

CASTLE SHANNON



PENNSYLVANIA / FALL-WINTER 2020

A VIEW FROM
MAIN ST. pg. 16

WELCOME NEW
RESIDENTS! pg. 14

FAÇADE
IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM pg. 22



CONTACT US
 Municipal Center
 3310 McRoberts Road
 Castle Shannon, PA 15234
 412-885-9200
<http://csboro.org>
Like us on Facebook
Hours:
 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Castle Shannon municipal offices remain closed to the public, but we continue to conduct business. Residents can reach the Borough offices by phone or email. There is a drop off mail slot at the front door of the offices. When necessary, some business will be handled by appointment only. Masks are mandatory when visiting the building. We thank you for your patience and understanding.*

- MAYOR**
 Donald J. Baumgarten
- MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**
 Mark Heckmann
President
- Marian Randazzo
Vice President
- Robert Astor
 Nancy Kovach
 Jason Maloney
 William Oates
 Daniel Swisher
- REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR**
 Eileen O'Malley
- BOROUGH MANAGER**
 Thomas Hartswick
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
 Krista Mosher

The Castle Shannon Newsletter is a periodic, official publication of Castle Shannon Borough.

The Castle Shannon Borough Council meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Please see the Borough webpage for details <http://csboro.org>

The Castle Shannon Planning Commission meets the 3rd Monday of each month as needed. Please contact the Building & Zoning Department for more information.



FROM THE MAYOR

FROM THE DESK OF DONALD BAUMGARTEN



I am dedicating this article to my friend and colleague of over 60 years, Mike Cheberenchick, who recently passed away at the age of 99.

You may have read his obituary in the September 3, 2020 edition of the Post-Gazette.

After World War II, where Mike earned a Bronze Star for bravery while serving with General George Patton's 3rd Army Tank Corps, he dedicated his life to helping people closer to home. His Entire life was spent in Castle Shannon, where he served as Justice of the Peace (now called District Justice), Mayor, and Councilman. He cofounded the Medical Rescue Team South in the 1970s and served with their Board of Directors for many years. Mike also served as President of the Senior Citizens' Organization, Chairman of the local Democratic party, and was active in the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations.

Mike was employed for many years in the Bureau of County Audits office where he audited mainly District Justices. Until the requirements of local judicial offices changed, he was also a Justice of the Peace, where he was able to keep an eye out for a number of local families who needed support and guidance at crucial times in their lives. Working with parents and peers, he was often able to help these young men and women straighten out their lives, so they were better equipped to be productive, upstanding citizens.

Mike loved helping people. One of the many instances I remember was when he was the Mayor of Castle Shannon. A newly widowed local woman called him, distraught, because she'd received a citation for not cutting her grass. Her mower was old, and she was unable to get it started. Mike went to her house with his mower, cut her grass for her, and left his newer, easier to use mower for her. He took her mower back home with him, repaired it, and used it to cut his grass from then on.

Another time, a group of homeowners sought help for chronic flooding of their yards and basements due to improper drainage. Mike realized that, due to the way community boundaries were drawn, the problem was not likely originating in Castle Shannon. However, he made sure that the solution would happen here. Working closely with Public Works, he devised a system that included a new catch basin which directed water to a nearby drainage basin, solving the problem for all involved.

There are many stories like these, too numerous to recount in only one article; all tell the same story, though – Mike Cheberenchick was always there when needed, for issues big and small, for people young and old, for fellow residents, friends and strangers. I believe a whole book could be written about all he did in his lifetime of helping people. As far as I am concerned, he was one of the finest people I've ever known, and I'm proud to call him a friend.

In these times and all times of strife and uncertainty, be like Mike. **Please look out for the people around you and be kind – be a helper.** 🍀

FROM THE BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

LETTER FROM MARK HECKMANN

Dear Residents,



The year 2020 will be memorable for many reasons, very few of which any of us had expected. It is difficult to read the news or social

media without being reminded about the many challenges facing our country and world. Perhaps like you, there are days where if I had the choice, I would just turn it all off and ignore it.

But instead of dwelling on the bad, *I find that I feel a great sense of hopefulness when I look at what our local community has accomplished together.*

I am heartened by the small businesses that have found a way to thrive in the new retail environment.

I donate along with many neighbors who come together to support a local family coping with illness.

I smile for the birthday car parades that bring something new and fun to a child who has had an anything-but-normal summer and start to the school year.

These are wonderful moments to embrace in a year with seemingly little to celebrate.

We at the Borough have also kept our focus on bettering the community despite difficult times. In spring of 2021, we will break ground on a \$2.1 million streetscape renovation in the downtown section of our business community. Investments in new sidewalks, curbing, benches, lighting, trees and other infrastructure will make our downtown a far better place to walk, shop, dine and enjoy.

We have also begun a comprehensive park master plan process, where a group of officials, residents, and other stakeholders will evaluate what new amenities are necessary to make our public park system a better fixture of our community's future. That effort complements the already fantastic work that our administrative staff, librarians, public works crew and public safety agencies do to ensure the community is well cared for and safe each day.

