

BOROUGH OF HAMBURG

Berks County, Pennsylvania



SPRING 2023

THE HAMBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Janet Barr



Have you visited us, at our monthly meetings (usually held at the High School) or at our museum at 102 State Street? We are open to the public, free to all, and we love to have visitors. Sometimes we have to apologize for the clutter at our museum because when we organized in 2001 and bought an old stone house, we had no idea how many things local families and businesses would bring to us to help preserve our history! Now we need a larger museum, to do justice to the displays we want to set up, and the information we need to organize and have available for research. Our town and the surrounding area are unique, and their stories should not be lost.

You could say we've become the town's attic, but that would just be part of the picture. Our organization has published a number of excellent books, containing information you won't find anywhere else. Some of those are "best sellers" that have had to be printed again and again. We also inherited 100 years of the bound volumes of *The Hamburg Item*, which is like a time machine when you page through them. We have a library of a great variety of subjects, from the canal and river, manufacturing, the histories of towns and churches around us, all of the high school yearbooks, albums of photos and clippings, memoirs, and a great deal more. We put out a popular Newsletter four times a year, mailed to our members.

We struggle to keep things organized so that we know what we have and where it is, and this task will become so much easier once we have a new and larger museum. Our members believe in this, and have contributed to our building fund, and we hold fund-raisers too, but we'll need the help of the whole community to achieve this. We bought a building lot at 4th and Franklin, unfortunately just before the COVID pandemic hit, bringing things to a halt for a while. But now we are determined to see this new building take



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Official Newsletter

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- 24hr Towing & Recovery
- AAA Preferred Towing Provider
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- PA State Inspections & Emissions
- Tires & Alignments
- A/C Service & Repairs
- General Repairs & Routine Maintenance
- Gas, Diesel, Foreign & Domestic
- ALL Makes & Models

THE BOROUGH OF HAMBURG

Hamburg Municipal Center, 1st Floor

61 North 3rd Street, Hamburg, PA 19526

Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (excluding holidays)

Phone: (610) 562-7821

Borough Council

Council members are vested with the executive and legislative powers of the Borough. They determine municipal policy, enact laws, approve budgets, establish tax rates, and appoint Borough Officials. Council members are elected at large and serve a 4-year term. The Mayor, who is also elected to serve a 4-year term, is in charge of the Police Department and oversees its operations.

Mayor

George Holmes

Council Members

Loralee LaVentura, Council President

Doug Williams, Council Vice President

Steve Levan

Michael Adams

Michael Oswald

Derek Leibensperger

Darin Troutman

THE HAMBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *continued from cover*

shape, despite the high cost of building materials, despite difficult economic times. It's been done before. Our people came through the Depression, wartime, floods, so many difficult times, and kept going. We want to present the Hamburg area with a museum we can be proud of, preserving our unique history. These days that we are living through become history too, you know, and we want to keep track of it all. We need younger members, with their experiences and their energy and ideas.



Our museum is at 102 State Street, open Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 610-488-1817.

Attend our meetings, open to all, with interesting programs on the first Thursday of each month. (when school is open)

Field trips and picnic in summer.

Join our ranks. Dues are only \$25 per year, per family.

Phone - 610-562-3664

Email - historyhamburg@gmail.com

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

What is Emergency Management?

By Keith Brobst, Emergency Management Coordinator

When you hear the term Emergency Management, you may picture someone directing things during a catastrophe or someone on the phone trying to get supplies. While these are possible duties of an Emergency Management Coordinator, they are far from the only duties and far from the norm.

Emergency Management starts long before the emergency exists. There has been planning, along with municipal officials, to deal with problems before they crop up. There have been emergency plans developed to deal with hazards particular to a jurisdiction. Here in North Berks County, our biggest concerns are flooding and winter weather.

With the presence of the interstate, winter weather is always a concern. What do we do if the highway is shut down or people get stranded on the highway? There is a plan for that. What about a chemical spill on the highway? There is a plan for that. The best way to deal with an emergency is to be prepared.

