

Family Matters —The Beaver County Genealogy and History Center



Tucked away in the old county 911 center “bunker”, and connected to the newly renovated Beaver Station, the Beaver County Genealogy and History Center is truly Beaver County’s best kept secret.

“People don’t even know where we are,” says Alice Kern, president of the center’s board of directors. “But once they find us, they keep coming back, again and again.”

The Beaver County Genealogy and History Center provides an archival site for study, reference, research and preservation of Beaver County documents and books, both historical and genealogical.

“People come to us looking for their roots, their family roots,” says Kern. “We’ve had visitors from all over—Canada, Alaska, you name it. They want to come back to Beaver County, where their family originated.”

Kern first became intrigued with genealogy back in the 1990s, when she was working on her own family’s and stopped by the center’s old location in the Carnegie Library in Beaver Falls. There she discovered the center’s huge collection of census records on microfilm. “I was hooked,” she says. “Now I can trace my family roots all the way back to the

1600s, to people who came here with William Penn. It’s been an incredible journey.”

The genealogy center has more than just family records. It also has a huge collection of county history books, obituary records, maps, and vital records. It also has yearbooks from all county school districts, even ones that don’t exist anymore like Monaca and St. Veronica’s; the earliest ones they have are from Beaver in the late 1890s.

Some of the most valuable research resources the center has are the county property tax records, which were saved from a fiery fate years ago by Beaver’s own Helen Clear. “The records were being stored in the old jail,” says Kern, “and they were going to be burnt. Someone told Helen, however, and she offered to store the tax booklets — over 2,000 of them, going all the way back to 1803 — in her basement in order to save them from oblivion. Eventually she donated them to us, we had them photocopied, and now the records are available to the public.”

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 18 – 3rd Thursday on Third, 3rd Street, Stores Open Late

March 5 – Lunch at the Library, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Beaver Area Memorial Library

March 17 – 3rd Thursday on Third, 3rd Street, Stores Open Late

March 19 – BACC Bunny Hop, 10 a.m. to noon, downtown Beaver

April 21 – 3rd Thursday on Third, 3rd Street, Stores Open Late

April 30 – Arbor Day Celebration, 10 a.m., Gazebo

May 14 – Beaver Town Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (no permit needed)

May 19 – 3rd Thursday on Third, 3rd Street, Stores Open Late

May 21 – Spring Clean-up (River side - South of 3rd Street)

May 30 – Memorial Day Parade, 10:30 a.m., Beaver Area Heritage Foundation (BAHF)

May 28 – Beaver VFD and Heritage Valley Health System 5K/10K Race, 9 a.m.

June 4 – Spring Clean-up (Hill side - North of 3rd Street.)

June 11 – Garrison Day Show and Sale





Today the genealogy center serves close to 3,000 people each year, helping them discover their family's roots and in other area's of Beaver County research.

"We're really very lucky to have a place like this here," says Kern. "All of this information, in one place—it's really a treasure."

The Beaver County Genealogy and History Center is located next to Beaver Station at 250 East End Avenue. The entrance is underground on the Third Street side. Just follow the walkway and the signs. Winter hours (through April 4) are Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (weather permitting). You can support



the center by becoming a member for just \$20 per year. For more information, call 724-775-1775 or email beavercountyresearch@yahoo.com.



Recycling Info

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. No auto glass, light bulbs, porcelain, ceramic, plate glass, or crystal.

Plastic Bottles and Jugs Only — Rinse thoroughly, remove caps. Flatten to save space. Containers must have the three-arrow recycling logo, with the number 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 recycling only. 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.

Annual Litter Pick-up Day — April 23

Please join us for our annual Litter Pick-up Day on April 23, Volunteers will meet at Café Kolache on Third Street at 9 a.m. We will 'redd up' all the litter-filled entrances and exits of Beaver, including: Rt. 376, Rt. 68, and Leopard Lane. These spots are the first and last impressions visitors have of our town—let's make sure we give a good first impression! PennDot will supply safety vests, gloves, and trash bags. Come and bring a friend or two. For more information, please email Mary Anne at maryannepeluso@comcast.net.