It is worth mentioning that local government is not immune to these difficult times, as we too are impacted by state and federal funding, regulations and actions. But these community projects and the many ways we can be neighborly to each other despite a challenging time for this country excite me for the future.

I will close with a personal encouragement that I try to live each day. When the headlines are too much to handle, *find a way to invest your time, energy or resources productively in your local community.* Meet your new neighbors, enjoy a walk in our parks, volunteer with the fire department, order from a Castle Shannon restaurant, donate to the library, support our police, and vote in November. No news outlet nor social media platform can take those wonderful things away from us. 🍀

Yours in service,
 Mark



“...find a way to invest your time, energy or resources productively in your local community.”

2020 PROVIDES UNIQUE CHALLENGES



2020 has certainly provided unique challenges to the World, The Country, The Commonwealth and the County, and our Borough has not escaped the impact.

For our part, from a Public Safety standpoint, our first priority will always be the safety of our residents and those who are within our jurisdiction.

We started very early syndicating safety messaging from Allegheny County, The PA Department of Health and the CDC, paying particular attention to strict adherence to stay at home orders and safety compliance. These reminders often included requests for everyone to follow hygiene safety protocols related to wearing masks, washing hands, disinfecting surface areas, and social distancing. *(These are still important!)* Eventually, as restrictions were lifted, we implemented safety strategies for venturing outdoors and returning to work and conducting routine daily activities.

One of the byproducts of the “new normal” is less traffic on the highways. According to the National Highway Traffic Standard Administration NHTSA, this phenomenon gave rise to increased speed and therefore more dangerous crashes. We have long espoused that increased traffic enforcement results in reduced crash history... and, other than parking complaints, traffic complaints (volume and speed) are the most prominent/frequent contacts directed to the Police Department.

Our website at www.csboro.com houses an abundance of relevant information. One of the pages (found under the CRIME tab) is Traffic Incident Mapping. On that tab, visitors to the site can “filter” data and find timely police activity, related to traffic enforcement in your neighborhoods. We are doing our part. Please drive safely and do your part. 🍀

Please visit the website and subscribe, to receive important data about our activities, and updates related to public safety.



JOHN KIEFER RECEIVED MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD

The entire CIRT team was recognized for their tireless devotion to training and incident response, but more especially the tactical operators who responded to the Tree of Life shooting in October 2018.



CSPD OFFICER KIEFER (CIRT -Tactical Operator), seen in photo (left) in uniform, responded and played a crucial part in the overall response.

Also, pictured to right...Castle Shannon Councilman and SHACOG liaison William Oates, Officer John Kiefer, Officer Dan Janeda (CIRT-Negotiator), Mayor Don Baumgarten and Police Chief Ken Truver.

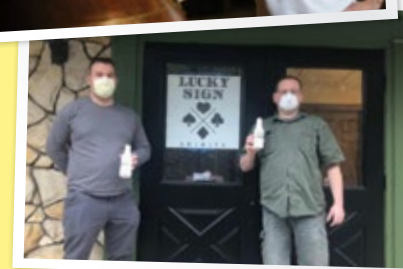


LT BRIAN MCKEOWN WAS HONORED AT THE ANNUAL AMEN CORNER AWARDS FOR HIS COLLABORATION WITH MULTIPLE AGENCIES IN THE INVESTIGATION AND ARREST OF A SERIAL BUSINESS BURGLAR.



THIS IS THE 11TH STRAIGHT YEAR CSPD HAS ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST LEVEL AWARD (PLATINUM) FOR THEIR WORK IN ENGINEERING, EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC SAFETY RELATED MEASURES.

A BIG SHOUT OUT TO 2 OF OUR LOCAL DISTILLERIES THAT DONATED HOME-MADE HAND SANITIZER WHEN COVID- 19 HIT.



THANK YOU TO GLORIA HORN SEWING & SHIELDS FOR SUPPLYING MASKS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.



CSPD displaying proper social distancing and proper donning of masks.



Lt. David Lane

was recognized by Borough Council at the July 27, 2020 virtual Council meeting as a recipient of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) Trilogy award. Lt Lane completed the trilogy of courses

consisting of Supervisor Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute and Executive Leadership Institute.

Rebecca St. resident Jamie Davis was recognized by Borough Council at the virtual July 27 Council

meeting with the Castle Shannon Police Department “Good Samaritan Award”. Mayor Baumgarten also read a proclamation for Ms. Davis, and expressed gratitude for her part in rescuing an unattended child from potential danger near the highway.



2020 ACBA (Allegheny County Boroughs Association)

On February 1, 2020 Mayor Baumgarten was the first recipient of ACBA's newest recognition for any borough mayor, member of council or staff member who makes an extraordinary contribution to local government. We congratulate Mayor Baumgarten for his more than 19 years of dedicated service.

We will once again be participating in the “Presents From Police” program.

Christmas Gift Donation Boxes will be placed at various locations throughout the Boro. Look for this logo or call 412-885-9300, ext. 111 for locations.

Please drop off your new toy donation NO later than December 14th. Thank you!



A MESSAGE FROM BILL REFFNER

As we move from summer into the fall season, it is time to remind all residents to do some of the simple things to help keep you and your family safe as the winter months approach. Take the following tips and apply them to your household or place of business.

SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors are the first line of defense to protect you and your family from a house fire. These devices, when in good working order, will provide the early warning needed to safely escape injury or even death.

Know how your smoke detector works.

Read the information that comes with the unit. Most importantly, know the difference between the low battery alert and the actual alarm when the unit detects smoke. The low battery alarm is likely a “CHIRPING” sound. This chirping will continue until the battery is replaced. The “ALARM” sound is the sound you hear when you conduct your monthly test.

Test your smoke detector monthly.

Install new batteries immediately when the low battery warning (CHIRP) sounds or once a year.

Clean your smoke detector on a regular basis by vacuuming it with the brush attachment.

Replace your detector every 10 years.

Educate your children on the purpose of the smoke detector, how they work and what to do when the alarm sounds.

Follow the recommendations that accompanies the smoke detector related to the number and placement of smoke detectors for your household.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR

Just like smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors (more commonly known as CO detectors) are early warning devices that can guard you and your family against carbon monoxide poisoning. Why should you have a carbon monoxide detector in your home? Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is poisonous to humans, as well as family pets. This gas can affect you without you knowing what is happening to you. Do not take CO lightly, it can kill.

Some sources of CO are the fireplace and chimney, gas dryer, gas range and furnace. This is a great time of year to check these items to make sure they are in good operating order before winter sets in.

We recommend you do some research on how CO detectors work, types of units that are available on the market, and number of units needed for your household.

You should be familiar with general guidelines on how both of these devices work and the possible affects smoke, fire, and CO can have on you and your family. If you are not sure what to do or need assistance regarding these devices, never hesitate to call on the volunteers of the Castle Shannon Fire Department. 🍀

In the month of November, you will be receiving the annual donation request from the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department...

The funds that you graciously provide help dedicated men and women of the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department to continue to do our job of providing fire protection for the community of Castle Shannon.

You may ask: why is the fire department requesting my help? There are two answers to that question.

First, while we do receive funds from the Borough, the fire department relies almost entirely on the efforts of our members to raise money through the various fund raisers we conduct throughout the year. The time spent on these fund-raising efforts is over and above the time that is required for continuous training and responding to all types of emergencies. While these fund raisers help fund the fire department, they do not cover all our needs. That is why we rely upon your help.

Secondly, just like your home, apartment building or business, our buildings and equipment need to be maintained. Last year, for example, the department had the roof replaced on the station house at a cost of approximately \$90,000.00. I think you would agree that is quite an expense for an organization that relies primarily on donations.

Moreover, as the processes of firefighting and first response are always changing, we must update our firefighting equipment and apparatus frequently. This specialized equipment is not cheap. Just like your personal vehicle, this equipment needs constant maintenance to be ready when needed.

The members of the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department sincerely thank you for your past support, and request that you consider donating again - any amount that you can afford will be greatly appreciated. 🍀

CSVFD JR. FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

Have you ever wondered how the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department operates?



Have you ever wondered:

What type of equipment does the Fire Department uses in emergencies?

How and when is the Fire Department dispatched to emergencies?

What is it like to ride in a fire truck?

How does someone like me become a volunteer firefighter in the future?

If anyone of these questions have ever crossed your mind, then the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department “Junior Firefighter” program may be just for you.

If you are at least 14 years of age and no older than 18 years of age and currently enrolled in Middle/ High School, or an approved alternative educational program, then you could be eligible to be considered for this program. To move forward to becoming a Junior Firefighter, simply contact the Castle Shannon Fire Department’s business office at **(412) 884-7913**. Your inquiry will be forwarded to Chief Bill Reffner who will return your call in a timely fashion. 🍀

WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL? Members Needed Now, All Ages, All Backgrounds!

• Accountants • Mechanics • Electricians • Retail Workers • Truck Drivers • Cooks • Retiree’s • Students*

No Experience Needed
We Offer Several Different Membership Levels

- Firefighter (Interior or Exterior)
- Associate
- Special Service

Benefits of Membership

- Free Training
- Free Life Insurance
- Hall Rental Discounts
- Use of Fitness Cent
- Free Uniforms/Apparel
- Free Parking at LRT lot

** Free tuition through CCAC’S FireVest Program*

Contact Us Today to Learn More About Becoming a Member of your Volunteer Fire Department

412-884-7913
csvfdmembership@gmail.com
www.csvfd.org/join



LIGHT UP NIGHT

Join us for Castle Shannon’s Community Light Up Night on Sunday, December 6, 2020

Located in the Port Authority parking lot at Castle Shannon Boulevard and Mt. Lebanon Boulevard. Festivities begin at 6:00 pm awaiting the tree lighting and Santa’s arrival is at 7:00 pm.

Santa will be arriving in style on a Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department fire truck and we will have treats for all children. Carols will be sung, and we will once again be lighting our tree.

Refreshments will be available for a small donation.

This is a Borough tradition and is enjoyed by all!

2020/2021 HOLIDAY FOOD GIVING PROGRAM

Thank you for your continued kindness and generosity. Once again we are turning to you for help. Your assistance is needed to make this year another joyous holiday season for less fortunate families in our community.