These things are all important, but maybe the most important part of emergency management is the recovery. A state or federal disaster declaration brings with it help for residents and businesses in the form of low-interest loans or possibly grants to help restore properties or, if the damage is bad enough, to rebuild. Your Emergency Management Coordinator's job is to document the damage and work with the county Department of Emergency Services and local officials to secure the assistance residents and businesses need.

If you have emergency-related damage and are not contacted by EMA personnel, contact your local government officials and tell them you need help. Your local emergency management officials are happy to help.

HAMBURG BOROUGH COLLECTION CALENDAR

Trash Collection

Residents are reminded that there is a four (4) bag limit per household. Trash and recycling are not to be placed out for collection earlier than 6:00 p.m. the evening before scheduled collection date.






Single-Stream Recycling Collection

Hamburg Borough offers "single-stream" recycling program which makes it easier than ever to recycle.

Thanks to new technology, everything that your household recycles will now go in the same container. **No need to separate your papers, metals, cardboard, glass and plastics, etc.** J. P. Mascaro & Sons will pick up recyclables every week on Tuesday with a truck that resembles a trash truck. The collection truck has a compactor, so more recycling material will fit in allowing for more efficiency.

Whenever a fifth Tuesday falls within a month, there will be no recycling collection that week.

What Can be placed out as Recyclables?

-  Paper and Cardboard
(no books, no contaminated pizza boxes)
-  Wax Cartons: Milk, juice, soup, flavored drinks and cartons can be recycled.
-  Aluminum
-  Glass (no window glass, mirrors or light bulbs)
-  Plastics #1- #7 (no toys, styrofoam or ceramics)

Yard Waste

Collection in open containers or compostable bags.
No plastic bags! Saturdays in 2023 (4/1 — 12/2)

Bulk Item Collection

One (1) bulk item collected once a month. Bulk items will be collected on a Tuesday along with normal collection on the second full week of every month.

E-Waste Alert! Disposal Ban:

Solid waste disposal facilities in Pennsylvania are no longer allowed to accept covered devices such as televisions and computer devices including hard drives, monitors, keyboards, mice and printers or their components.



Holiday Schedule:

On holiday weeks, if pickup falls on or after the day of the holiday there is a one (1) day delay.

 For more information on what to recycle please visit www.jpascaro.com



J. P. Mascaro & Sons
If it's service, it's us!

January 2023						
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31						

 Trash collected every Tuesday. Recycling collected four (4) times per month. No Recycling collection on the fifth (5th) Tuesday

 Bulk Item Collection (2nd full week on Tuesday)

 Yard waste collected April 1 through December 3rd.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

When do I need a permit?

That is a question many people ask when it comes to doing work around their homes. There are multiple types of permits issued by the Borough. The Borough issues building, mechanical (HVAC), plumbing, and electrical permits. We also issue other permits that can be issued as a standalone permit or issued in conjunction with other permits. They can include zoning, sidewalk, driveway, and dumpster permits to name a few. Below are some examples of projects that do and do not require permits, but to be safe, it is always best to contact the building department before starting any project.

Common Projects that DO require permits:

- Most commercial
- Deck
- Addition
- Remodel
- Demolition (partial or total)
- Sidewalk or driveway work
- Mechanical system or component repair/replacement
- Water service line repair/replacement
- Sewer lateral repair/replacement

Common Projects that usually DO NOT require permits:

- Roof replacement (non-structural)
- Replacement of vinyl or aluminum siding
- Replacement of doors and windows (as long as you do not change the opening size)
- Replacing kitchen cabinets or countertops
- Painting and paper hanging

Selling a property?

Every property to be sold within the Borough is required to have a property transfer inspection conducted prior to its sale. These inspections mainly look for life safety items, for example, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's), etc.

Grass, weeds, and other vegetation

Chapter 10 of the Borough Code states that no person owning or occupying any property in the Borough of Hamburg shall permit any grass or weeds or any vegetation whatsoever, not edible or planted for a useful or ornamental purpose, to grow or remain upon such premises so as to exceed a height of 12 inches. Please do your part and maintain your property within Borough Code.