History Corner — Pisquetomen

If you're from the Beaver area, you may have heard of Tamaqua, aka "King Beaver", and his notorious brother Shingas. But very few know about their older brother Pisquetomen, who played a huge role in the French and Indian War.

Prior to moving to what today is western Pennsylvania from the Susquehanna River valley, Pisquetomen served as sort of an apprentice under his uncle Sasoonan, head chief of the Unami tribe of the Delaware. When Sasoonan died in 1747, Pisquetomen was actually to be his successor. However, Pisquetomen was intelligent, strong-willed, spoke fluent English, and was not easily manipulated. He also had a bad temper. During the Seven Years' War, aka the French & Indian War, between 1754-1763, it was written that Pisquetomen "was given to violent fits of temper made worse by the effects of liquor, literally beating captives into the dirt, people who, he believed, threatened to spurn offers of adoption and good treatment by the further betrayal of running away." Therefore the Pennsylvania officials, who wanted to deal with someone who would be easier to manipulate in achieving their goals, refused to recognize him as "king", and instead chose to raise up his brother Shingas.

Pisquetomen, however, would end up playing a vital role in British-Delaware diplomacy during the French and Indian War.

In 1758, when British General John Forbes was launching his major expedition across



Beaver is known as 'King Beaver's Town', as noted in this sign along Third Street. But Pisquetomen also played a big role in our town's history."

Pennsylvania to hopefully defeat the French at Fort Duquesne, he knew he will need the help of the Indians in order to do so, or at least get them to stand aside.

As a result, Gov. William Denny sent Christian Frederick Post, a Moravian missionary, on several missions to the Delaware Indian lands to see if he could get them to cut their ties with the French and, therefore, open up the way for Forbes.

Post set out from Philadelphia on July 15, 1758, to go to the Delaware towns and gain the favor of the Indians for the British with Pisquetomen as his guide. Despite the danger they faced both from the French and other Indians, Pisquetomen would end up leading Post across the Pennsylvania wilderness multiple times, allowing the missionary to achieve his goal of getting the Delaware to join the side of the British and, effectively, signal the end of the French empire in America.

Pisquetomen is believed to have died around 1762.

Lunch at the Library

Beaver Area Memorial Library's annual soup luncheon will be held on **Saturday, March 5**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dine in the library's community room or get some soup for take-out after 1 pm.

Menu: Soup and bread \$3.00; desserts \$3.00; beverages 50 cents.

This annual event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Call 724-775-1132 for more information. Come join us for delicious soup with friends and neighbors!



Borough Facility Rentals

The Beaver Borough Community Room, Shaw Park Pavilion, and Gazebo are now all available for rental to the community. Reservation forms can be found at www.beverpa.us. Reservations are based on a first-come, first-served basis, and the fee is due at the time of reservation. All reservations must be made in person at the Borough building at 469 Third Street.

To reserve the Community Room, contact the Police Department at 724-773-6702.

To reserve the Gazebo and/or Pavilion, contact the Borough Office at 724-773-6700.





New Flowering Tree Program

The Beaver Tree Commission (BTC) is interested in adding spring color to the central parks and the park along River Road. In order to implement that goal, in early 2016 BTC will begin a program to plant flowering trees in the most visible spots in these parks. These trees and other nonflowering trees will be available as a part of the successful memorial tree program at a cost of approximately \$200 each, with an additional cost for an accompanying commemorative plaque.

Planting schemes will be reviewed by BTC, and a certified arborist, George Kauffman (724-774-6980) has volunteered

to focus his efforts on the flowering trees part of the BTC's replanting program. All those interested in a flowering tree should contact George; those interested in any other memorial tree planting in the spring of 2016 should contact the BTC, which meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 469 Third Street, Beaver.