For over 42 years, numerous families in our community have enjoyed happier holidays through generous donations to the Holiday Food Giving Program. This year there are approximately 95 families whose holidays will be brighter because of your donation.

Your donation to the Holiday Food Giving Program will provide less fortunate families in Castle Shannon complete Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter dinners. Additionally, each child of these same families will receive gifts at Christmas. All donations are used to purchase food, trimmings and gifts for children and families. This program does not receive funding from outside agencies and needs at least \$10,000 to continue to provide these dinners and gifts.

To help increase the number of donations, we are offering incentive packages to everyone who contributes to this worthy cause.

The Pizza Company (\$14.00 value) in Castle Shannon: **Total value for this package is \$41.00.**

- For a \$50.00 donation you will receive a \$10.00 gift certificate from the Castle Shannon Shop’N Save PLUS a certificate for a FREE Signature Car Wash from Mr. Magic Car Wash (\$18.00 value) PLUS a certificate for a FREE large pizza from The Pizza Company (\$14.00 value) in Castle Shannon PLUS a certificate for a FREE regular oil change from Steel City Collision, Inc. in Castle Shannon (\$32.99 value – up to 5 quarts or \$10.00 off synthetic or high mileage oil change – NOT TO BE USED IN COMBINATION WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT) AND a FREE Pennsylvania State inspection from Steel City Collision, Inc. (\$29.99). **Total value for this package is \$104.98.**

We would like to thank: Mr. Magic Car Wash, Castle Shannon Shop’N Save, The Pizza Company and Steel City Collision, Inc. for their generous support. If you have any questions regarding the Holiday Giving Program, please contact Bob Dempsey at (412) 571-0373. 🍀

Please give generously to keep this worthwhile program available. Checks should be made payable to:

“Holiday Food Giving”

c/o Castle Shannon Borough, 3310 McRoberts Road
Castle Shannon, PA 15234

Holiday Food Giving Committee

- Bob Dempsey
- Nancy Dempsey
- Judy Wolfe
- Scott Schumacher

2020 CSRC HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST



Get your Christmas on!
Decorate your house, decorate your business!

Take photos and send them to kmosher@csboro.org by December 25, 2020.

We’ll post them on Facebook. The house or business that gets the most ‘likes’ wins!

First prize for both residential and business: \$100.00

Second prize for both residential and business: \$50.00



WE ARE BACK OPEN!

*We are happy to welcome
all of Castle Shannon back to the Library!*

**Fall Programming**

Children & Teen Programs at the Castle Shannon Library might look a little different this fall, but there is still a lot of fun to be had! We hope you can join us on the children's & teen department website, on social media, and by picking up make-and-take kits outside the library

**JR. BOOK CLUB
MONDAYS 4:00 P.M.**

Join us for Junior Book Club every Monday afternoon. In each session we will read a chapter of *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin, and do fun, themed activities such as games, crafts, or other projects based on the book. Junior Book Club is designed for students in grades 3-8 (ages 8-13). Jr. Book Club materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com.

**Note: Jr. Book Club will not meet on Monday, Sep. 7, or Nov. 30.
Registration is not required for Jr. Book Club.*

**ARTS & CRAFTS
1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M.**

Join us for Arts & Crafts on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Each week we will do a different craft or art project, appropriate for different age groups. On Sep. 1 we will be making recycled plastic flowers; on Oct. 6 we will be making paper spiderwebs; and on Nov. 3 we will be making pinecone turkeys. Arts & Crafts materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com.

Make-and-take kits for all Arts & Crafts classes will be available in the make-and-take box in the gazebo or in the library lobby starting the day of the event, while supplies last.

Registration is not required for Arts & Crafts.

**STEM ADVENTURES
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M.**

Join us for STEM Adventures on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. On Sep. 8 we will be making Catapults; on Oct. 13 we will be making levitating ping pong balls; and on Nov. 10 we will be taking the Protect a Pilgrim or Native American Challenge. STEM Adventures materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com

Make-and-take kits for all STEM Adventures classes will be available in the make-and-take box in the gazebo or in the library lobby starting the day of the event, while supplies last.

Registration is not required for STEM Adventures.

**MATHMAGICIANS
3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M.**

Join us for Mathmagicians 3rd Tuesday of every month. On Sep. 15 we will be making paper plate clocks; on Oct. 20 we will be doing popsicle stick geometry; and on Nov. 17 we will be learning about math through recipes and pie fractions. Mathmagicians materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com

Make-and-take kits will be available for the September and October Mathmagicians classes, and will be in the make-and-take box in the gazebo or in the library lobby starting the day of the event, while supplies last.

Registration is not required for Mathmagicians.

**BRAIN GAMES
4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M.**

Join us for Brain Games on the 4th Tuesday of the month. On Sep. 22 we will be making slider puzzles; on Oct. 27 we will be playing with memory cards; and on Nov. 24 we will be doing Sudoku puzzles. Brain Games materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com

Make-and-take kits will be available for the September and November Brain Games classes, and will be in the make-and-take box in the gazebo or in the library lobby starting the day of the event, while supplies last.

Registration is not required for Brain Games.