Swimming Pools

Any swimming pool, spa, or aquatic recreation facility connected to a circulation system or over 24 inches in height and 5,000 gallons must comply with the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. This includes inflatable pools. Included in the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code is the requirement to have an approved barrier around any pool. The barrier must be at least 48 inches in height. Please contact the Building Department before installing any type of pool.

Dumpster Permits

With springtime fast approaching, many are itching to get some spring cleaning done. If your spring cleaning requires a dumpster, please note that Borough Code requires a permit for any dumpster or storage container that will be in place for more than 24 hours on private or public property.

Helpful Programs

Major Systems Program

The Berks County Redevelopment Authority is administering the Major Systems Program which is designed to assist low-income families who own and occupy an attached or detached single-family home in need of a repair or replacement of a major system of their house. This assistance is in the form of a one-time deferred payment loan and must be used for an item or items that threaten the health, safety, and welfare of the household. Please contact the Building Department if you have any questions.

USDA Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants

Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, it provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes, or provides grants to elderly, very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. Please contact the Building Department if you have any questions.

Hamburg Borough would like to thank the businesses and organizations that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. It is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents.





HAMBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Chief Anthony Kuklinski

Greetings to All that receive this newsletter. I am honored to have the Hamburg Borough Police Department featured and recognized in this correspondence.

I would like to share a little bit of information about the Hamburg Police Department.

The Hamburg Borough Police Department is one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in Berks County, second only to the Berks County Sheriffs' Department.

Hamburg Police was created in 1846 by an ordinance enacted by the Borough Council of Hamburg.

Two Officers of the Hamburg Police Department in the history of the agency gave their lives in the performance of their duties. Both officers are recognized and permanently honored on the Police Officer's Memorial in Washington DC. One of the officers died in a gun battle with robbery suspects, and the other officer died as a result of taking into custody a wanted person.

The Hamburg Police Department is a full-service law enforcement agency. The agency is headed by a Chief of Police who reports to the Mayor of Hamburg, and the operations are supervised by two Corporals. The department operates 24 hours a day and seven days per week.

Officers of Hamburg Police receive specific training on criminal investigations, motor carrier enforcement, advanced accident investigation and reconstruction, and conducting drug and dangerous narcotic trafficking investigations. Officers regularly participate in law enforcement initiatives involving enforcement of DUI laws and motor carrier safety compliance. The Hamburg Police Department participates in the Berks County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force and one officer from the agency is cross-sworn as a Berks County Detective.

We have a close relationship with the Hamburg Area School District and work with their administrators to ensure a safe learning environment for the students. Recently HPD officers and the Pennsylvania State Police partnered on March 2, 2023 on Reading Across America to visit the elementary schools and read to the students at schools in the Hamburg region. Officers provide police services to the School District on an as-needed basis for major events and other matters that require extended police presence. Officers are regularly patrolling the schools as part of their assigned duties.



Aside from patrolling in "town," officers are responsible for policing the Hamburg Watershed. For these tasks, the officers use an off-road UTV to negotiate the rugged terrain of sections of the Watershed that encompass sections of the Appalachian Trail. Officers have responded to calls of lost hikers, hunters, individuals in need of first-aid and other calls for service. Officers work with the Pennsylvania Game Commission in enforcement of rules and regulations as well as state game laws.

Current Initiatives of the Police Department:

Continued participation in Traffic Safety Programs to include enforcement and safety education.

Bike Patrol Operations- In the spring, summer and fall, officers will be regularly patrolling the business districts of the Borough as well as conducting safety programs for new and younger bicycle riders. This program is in cooperation with the Berks County AAA.

Vacation Checks- Are you away on vacation? Contact the police station or stop in; officers will check your residence daily as part of their patrol operations.

Business Checks- Officers on the overnight shift regularly make patrol checks of closed businesses. If you are a business owner, you probably found the Orange card left by an officer stating that your facility was checked.