BTC wishes to acknowledge all those Beaver residents who have agreed during the past months to replant replacement trees on their properties where diseased or dead trees have been removed per the BTC permitting program. It is only with these citizens' efforts that BTC can continue to have our community recognized as a Tree City, USA.



Beaver Station Open for Business

Following a \$2.7-million-dollar renovation project, the former 1897 P&LE Train Station, aka Beaver Station, is now available for community use.

The waiting room has been returned to its original grandeur and transformed into the elegant

2,500 sq. ft. 1897 Event Center. Occupying the station's 6,000-sq.-ft. lower level Cultural Center are the Beaver Area Heritage Museum's ever growing Collections & Research Center, a branch of Sweetwater Center for the Arts, the Beaver County Genealogy & History Center and two multi-use meeting rooms.

Planning an event in 2016? Experience the vintage elegance you'll only find at Beaver Station! Rental inquiries, please contact Leanne Rogowski, Venue Manager, at events@beaverstation.org or (724) 987-8060. Find out more at www.BeverStation.org.

Beaver Alerts

Beaver Alerts allows you to sign up to receive periodic emails that provide timely information on Borough events, programs, and general news of interest, including this quarterly newsletter that you can forward on to friends and relatives. While over 600 households that have already signed up, we encourage you to help us reach the goal of having all 2,000+ Borough households linked electronically to town happenings. Simply provide your email address at www.beverpa.us/government/newsletter.



Help Bring New Businesses to Your Downtown

Promoting your town's available properties is one of the easiest ways to let people know what your town has available and to help link potential businesses or business expansions to locations that will welcome them. You may be able to help bring new businesses to your downtown by simply adding a DowntownProperties.net link to your business' website or community organization website!

DowntownProperties.net has available property listings for sale or lease in all participating Beaver County Main Street Network towns. Please visit DowntownProperties.net and consider linking the site to your own to help spread the word and bring potential new businesses to your downtown!



Beaver County Crime Solvers

Beaver County Crime Solvers is a non-profit organization dedicated to solving crimes in the county. Since 1981 the organization has helped to solve hundreds of crimes. When a crime goes unsolved for any amount of time, local police departments contact Crime Solvers to help generate new leads. The organization aids local law enforcement by providing a confidential portal for citizens to report crimes.

Anyone who provides information leading to an arrest (not a conviction) in an unsolved crime will receive a monetary award. Callers are issued an I.D. number and DO NOT give their names or phone numbers, nor do they testify in court. All calls are kept completely confidential and are never recorded.

If you have information that can help solve a crime in Beaver County, please call Beaver County Crime Solvers' 24-hour anonymous tip line at 724-774-2000.

Night-Time Street Maintenance

For the safety and convenience of our residents, Beaver Police Department will suspend night-time parking enforcement from December until March 1, 2016 for all streets excluding Third Street.

What is the Citizens Police Academy?

Have you ever been stopped by the police or gotten a ticket? How angry were you? Did you ever think, "I hope they get their quota!" or something similar? Well, if you have ever thought that way, please consider signing up for the Citizens Police Academy, offered by the Beaver Police Department.

The Citizens Police Academy is taught by professional and friendly officers who are highly trained and skilled in their jobs. You will learn about things like traffic stops—how they are conducted, and what the officer sees and feels when he walks up to your vehicle, etc. Imagine being on a dark road at night and walking up to a car, not knowing what to expect. Is the driver going to be nice? Is he or she going to flip out at the officer or even try to attack or kill him? This is just one part of a police officer's job every day they report to work.

In the academy you will learn about...

- The history of policing
- Drugs and drug cases
- Online threats
- What you can do to keep your kids safe while online
- Guns and ammunition
- Taking fingerprints and how they're used

- The truth behind those popular CSI shows

You will also get to talk with a judge, the District Attorney, and the director of the 911 Emergency Management Center, who will visit the class. Later you will even get a chance to visit the center yourself. This is also your chance to visit the Beaver County Jail (without being in handcuffs!).