**LIBRARY LEGOLAND
1ST AND 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M.**

Join us for Library LEGOLand on the 1st and 2nd Wednesday of the month. All fall, we will be working on a cumulative building challenge called LEGO Disaster Island. Each week a new prompt will ask you to build a new piece for your island to help solve a problem. Library LEGOLand materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com

Registration is not required for Library LEGOLand.

DID YOU KNOW?

Registered Patrons in 2019: **2,596**

Total Circulation in 2019: **55,447**

Total Circulation of Electronic Materials in 2019: **13,995**

The library's collection totals **34,381 cataloged items.**

100,464 people visited the library in 2019.

621 Programs were held:

489 for Children & Young Adults
132 for Adults

Total attendance at these programs was **4,987.**

**SENSORY CENTERS
2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 2:00 P.M.**

Join us for Sensory Centers on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. On Sep. 9 we will be making play doh mazes; and on Oct. 14 we will be doing paper bag haircuts. Sensory Centers materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com

** Note: Sensory Centers will not meet on Wednesday, Nov. 11.
Registration is not required for Sensory Centers.*

eLibrary   

EBOOKS | AUDIO | MAGAZINES | RESEARCH

- ☒ READ EBOOKS
- ☒ WATCH A MOVIE
- ☒ GET READ-A-LONG KIDS' BOOKS
- ☒ LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE
- ☒ FIND A NEW OR USED CAR
- ☒ RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

ALL FOR **FREE** WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD!

eLibrary.einetwork.net

ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S DIGITAL RESOURCE



JR. WRITERS CLUB
3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M.

Join us for Jr. Writers Club on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. On Sep. 16 we will be learning about acrostic poetry; on Oct. 21 we will be doing Halloween writing prompts; and on Nov. 18 we will be learning about food and restaurant reviews.

Jr. Writers Club is designed for students in grades 3-8 (ages 9-14). Jr. Writers Club materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com

Registration is not required for Jr. Writers Club.

FAMOUS FIGURES
4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M.

Join us for Famous Figures on the 4th Wednesday of the month. On Sep. 23 we will be learning about Carl Stotz, founder of Little League Baseball; on Oct. 28 we will be learning about Elonka Dunin, a video game developer & cryptologist; and on Nov. 25 we will be learning about the pilgrims. Famous Figures materials can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com

Registration is not required for Famous Figures.

VIRTUAL STORY TIME
THURSDAYS 11:00 A.M.

Join us every Thursday for story time at the library. Each week we will read a book and do a craft or activity that goes along with our story. In September, we will be reading stories about going back to school; in October we will be reading books about Halloween, and we will have a special fire safety month story time on Oct. 8; and in November we will be reading books about Thanksgiving. Story times can be viewed on Facebook and Instagram's IGTV, and materials for the crafts can be found at cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com.

Make-and-take kits for all story time crafts will be available in the make-and-take box in the gazebo or in the library lobby starting the day of the event, while supplies last.

**Note: Virtual Story Time will not take place on Thursday, Nov. 26, as the library will be closed for Thanksgiving.*

Registration is not required for Virtual Story Time.

LIBRARY CLUBHOUSE
1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00 P.M.

Are you doing virtual school and missing your friends? Do you feel like your life is too much work and not enough play right now? Join us for Library Clubhouse for 40 minutes of free time, chatting with friends, playing games, or just hanging out, virtually on Zoom.

There are three sessions of Library Clubhouse for different age groups. Ages 5-9 will meet on the 1st Thursday of the month (Sep. 3, Oct. 1, and Nov. 5). Ages 10-14 will meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month (Sep. 10, Oct. 8, and Nov. 12). Ages 15-18 will meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month (Sep. 17, Oct. 15, and Nov. 19).

Registration is required for Library Clubhouse so you can receive the Zoom link. To register, visit the library calendar of events at www.castleshannonlibrary.org.

LITERARY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOV. 3, 8:00 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

You participated in the Literary Presidential Primaries on Super Tuesday, now it's time to cast your vote in the general election for Castle Shannon Library's Literary President!

Watch our social media outlets the week prior to the election to see the candidates make bids for YOUR votes! Your candidates include Arthur Reed (from the Arthur series), Greg Heffley (from the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series), and the Wicked Witch of the West (from The Wizard of Oz).



The ballot will become available through a Google Form on cslibrarychildrensdepartment.wordpress.com at 8:00 a.m. on the day of the event. While the ballots are "anonymous" you will have to enter an email address to ensure that you can only cast one ballot per person, just like a real election!

Registration is not required to vote in the literary presidential election.

Stay Up to Date on Library Information,
Programs & Events:

Make sure to like our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, check out our website, or ask to be put on our email list so you always know what is going on with the Library and its programs and events!