Crime Alert-Berks County- Know of a crime or of a wanted person, call the hotline 1-877-373-9913 or text ALERTBERKS at 84711 with a crime tip. Hamburg Police are advocates and a participating agency. Crime Alert is the #1 Crime Stopper program in Pennsylvania. All calls are anonymous and if the tip works out, you may get a cash reward.

Traffic Safety is a big concern within Hamburg. If you have a matter that you feel needs to be brought to our attention, please let us know, email the Chief of Police directly at akuklinski.hpd@hamburgboro.com, or (610) 655-4911. Officers are regularly assigned to conduct traffic enforcement details to deter careless and reckless driving incidents.

Motor Carrier Enforcement: Anyone familiar with Hamburg knows that commercial trucks have an impact on the safety of the region. HPD employs officers that are specifically trained in weights and measures, and motor carrier safety. These are integral parts of our enforcement and safety program. Officers regularly conduct details locally and regionally to help deter incidents involving motor carriers.

Police Accreditation: The Hamburg Police Department is in the process of attaining independent accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. This initiative analyzes and assesses over 120 segments of operations of the agency. The accreditation holds the agency and the officers to higher professional standards.

Training: Officers continue their education to keep their skills at a high level of proficiency. Our goal is to provide a high level of professional police service.

This is a short list of things we are doing to enhance our community involvement and to keep our community safe.

... at a glimpse in 2022

The Hamburg Police Department handled 4,260 calls for service that required an incident report and initiated a police response. (There are additional calls for service that do not figure into this tabulation)

584	Traffic Stops	25	Drug Investigations
146	Suspicious Activity Reports	11	Neighbor Disputes
135	Parking Complaints	204	Motor Vehicle Crashes
19	Burglaries	1	Rape
2	Incidents of Stolen vehicles that involved six stolen cars.	1	Attempted Murder
20	Criminal mischief incidents	3	Aggravated Assaults
73	Theft from Vehicles.	1	White Collar Crime involving a loss over \$100,000
		11	Community Outreach programs

Officers issued 685 parking tickets, 978 traffic citations, issued 36 police warning notices

Officers arrested 21 DUI Drivers- issued 76 non-traffic citations, made 36 juvenile arrests that led to referral to the juvenile probation office for disposition, and filed 96 criminal cases.

In closing, the Hamburg Police Department is here to serve the Hamburg Community, we regularly post activities on our social media, specifically Facebook and we use social media as an outreach tool to the community. Help us help you, if you see something that doesn't look right, please call, an officer will respond and check it out. We strive to be a resource and an active part of our Hamburg community.

I look forward to discussing matters involving the police involvement in the community and your ideas on how we can serve our community better. Feel free to contact me at 610-562-7228 during business hours or directly to my email at akuklinski.hpd@hamburgboro.com.

HAMBURG NATIONAL WILDLIFE HABITAT COMMITTEE

By: Sheryle Delewski, Hamburg National Wildlife Committee

The mission of the Hamburg National Wildlife Habitat Committee is to educate citizens and businesses in the Hamburg area about the benefits of planting native plants and encourage them to certify their yard, container garden, or work landscape through the National Wildlife Federation. Through their efforts, Hamburg was the first community in Pennsylvania to be designated as a Wildlife Habitat Garden Community by the National Wildlife Federation.

Working cooperatively, the Habitat Committee, the Rotary Club of Hamburg and Helping Hands Satellite Club, and Blue Mountain Wildlife Inc. provide activities and educational events for the community by sponsoring Earth Day Clean-Up, History Hikes, workshops such as Bees in Our World and Wildflower Walks, cleaning and painting the fountain at the Hamburg borough building and erecting a gazebo at the Kernsville Dam parking area.

Do you plant with a purpose—with wildlife in mind? Have you thought about increasing the habitat found at school or in your backyard to attract more birds, bees, and butterflies? encouraging people at home, school, and in their community to create habitat that provides food, water, cover, and places to raise young while also incorporating sustainable practices?