Police officers are people. They have lives and families. They go to Little League games. They eat in the same restaurants and worship in the same churches as we do. They also do a job that would be totally unnecessary if we all lived the way we should. Come learn about all the great work they do for our communities.

The Citizens Police Academy is a 10-week program that meets one day a week from 6-9 p.m. It is totally free and paid for through funds recovered from drug busts. Classes start March 14.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age, have no felony convictions, and have no misdemeanor convictions within one year of application. Applicants must also agree to criminal background check (no charge). Please stop by the Beaver Borough Police Station to pick up your application.





Beaver County's Swift911 Notification System

System Swift911 is a high-speed Emergency Notification System that alerts residents to emergency situations like severe storm warnings, evacuations and more in the local area. The program has the capability of delivering messages to the entire County via telephone, cell phone, email, text message and social media sites. Some phone numbers are not in the system and residents are encouraged to update their information and contact preferences,

or add phone numbers, cell phones and email addresses.

To register your information go to www.beavercountypa.gov and click on the SWIFT 911 banner on the right-hand side. You can also text "SWIFT911" to 99538 to customize your information.

Registering through the Swift911 web portal ensures that residents have access to the most immediate notice of an emergency in their area.

Emergency Management Agency

The Beaver Borough Emergency Management Agency is responsible for maintaining the Borough Emergency Operations Plan. The Emergency Operations Center, located in the basement of the Borough Building and manned by a mostly volunteer staff, is activated in times of man-made or natural disasters. The main goal of the EMA is the protection of the citizens of Beaver in times of disaster. For more

information, contact Dave Linkimer at 724-773-6700 or beaverboroema@gmail.com.

PLEASE CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES.

- 911 Non-Emergency Number: 724-775-0880
- Beaver Police: 724-773-6709 (Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
- County Dispatch: 724-775-1550
- Fire Department: 724-773-6713

Spring Planters

Anyone wanting to help with the spring planters and plantings along Third Street in the downtown district, please contact Mary Anne Peluso at maryannepeluso@comcast.net.

Fire Protection

Winter is a time when household fires occur. It is a good time to remember to:

- Buy and install smoke alarms on every floor of your home
 - Test smoke alarms monthly
 - Practice fire drills with your children
 - Install a carbon monoxide detector outside bedrooms
 - Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that could burn, and turn them off when leaving the room or sleeping.
- Source: HealthyChildren.org

Fighting the Winter Blues

Winter can be a difficult time for many who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a form of depression. Fortunately there are many simple things you can do to fight SAD.

- Spend more time outdoors
- Get at least 15 mins. of direct sunlight everyday
- Purchase a light therapy lamp
- Exercise
- Cut back on sugar, flour and other refined foods
- Increase your intake of essential fatty acids (salmon, flaxseed, etc.)
- Daily meditation
- Take a vitamin D supplement

"Cooper" the dog stands at the southwest corner of Third St. and College Ave., paying tribute to the late Bill Cooper, owner of the former Pollock's Typewriter & Office Supply



Winter Safety Tips

Whether winter brings severe storms, light dustings or just cold temperatures, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has some valuable tips on how to keep your children safe and warm.

What to Wear

- Dress infants and children warmly for outdoor activities. Several thin layers will keep them dry and warm. Don't forget warm boots, gloves or mittens, and a hat.
- The rule of thumb for older babies and young children is to dress them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.
- Blankets, quilts, pillows, bumpers, sheepskins and other loose bedding should be kept out of an infant's sleeping environment because they are associated with suffocation deaths and may contribute to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Sleep clothing like one-piece sleepers or wearable blankets is preferred.
- If a blanket must be used to keep a sleeping infant warm, it should be thin and tucked under the crib mattress, reaching only as far as the baby's chest, so the infant's face is less likely to become covered by bedding materials.