Holiday Schedule-Upcoming Closures:

Wed., Nov. 11th: **Veterans Day**

Wed., Nov. 25th Closing Early: **Thanksgiving**

Thurs., Nov. 26th & Fri., Nov. 27th: **Thanksgiving**

Wed., Dec. 23rd Closing Early: **Christmas**

Thurs., Dec. 24th & Fri., Dec. 25th: **Christmas**

Wed., Dec. 30th Closing Early: **New Year's**

Thurs., Dec. 31st & Fri., Jan. 1st, 2021: **New Year's**

New Hours:

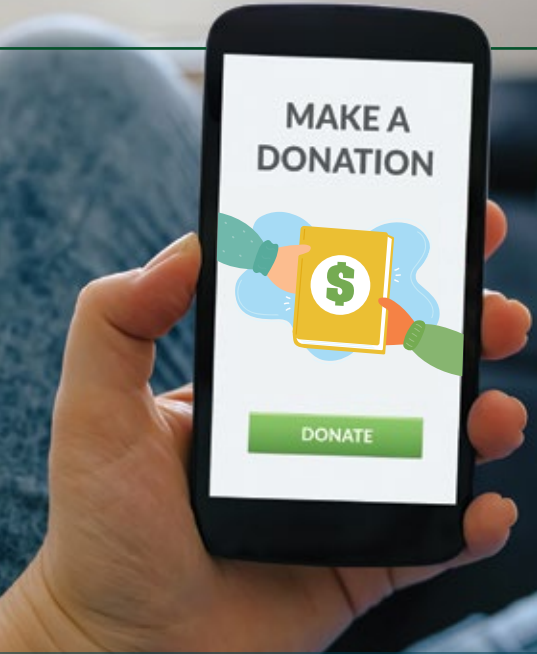
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
10:30am – 7:30pm

Wednesday & Friday
10:30am – 4:30pm

Saturday
10:00am-5:00pm

Masks and social distancing is required.

*Curbside & Lobby Pickup service is still available, if needed.
Please call the Library at 412-563-4552 and we can assist you.*



YES, I WOULD LOVE TO
DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY
LIBRARY OF CASTLE SHANNON!

Donations are accepted online at
[https://aclalibraries.org/library-finder/
community-library-of-castle-shannon/](https://aclalibraries.org/library-finder/community-library-of-castle-shannon/)

— OR —

You can send or drop off your donation at:

Community Library of Castle Shannon
3677 Myrtle Avenue, Castle Shannon, PA 15234

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I wish to donate: (check one)

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 \$ Other Amount

WELCOME, NEW RESIDENTS!

Castle Shannon Borough has seen an increase in property sales recently, which is bringing new residents to our community.

by Paul Vietmeyer



At this time, I would like to familiarize new and longtime borough residents with some of the ordinances we follow to control rodent infestation, combat blight, comply with the state’s MS4 regulations, and reign in the high cost of repairing our storm sewers.

Our greatest concern is the health and safety of the community, and we do our best to slow down and control the spread of rodents, mosquitoes, and other wildlife whose presence brings mosquito-, flea- and tick-borne diseases. There are ordinances we must enforce, such as:

- the strict prohibition of feeding the birds and wild animals;
- when garbage can be taken to the curb, when cans must be brought in, and acceptable garbage containers with tight, secure lids;
- cutting high grass and weeds;
- proper disposal of dog feces;
- proper disposal of grass, bushes, and debris on backyard easements and rights of way;
- proper compost maintenance and storage;
- a prohibition on parking vehicles on the grass
- a prohibition on junk vehicles which can harbor rodents and contribute to the appearance of blight.

Blight can also contribute to rodent infestation, but more importantly it becomes an eyesore and affects property value for the entire neighborhood. Properties that will be considered blighted:

- a property that is a public nuisance, or an attractive nuisance to children;
- a dwelling that is considered unfit for habitation,
- a structure that is a fire hazard,
- a structure without utilities,
- any vacant or unimproved lot filled with trash/debris or is a haven for vermin,
- any unoccupied property that has been delinquent for several years, or any abandoned property.

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) is a system owned by a public entity that is used to collect or convey stormwater only. The goal is reducing the discharge of pollutants by municipalities into local waterways from a stormwater system.

The Borough has adopted ordinances to ensure we are reducing discharge of pollutants.



Common violations are the improper disposal of grass clippings, leaves, mud, snow, and swimming pool water.

The most difficult, expensive problem is gravel in our stormwater pipes. Gravel clogs often requires the Borough to replace the pipes; hence, the prohibition of new gravel parking pads.

Tree laws are often tricky to navigate, and difficult to resolve. Be sure to take care of your trees, communicate regularly with your neighbors, and consult an arborist when necessary.

If you’re looking to build or renovate be sure to check with the Castle Shannon Building & Zoning Department (<http://csboro.org/building-zoning/>) to determine if you need a permit. The most common zoning permits issued are for sheds, fences, swimming pools, parking pads and decks.

Again, we’d like to extend a warm welcome to new residents, and we hope you enjoy living here as much as we do. 🍀



INTRODUCING

KRISTA MOSHER

CASTLE SHANNON KEYSTONE COMMUNITY COORDINATOR AND MAIN ST. MANAGER



Some of you may already know me – my name is Krista Mosher, and I am Castle Shannon’s Keystone Community Coordinator and Main Street Manager. I coordinate activities within Castle Shannon’s downtown revitalization program, assist in the development of economic strategies for the Borough, and aid in the

development of a marketing and promotion plan for our small businesses. Exactly what does that mean?