Native plants are those that have formed tight relationships with wildlife over thousands of years and create the most productive and sustainable place for wildlife to live. But they need a helping hand. Change is more than possible. Keystone plants are natives that support 90% of butterflies, moths, and up to 60% of native bees in a specific ecoregion. Much of this wildlife is also responsible for supporting over three-quarters of all flowering plants, thanks to their pollination powers. The plants they support provide a third of the food we eat.

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HAMBURG NATIONAL WILDLIFE HABITAT COMMITTEE *continued from page 7*

The Habitat Committee has established three kiosks with small native plant gardens surrounding them throughout Hamburg and tries to maintain these kiosks throughout the growing season. One of these kiosks is at the southern end of the public park along the Schuylkill River. In addition, the Rotary Club of Hamburg has planted native plants at the Kernsville Dam area. The Habitat Committee is looking for volunteers to help maintain these small gardens and to help with other projects that may arise.

For the past eleven years, the Habitat Committee has held a garden tour of backyard habitats in the Hamburg area. The backyard habitats, both large and small, include food, water, ground cover or shelter, and a place for wildlife to raise their young. Each of the participants in the tour receives a map of the tour and an informational booklet. All of the proceeds from this tour are going back to the committee for future educational projects. The Habitat Committee is currently looking for community members in the Hamburg Area to participate in this year's tour, which is being held on Saturday, June 24th. If you are interested in sharing your garden in this year's tour, please contact Kay Greenawalt at her office at 610-562-4329 or email her at kay.greenawalt.gmww@statefarm.com. If she is unavailable when you call her, leave your name and contact information so that she may return your call.

Anyone interested in learning more about certifying their backyard as a wildlife habitat can get tips and an application on the National Wildlife Federation website at www.nwf.org

FIRE COMPANY

Union Fire Company

"Neighbors protecting Neighbors is what makes our department not just an organization but a family." Jarrod Emes, Fire Chief

Thank you for your continued support of Hamburg Fire Co. Union Fire Company has been a 100% volunteer organization since 1832. Looking for a unique opportunity to serve your community? Visit the station on a Tuesday night from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. to find out what it takes to be a vital part of the Hamburg Community. Training and gear are 100% paid for! What would you do if there was no one to answer your call for help?

Fun Facts:

Average member age:35

You can start your volunteer career at 16 years old

We still have our 1st engine, an 1876 Silsby Steamer. Stop by the engine house to check it out!

The cost to outfit 1 firefighter \$8,000

Upcoming Field House Events:

May 6 - Hamburg Library Book Sale

May 20 - USKA Fight

June 4 - Train Show

June 10 - Northern Berks Reptile Show

June 15 - Berks County Patriots

June 14 - American X Wrestling

July 20 - Berks County Patriots

August 5 - Northern Berks Reptile Show

August 17 - Berks County Patriots

September 2 - Train Show

September 16 - American X Wrestling

September 21 - Berks County Patriots





Spring Cleaning for Fire Safety

Inside The Home	Outside The Home
 Test your home's smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.	 Remove dead leaves and other debris around foundations, decks, porches, and stairs.
 Don't use electrical appliances with frayed cords.	 Check grills for rust, worn parts, insects, grease, and other debris before use.
 Check for water around electrical appliances.	 Grills should only be used when at least 10 feet away from your house or any building.
 Clean debris from your clothes dryer lint trap and exhaust duct.	

HAMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

**35 N. Third Street
Hamburg, PA 19526
Tel: 610-562-2843**

Website: Hamburgpubliclibrary.org
Facebook: @HamburgLibrary
Instagram: @HamburgPublicLibrary



Regular Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday-10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday- 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday-1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday- 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Summer Hours (June 10-August 12)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday-10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday- 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday-1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday- 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Hamburg Public Library has been continuously serving the community since 1904 and offers:

- Large collection of books for children and adults
- DVDs, Music CDs, Audiobooks, Magazines, and Newspapers
- Thousands of eBooks and Audiobooks
- Free access to materials from all Berks County Libraries and RACC
- Free passes to the Reading Public Museum
- Free access to computers and WiFi
- Free access to activity kits
- Free fun and educational programming for adults and children



Stop by the library for your free library card today!