Hypothermia

- Hypothermia develops when a child's temperature falls below normal due to exposure to colder temperatures. It often happens when a youngster is playing outdoors in extremely cold weather without wearing proper clothing or when clothes get wet. It can occur more quickly in children than in adults.
- As hypothermia sets in, the child may shiver and become lethargic and clumsy. Speech may become slurred and body temperature will decline in more severe cases.
- If you suspect your child is hypothermic, call 911 at once. Until help arrives, take the child indoors, remove any wet clothing, and wrap him in blankets or warm clothes.

Frostbite

- Frostbite happens when the skin and outer tissues become frozen. This condition tends to happen on extremities like the fingers, toes, ears and nose. They may become pale, gray and blistered. At the same time, the child may complain that his/her skin burns or has become numb.
- If frostbite occurs, bring the child indoors and place the frostbitten parts of her body in warm (not hot) water. 104° Fahrenheit (about the temperature of most hot tubs) is recommended. Warm washcloths may be applied to frostbitten nose, ears and lips.
- Do not rub the frozen areas.
- After a few minutes, dry and cover the child with clothing or blankets. Give him/her something warm to drink.
- If the numbness continues for more than a few minutes, call your doctor.

- Source: HealthyChildren.org

Citizen's Code Enforcement Complaints

—Confidential Complaint Form Available Online

Beaver is ramping up enforcement of its municipal codes relating to the health, safety, and living conditions of its residents. Beaver's administration and Council want citizens to know that they can file formal, written complaints when they see a need to do so. If you see any of the following conditions or others that you believe Beaver should address, please file a written code-enforcement complaint:

- Accumulated Garbage/Debris
- Deteriorated and Unsafe Sidewalks
- Excessive Number of Domestic Animals
- Broken Windows/Missing Doors
- Abandoned, Unlicensed, or Long-term Illegally Parked Vehicles
- High Grass/Untrimmed Bushes or Hedges
- Improper Outdoor Storage
- Rodent Harborage
- Substandard Building or Code Violating Conditions of Buildings

To assist residents submitting such complaints, Beaver Borough is providing complaint forms. Residents can obtain a copy of this complaint form at the Borough Building or by downloading it from Beaver's website at www.beverpa.us. On Beaver's homepage, scroll down to the "Code Enforcement Complaints" section and double click on the "[Form]" link. The Complaint Form will appear in PDF format and is printer friendly. The form provides a checkbox to indicate that you want your information held confidential.

Mail or deliver your complaint form to:

Code Enforcement Officer
Beaver Borough
496 Third Street
Beaver, PA 15009
Or fax it to 724-773-6711

HELP KEEP BEAVER A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITY!

Borough of Beaver
469 Third Street
Beaver, PA 15009

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

BEAVER BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Valentine Brkich, valentinebrkich.com

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Your Borough Leadership

Beaver Borough Council Members

Walter McDermott – Ward 1

James Perini – Ward 1

Patrick Sims – Ward 1

Alexander Andres – Ward 2

Alex Sebastian – Ward 2

Sean Snowden – Ward 2

Daniel Deceder – Ward 3

Michael Deelo – Ward 3

Ron Embaugh – Ward 3

Dan Madgar, **Borough Manager** 724-773-6700

Chuck Copeland, **Director of Operations** 724-773-6700

Mayor Thomas Hamilton 724-773-6701

Solicitor John Petrush 724-775-8600

Borough Office

469 Third Street

724-773-6700

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

Meetings

(All meetings are held in the Beaver Municipal Building, 469 3rd Street. Check beaverpa.us for dates and times.)

- Beaver Council, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Shade Tree Commission, 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Planning Commission, 3rd Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Business District Authority, 4th Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.
- Civil Service Commission (meets as needed)
- Zoning Hearing Board (meets as needed)

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, or if you have an idea for a story, please email it to valbrkich@gmail.com.

Next issue: May Submission deadline: March 18

Stay Informed with Beaver Alerts

Beaver alerts provide timely information on Borough events and news in emails, text messages (if less than 130 characters) as well as voice recordings. If you would like to sign up for the notification system, please send your contact information to beaverborough@comcast.net or call 724-773-6700.