Many have attended events planned and hosted by the Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation in the Downtown area or gone to the Borough’s Community Day at Hamilton Park, but event planning and the corresponding logistics are only one facet of the position. Some of the most complex responsibilities are often invisible to the public, duties such as:

- Assisting with the development of a 5-Year Strategic Plan and annual action plans for each of the Main Street program committees, in Castle Shannon’s case: the Organization Committee, the Economic Vitality & Promotions Committee, and the Design, Safe, Clean & Green Committee,
- Assisting in obtaining public, private, or government funding for various Borough and revitalization programs and initiatives, then utilizing those resources properly,
- Working closely with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, and the National Main Street Center to develop revitalization programs, strategies, and measurements of success,



- Identifying and encouraging opportunities for protecting or cultivating green spaces, implementing environmentally sustainable and responsible practices, and encouraging public education and participation in environmentally beneficial activities,
- Identifying and developing partnerships and stakeholders who are capable and willing to assist in the revitalization of Downtown and the success of Castle Shannon overall,
- Assisting with volunteer recruitment, evaluation, and retention, including members of the Main Street committees, special project volunteers, and short-term volunteers,
- Assisting with the development of initiatives to attract new businesses, new residents, and visitors to the Castle Shannon area,
- Developing and maintaining relationships with elected representatives, surrounding community governments, chambers of commerce, community development corporations, local civic groups and non-profits, and
- Assisting in the development of initiatives to market and promote our unique, vibrant community.

Essentially, my position is analogous to an all-you-can-eat buffet. Every day I load my figurative plate up with a few spoons full of HR, Accounting, Sales, Banking, Construction, Cheerleading, Outdoor Adventurer, Fundraising, Garbage Collection, Writing, Art, History, Party Planning, and Science.

This position has been challenging, for sure, but also the most rewarding, even in the short amount of time I have occupied it. I’m thankful for the experiences I have had and people I have met thus far – I fully anticipate that with all your support and assistance, 2021 will be a productive and bright year for Castle Shannon. 🍀

THE VIEW FROM MAIN STREET: *The New Normal Edition*

Castle Shannon, while subject to many of the same economic trends as the rest of the nation, is unique in some respects. The LRT has historically brought people from many other communities directly to our Downtown. The Ice Castle has several hockey leagues and hosts tournaments that bring players and their families in from all over the US and Canada. Many consumers can only reach Shop-N-Save by passing through either end of Castle Shannon's Downtown business district. Route 88 is a vital, busy route into Castle Shannon and a gateway to its heart. All this activity means opportunities for starting or growing a business still abound, even if they look a little different than they did in 2019.

Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we do business and interact with each other. The businesses in Castle Shannon have shown resilience and ingenuity - many were able to make the pivot to online, while others changed their hours or asked that customers make appointments to shop. Complementary hand sanitizer has become ubiquitous on counters and shelves. Thankfully, customers, for the most part, seem to be supportive of the measures being taken and comply with mask requirements.

As guidelines have been amended several times to reflect the most current

scientific knowledge, businesses and property owners have had to discover their solutions through trial and error.

Sharon Kossis, of Meyers Management

points to the effort made to provide outdoor seating for their Lebanon Shops restaurant tenants in the way that Mindful Brewing and The Coal Mine have done. Unfortunately, the space was quite different, making the cost of renting barriers and tents as well as securing special Premises Extension liquor licenses from the PLCB too high in relation to the amount of outdoor seating that could be offered, even when Meyers Management offered to chip in.

Meyers Management remains invested in their tenants' success and is still exploring options - when their tenants do well, Meyers Management does well. In regard to the ever-adapting relationship with tenants at the Lebanon Shops, Sharon says, "We have worked with every tenant based on their specific need and tried to find a solution." Whether a tenant is behind on rent or seeking the most appropriate advice for managing COVID-19 requirements in individual stores, Meyers Management is doing their best to assist with their pandemic-related needs.

George Fraudin, of Fraudin Chiropractic

has lived in the South Hills his entire life and has seen the significant and growing awareness of preventative care as a way to maintain a higher quality of life. Even before the pandemic arrived, it made sense to look to Castle Shannon to open a second location. Most chiropractors have remained open during the COVID-19 lockdown, as they are considered an essential service; one way Fraudin Chiropractic has adjusted to the 'new normal' is by becoming an almost entirely paperless office in order to minimize person-to-person contact.

Else Franzmann, most recently of Someone Else's Bar, knows about Castle Shannon's vocal, dedicated customer bases. That's why she is considering her options for a new business venture in Castle Shannon. She continues to update the Bar's Facebook page as a way to continue communicating with her fans, followers and friends. "As soon as I know, everyone else will know," says Else.



Mike and Dana Clements, of Defiant Ventures LLC

had to rework their plans a few times, but are still betting on Castle Shannon. Defiant Ventures purchased 3803 Willow Avenue - previously the Fluid Factory - a few days before Allegheny County went into Red Phase lockdown. The search for a tenant went a few different directions; however, Mike and Dana remained committed to the endeavor, as the potential and possibilities inherent in the Downtown area are numerous. Mike writes, "With a rising housing market, 'out the door' access to public transportation, ample parking,

burgeoning and eclectic mix of great businesses and new thought leadership - the underpinnings for success are all there." Mike and Dana saw value in a storied, slightly dusty building in a way that will ultimately be a benefit to Castle Shannon. "When the single most visible property on a busy

stretch became available, the opportunity to be a gateway / feeder to the rest of the business district and to contribute to the transformation was too hard to pass up."