Adult Programming

Coffee and Crime Book Club

4th Monday of each month, 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a discussion of a crime book and local coffee. Ask the circulation desk about the month's book!

Crafter Hour

1st Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.

Registration Required

Crafter Hour is a free craft time for adults. We will provide all the materials and tools, all you need to do is bring your creativity (and sign up in advance!)

Spice Club Grab and Go

3rd Monday of each month

Stop by the library on the third Monday of the month to pick up a monthly spice! Kits include a different spice every month, recipes, information, and cookbook recommendations. While supplies last.

Children's Programming

Family Game Night

3rd Thursday of each month, 6:00 p.m.

All ages welcome.

Join us for a fun, informal game night here at the library! No preregistration required.

Builder's Club

4th Saturday of each month, 11:00 a.m.

Come and bring your building skills: we will have Legos and more!

Storytime

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Storytime includes fun stories, songs, crafts, and activities. Please check our schedule at the library or online.

Summer Learning at the Hamburg Public Library

June 5 - July 29

Our Summer Learning Program is a flexible incentive program that rewards kids for completing fun learning activities. Participants are rewarded with prizes for completed missions while also earning chances to win awesome additional prizes in our end-of-program raffle! We also offer events for youth of all ages! This summer we have in-person events and grab-and-go kits planned.



Did you know?

While the Hamburg Public Library receives support from state and local government, we also rely on the help and support of community members to continue to provide exciting programs such as these, as well as essential library services. The Hamburg Public Library is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. For more information on supporting your local library, please visit: tinyurl.com/supportthpl



RECREATION

Pavilion Rentals

The Borough of Hamburg has pavilion rentals at Etchberger Memorial Park for \$50.00/day for pavilions #1, 2, 4, 5 and \$75.00/day for pavilion #3. Contact the Borough Office to reserve a pavilion for your next event!

We suggest bringing a gas grill if your group would like to cook food. Please note that alcoholic beverages/consumption of alcoholic beverages are NOT permitted inside the park.

Pool Rental

The Hamburg Community Pool can be rented for Birthday Parties. Available rentals times are 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. on weekdays or 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. on weekends. The rental fees are:

- 1-50 attendees - \$250
- 51-100 attendees - \$300
- Over 100 attendees - \$400
- Use of food stand add – \$50

Hamburg Swimming Pool

The Hamburg Community Pool will be open to the public from the end of May through Labor Day. Season passes can be purchased at the Borough Offices at 61 N. 3rd Street or by calling 610-562-7821.

Pool Hours of Operation

- Lap Swim – 11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Public Swim Weekdays – 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Public Daily Swim Saturday and Sunday – 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



PUBLIC WORKS

Seeking Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board Members

The Borough of Hamburg is accepting letters of interest for vacant Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board seats. Planning Commission currently has one vacancy (4-year term) and meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. The Zoning Hearing Board has two vacancies (3-year term) and meets as needed. For more information, please contact the Borough Offices.



Bike Hamburg

Did you know there are free bike rentals at the Hamburg Library for anyone aged 16 and up with an ID? Borrow a bike for the day and enjoy a ride down the Bartram Trail with friends and family.

Street Sweeping

The 2023 street sweeping program will “SPRING” into action starting in April and continue through Friday, December 1, 2023. All areas affected are legally posted with parking

prohibited from 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. so that the Borough may clean the streets. The Hamburg Police Department will patrol during this time for violations. Any person in violation will be issued a parking ticket, carrying a fine of \$40.00 plus potential costs of prosecution.

Listed below is the Borough’s scheduled program for 2023, indicating when parking will be prohibited:

First Friday of every month.

East side of 3rd Street
West side of 4th Street
South side of State Street.

Third Friday of every month.

