punch, and a coffee bar are included in the ticket cost.

Please support your local library. It's a wonderful community resource.

For more information, visit www.beaverlibraries.org.

### **Council Highlights**

Beaver Borough is continuing to move towards setting a final closing date for the sale and acquisition of the old 9-1-1 call center (the old train station). All the inspection contingencies of the agreement have been completed, a title search has been done, and a letter was sent to the county informing them that the Borough is prepared to move towards the closing.

The acquisition team, headed by Mayor Hamilton; Joe Zagorski, President of Council; Mike Lacey, Vice President of Council; and Councilman Dan Deceder, along with Midge Sefton; Bob Smith, master archivist; Dick Shaw, Chuck Copeland, Bob Rice, and Dan Martone, all from the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation (BAHF), have been working diligently and selflessly to give the community the opportunity to restore this historical gem to its original glory. An architect, specializing in historical renovation design, has been engaged and has already begun planning, targeting, and rendering preliminary design drawings.

Meanwhile, other experienced team members are working to make sure renovations are as "green" and efficient as possible. BAHF will be looking for volunteers to help with general clean-up, fix-up, and painting, once title is

transferred. We certainly welcome anyone with who wishes to offer their special talents to this important project.

"Beaver Borough would like to recognize the County's diligent stewardship of the property while it was under their ownership as the 911 call center," says Councilman Dan Deceder. "We would also like to thank the County for recognizing the Borough as the logical trustee to preserve this historical piece of property and giving us first crack at it. We will not let you down.

"Thanks also to Dick Shaw for his liaison work with the county; Bob Rice and the CED for their assistance in securing a matching grant for use toward the acquisition and project planning; the Penn State Beaver Master Gardeners for their work on the landscaping; and, of course, Beaver Borough Council for their support."

#### **Recently Adopted Policies**

Over the past several months Council has adopted the following policies to assist in smoother and more efficient operations within the Borough. Some have been initiated as a result of our recent audit reports:

- Whistle Blower Policy
- Hiring Policy: Non-Uniform Personnel

- Anti-Fraud Policy
- Interim Financial Policy
- Hiring Policy: Police Officer (Uniform) Personnel
- Signature Stamp Policy
- Petty Cash Fund Policy

A "Beaver Municipal Pool Operation and Maintenance Manual" and a "Non Uniform Employee Handbook" have also been instituted.

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, September 14.

### Did You Know?

Most people think the caboose is where conductors stayed. In reality,



the caboose housed the oil tanks that fueled the furnaces that heated the passenger cars. Many train stations had oil storage tanks (often buried) on site to refill the tanks during stopovers.

(Information courtesy of Jim Nairn, CEO of CEC Environmental, who did the environmental study on the station site.)

### The Bobcat Players

The Bobcat Players, Beaver Area's community theater group, will return to the comedy genius of Neil Simon for their fall production of "The Sunshine Boys," Sept. 16–18 and 24–25 in the Ed Schaughnecy Theater of Beaver Area Middle-High School. Curtain time for all performances is 7:30 p.m. The show will open on a Thursday of the first week, with Friday and Saturday performances for two weekends.

"The Sunshine Boys" tells the tale of a pair of ex-vaudevillians who have not worked together for 11 years and are then reunited for a television special.

Their long-standing rivalry produces a series of humorous one-liners and scenes as the pair continue their attempts to out-do each other.

Beaver Area resident Keith Zagorski will direct a cast that includes Franklin Myers, Bob Wiltman, Hugh Harper, Michelle Morris-Donner, Heather Bixler, and John Stepanian among others. Pat Depenhart will serve as assistant director, with Patty Hamilton as stage manager and Donna Glaab as technical director.



Tickets are available at The Hostess Shoppe in Beaver. Advance purchase is recommended. Seating is limited to 144. For more information, visit www.bobcatplayers.com.

## Recycling Info

Recycling helps to preserve our planet's resources. Beaver prides itself in being an environmentally friendly town. That's why we offer an easy-to-use recycling program.



#### **Recycling Pick-Up Dates**

1st Monday of the month: *River Rd. to south of Third St.* 2nd Monday of the month: *North of Third St. up to 7th St.* 

#### **Preparing Your Recyclables**

Glass – Clear, Brown, and Green Bottles and Jars — Rinse, remove Styrofoam labels, metal lids, and rings. Do not break glass. Do not include auto glass, light bulbs, porcelain, ceramic, plate glass, or crystal.

<u>Plastic Bottles and Jugs Only</u> — Rinse thoroughly, remove caps. Flatten to save space. Containers must have the three-arrow recycling logo, with the numbers 1 or 2 inside it. Containers that originally held motor oil, antifreeze, or other chemicals are not recyclable. No plastic bags or buckets.