West side of 3rd Street
East side of 4th Street
North side of State Street

Pothole Hotline

Motorists who encounter potholes on Borough Streets are encouraged to report it to the Public Works Department either through email at publicworks@hamburgboro.com or by calling 610-562-7821.



OUR TOWN
FOUNDATION

OUR TOWN FOUNDATION

By Deena Kershner, Executive Director

Our Town Foundation - Celebrating 20 Years!

Our Town Foundation, Hamburg’s non-profit community revitalization organization, is celebrating its 20th anniversary! The organization was formed in 2001, incorporated in 2002 and was designated as an official downtown Main Street by the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development office in 2003. Deena Kershner was hired as the first Main Street Manager and has served in that role ever since.

During the past 20 years, the Hamburg area has witnessed many changes, not just in the downtown business district, but in the surrounding townships as well. Tilden Township exploded with retail development after the arrival of Cabela’s. More recently, large warehouses sprouted up in neighboring communities along the I78 and Route 61 corridors providing employment opportunities for many. While the landscape of the surrounding area has changed, downtown Hamburg has remained constant as a nostalgic downtown shopping center offering unique retail boutiques and service-oriented businesses.

Over the past 20 years, Our Town Foundation has worked feverishly to revitalize the downtown and has received over \$4,000,000 in grant funding in support of its efforts. Some of the organization’s major accomplishments include a downtown streetscape improvement project, providing financial assistance for numerous façade renovations within the downtown business district, improving three municipal parking lots, riverfront improvements, including the creation of new walking paths with links to existing trails, and partnering with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh and the Berks County Redevelopment office in providing financial assistance to low and moderate-income homeowners for property repairs and improvements.

The Foundation continually promotes downtown Hamburg and the surrounding area to encourage residents and visitors to shop, dine and enjoy our many outdoor natural resources. Over the years, several brochures and rack cards have been created by the Foundation, including the Historic Hamburg Visitors Guides, which are distributed throughout the state via the PA Welcome Centers located at rest stops along the highways. The hamburgpa.org website, which is maintained by the Foundation, provides information on

all the Hamburg businesses and attractions, serving as an online directory of local resources. In 2022, the organization created a one-minute commercial to promote the Borough, its downtown businesses, recreational opportunities, and charm.

The organization has organized and hosted many events over the years, the most notable being the annual Taste of Hamburg-er Festival. This year, the festival is also celebrating its 20th anniversary! This signature event, which attracts thousands of people downtown, has become a homecoming day for families and friends. The event supports a broad range of stakeholders within the community while serving as a major fundraiser for the organization.

In 2006 the Foundation formed the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance to support and showcase local artists and to advance the awareness of arts in the community. Since its inception, the Alliance has faithfully adhered to its mission by offering many arts-related programs and activities for the community, including the opening of the Art & Craft Gallery of Hamburg, where local artists can display and sell their artwork, the creation of a public arts initiative with the addition of four large painted murals and several smaller ones in the downtown, offering art classes, hosting arts related festivals and First Friday Art Strolls, and organizing the "Artdrenaline" three-day camp for youth.

In 2013 the Foundation purchased the Hamburg Strand Theater to save it from its demise and has since made over \$260,000 in improvements making it one of the favorite places in Berks County to see a first-run movie. During the first year of ownership, the projection system was converted to digital, and a Dolby surround sound system was installed. Without the conversion, the film companies would no longer allow first-run movies to be shown. Even though the cost exceeded \$60,000, it was the first priority of the organization to complete this upgrade. During the early years of ownership, the roof was completely replaced, and two additional bathrooms were constructed on the main floor. Additional repairs included refurbishing the historic marquee, new HVAC equipment, energy-efficient lighting upgrades, exterior brick repairs, replacing the stage flooring, and painting. In 2022, new carpeting was laid in the lobby and auditorium, and six ultraviolet disinfecting lights were installed to ensure the health and safety of the patrons.