Aluminum, Bi-Metal, & Tin Food and Beverage Containers, and Aluminum Foil — Rinse thoroughly, crush cans. Place in blue recycling container.

Your recycling container is to be used for <u>recycling only</u>. Please recover your recycling container promptly after collection. Note: *The recycling container remains the property of Beaver Borough and must remain at the residence if you move.* 

# Preventing Storm-Water Runoff - 10 things you can do

- 1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep driveways, sidewalks, and roads
- 2. Never dump anything down storm drains
- 3. Plant the bare spots in your yard
- 4. Compost your yard waste
- Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management
- 6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- 7. Use the car wash instead of washing your car in the driveway
- 8. Check your car for leaks, and recycle motor oil
- 9. Pick up after your pet
- 10. Have your septic tank pumped and inspected regularly

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/nps or www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater.

# **Veterans Day Parade**

This year, Beaver Borough will be hosting Beaver County's annual Veterans Day Parade.

WHEN: November 11, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. WHERE: Third Street (from Beaver St. to Buffalo St.)

Please call the Beaver Police Department at (724) 773-6709, with any questions.

### Post Office Rededication

On August 26, Beaver's office of the U.S. Postal Service, located at 777 Corporation Street, was officially renamed the "Robert Linn Memorial Post Office Building." This was to honor the late Robert Lynn (1908-2004), who with 58 years of service, was, at the time, the longest-serving mayor in the United States. A dedication ceremony was held at the gazebo in Irvine Square.

### Ft. Mac Makeover

Visitors and passers-by may be wondering what is taking place with the Fort McIntosh site on River Road. The answer is that an important facelifting is underway in two areas.



First, this important historical site is getting a new and impressive entrance sign, replacing the original 30-year-old sign near the corner of River Road and Market Street. The new sign will present a small-scale structure of logs and stone, symbolic of the materials and design used in the original construction of the fort 235 years ago. This will be erected on a small plaza facing River Road that replicates the actual outline of Fort McIntosh.

Second, the two cannons that have occupied positions within the area of the actual site have been removed for rebuilding. The larger of the two will be relocated to the new plaza area as part of the new site identification; the other smaller cannon will be employed only for firing at field demonstrations. Construction of the plaza is expected to be completed by early fall, and replacement of the cannons will occur soon thereafter.

The new plaza and sign structure are gifts of Mr. Thomas Bryan, owner and operator of the nearby Ohio River dredging operation, as a good-will contribution to the people of Beaver. Rebuilding of the cannons is being funded at no cost to the Borough by the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation.

### Borough of Beaver

469 Third Street Beaver, PA 15009

#### BULK RATE U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 297 BEAVER, pa 15009

## Stay Informed

The Beaver Borough newsletter is also available in electronic format. If you'd like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, as well as regular alerts about Borough news and events, please sign up at:

www.beaverpa.us

### Call for News

The Beaver Borough Newsletter is a great way to share good news with your neighbors. If you have information about an upcoming non-profit or charitable event that you'd like to promote, please e-mail it to Valentine Brkich at valbrkich@gmail.com.

Next issue: January 2011

Submission deadline: Nov. 19, 2010

# **Know Your Borough Leadership**

#### **Council Committees and Chairs**

General Government—Kay Nestor
Water and Sewage—Michael Deelo
Education and Special Services—John Wolbert
Emergency and Recreation Services—Shirley Sayers
Finance—Lauson Cashdollar
Highway and Equipment Purchases—Alexander Andreas
Policies, Procedures, and Zoning Enforcement—Dan Deceder
Wage and Personnel—Michael Lacey

#### **Borough Office:**

469 Third Street (724) 773-6700

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### **Beaver Borough Council Members**

Joe Zagorski, President of Council – Ward 1
Michael Lacey, VP of Council – Ward 1
John Wolbert – Ward 1
Kathryn Nestor – Ward 2
J. Lauson Cashdollar – Ward 2
Alexander Andreas – Ward 2
Daniel Deceder – Ward 3

Shirley Sayers – Ward 3 Michael Deelo – Ward 3

Mayor Thomas Hamilton (724) 773-6701 Manager John Barrett (724) 773-6700 Solicitor John Petrush (724) 775-8600

**Meetings** (held in the Beaver Municipal Building, 469 3rd Street)

- Beaver Council, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
- Shade Tree Commission, 4th Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Municipal Bldg.
- Planning Commission, 3rd Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Municipal Bldg.
- Business District Authority, 4th Wednesday of the month,
   8:30 a.m., Municipal Bldg.

Please welcome the newest member of Borough Council:

#### **Alexander Andreas**

Andreas is filling the seat of Art Robb (Ward 2) who resigned.