In 2015 the organization purchased a vacant one-acre lot located within the downtown Main St. corridor with the intent of developing the lot into an outdoor community hub where special events and activities will be held. A parking lot was recently constructed in the rear of the property, and plans to build a facility with a stage, concession area, and public restrooms are in the works.

The organization would like to extend its gratitude to all of its volunteers, staff, financial supporters, and members that have shown their support over these memorable years. Even though there is still plenty to do for the community, Our Town Foundation is proud of what it has achieved over the past twenty years and looks forward to many more prosperous years in Hamburg. For those wishing to become involved with the Foundation, please contact us at 610-562-3106 or via email to otfmanager@aol.com.

OUR TOWN FOUNDATION EVENTS

Hamburg Area Arts Alliance Events and Workshops

Blacksmithing Classes

May 1, 8, 15, 22

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Deadline to register: April 28

\$190 for four classes. This class meets on Monday evenings at Dave Fisher's studio and spans four weeks. Dave will instruct you on how to create your own unique item. Suitable for ages 18+.

Block Print / Masterpiece

Saturday, May 13

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Deadline to register: May 10

\$40 includes all supplies. Experience printmaking made easy! Print on a smooth pad surface. Create unique, one-of-a-kind monoprints without a press. Clean-up is easy, and you will be surprised at the variety of images you

will create in a short period of time. Bonus, take your pad home and continue to print while having fun! The class will be held in the party room of the Hamburg Strand Theater and is instructed by artist Michael Daddario. Suitable for ages 14+.

Art at the Park annual art tour and sale

Saturday, June 3

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Local artists will be selling their wares along the Schuylkill River Trail at the Etchberger Community Park.

Picture Perfect Gift

Sunday, June 11

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Deadline to register: June 8

\$40 includes supplies. Participants will be shown how photographs can be transformed into various gift items. The class will be presented by photographer and author, Olapeju Simoyan and will be held in the party room of the Hamburg Strand. Suitable for ages 10+.

Pre-registration is required for all classes.

If you have any questions or would like to reserve a spot, please contact Hamburg Area Arts Alliance at 610-562-3106 or email hamburgarts@verizon.net. Space may be limited for some classes.

Our Town Foundation Events

Saturday, June 24th – Annual Garden Tour. Tour several gardens certified through the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. This is a self-guided driving tour around the Hamburg area. Advanced tickets \$5, day of tickets \$6. Tickets are available at the Our Town Foundation office after June 1st.

Saturday, Sept. 2nd – 20th Anniversary Taste of Hamburg-er Festival. Save the date for downtown Hamburg's largest festival in honor of America's favorite food. Special activities are being planned for the 20th anniversary! 10 am – 6 pm (Beer gardens open until 7 pm)

Hamburg Community Garden

Reserve your space for the 2023 Growing Season. Organic Vegetable and Flower Garden. Large box size – 10 ft x 4 ft x 1 ft. Location – Apple Alley, Hamburg PA. Cost \$30 per box.

Hamburg Strand Theater Events

Bad Auditions with Bad Actors

Sunday, May 7th – A short play presented by the Hamburg Area School District Drama Club. The show begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Hamburg Strand Theater. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students under age 18. Tickets are available at the theater or the Our Town Foundation office.

Classic Nights at the Hamburg Strand Theater

Classic Nights are the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and include a complimentary small popcorn and small soda. Tickets are available at the door only.

May 23 – An Officer and a Gentleman

June 27 – Terminator (1994)

July 25 – Kissin' Cousins

August 22 – One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

September 26 – Thelma and Louise

October 24 – The Shining

Faith Nights at the Hamburg Strand Theater

Faith Nights are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and include a complimentary small popcorn and small soda. Tickets are available at the door only.

May 9 – An Interview with God

June 13 – Shadowlands (C.S. Lewis)

July 11 – American Underdog

August 8 – The Reliant

September 12 – Rudy

October 10 – Letters to God

To reserve, call Our Town Foundation at 610-562-3106 or email otfmanager@aol.com

Hamburg Borough
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Hamburg, PA 19526

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