Downtown Revitalization efforts continue. The long-awaited Streetscape Project is soon to become reality - bringing new sidewalks, lighting, and sidewalk furniture in 2021. Moreover, the Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation (CSRC) still

has Façade Improvement Program funds available. CSRC is also working with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center to sharpen the community's vision for continued improvement of Castle Shannon's Downtown area and apply for a new Keystone Community designation mid-2021.

All in all, it seems the view from Main Street seems bright! 🍀



A NOTE FROM THE CASTLE SHANNON YOUTH ASSOCIATION



We hope all our neighborhood families are doing well during these unprecedented times. As you are all aware, after meeting with our board and with Borough representatives, we made the very difficult decision to cancel not only the Spring 2020 season but also the Fall 2020 seasons of baseball and softball. We also cancelled our Season Kick-off Party and Golf Outing due to restrictions and overall uncertainty. We wanted to reach out to the community to inform everyone of the plan moving forward.

At the current time, **we fully expect to be back to playing ball in Spring 2021.** We look forward to getting back on the fields and having a great season again next year. Keep an eye out in the coming months for updates on registration dates and other information. We want to thank everyone for their patience and are eager to see everyone in a few months. 🍀



THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS CERTAINLY CHANGED THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE, CONGREGATE, SHARE, AND SHOP

Some of these changes are likely to continue to shape how we do business in 2021 and beyond.

There has been an obvious and growing need for immediate access to goods and services. We all know someone working from home, either partially or entirely. Many people choose to avoid leaving their homes to lessen their chances of being exposed to COVID-19. People still need to live, though, and so purchase goods and services online that can be delivered directly to their homes or can be picked up curbside. Coupled with contactless payment, grocers, retailers, merchants and service providers have found several great ways to keep their staff and customers safe.

As the use of digital media by consumers increases, social media platforms have

become an even more powerful means by which to increase advertising, as well as target specific groups of customers, potential or preexisting. During each of the varying degrees of “lock-down,” consumers strengthen or form new bonds with brands. Many look to recommendations from family, friends, celebrities, and influencers on social media.

The dual public health and economy crises have changed consumer behavior and the shift toward an on-demand economy is here to stay. This means there is no better time than now to start or expand your online presence.

If you are looking for a place to start, the Pittsburgh District of the Small Business Administration offers free courses on their website, www.sba.gov/offices/district/pa/pittsburgh, under the “Learning Center” header. For more in-depth technical assistance, you may reach out to the University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center, the Duquesne University Small Business Development Center, or Chatham University’s Center for Women’s Entrepreneurship. You can also contact the CSRC directly – **(412) 885-9200 ext. 118** – as we work closely with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center to support local business. 🍀



VOLUNTEERING IN CASTLE SHANNON:

Find Your Niche, Find Your Crew, Find Yourself!

Have you ever started a sentence with **“Someone should...,” “I wish they would...,”** or **“You know what would be cool / neat / fun / nice?”** If yes, then you are more than halfway to being a VIP volunteer.



A short survey for you:

- Are you a maker, a creator, or an artist? **Yes**
- Do you have a head for numbers, measurements, and data? **Yes**
- Are you a fierce advocate for the environment, sustainability, and green spaces? **Yes**
- Do you love events, contests, and games? **Yes**
- Do you like balancing your checkbook? Seriously? **Yes**
- Are you a social media marketing, advertising and promotion guru? **Yes**
- Is your background in HR, ego wrangling, or project management? **Yes**
- Is writing your passion – creative, academic, or technical? **Yes**
- Are you ok with showing your grandma how to avoid getting scammed online? **Yes**

If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions, then come on down – we’ve got plenty to do to prepare for 2021! 🍀

 **Contact Krista Mosher**
(412) 885-9200 ext. 118 | kmosher@csboro.org

CASTLE SHANNON VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Charles Christ



Our sincerest thanks to Charles Christ of Charles Christ Photography. Mr. Christ is a lifelong Castle Shannon resident and is always happy to offer his time and talents to his community. He provided most of the headshots you see in this newsletter, and we are so grateful (some of us for the opportunity to get a professional headshot, others for the “beauty filter” – bless you, Chuck). He has provided photography and videography services for all kinds of events in Castle Shannon – Community Day, the Bi-Annual Saw Mill Run Stream Cleanup events, Fall Festival, the Historical Scavenger Hunt – if you’ve seen a photo of Castle Shannon, that means Charles Christ Photography was there! 🍀

GRANT MONEY AWARDED TO CASTLE SHANNON:

Castle Shannon was recently awarded \$345,900 in PA Small Water and Sewer grants for improvements and repairs



While we continue to prioritize efforts to combat and recover from COVID, we also need to make sure that critical infrastructure projects in our area are able to find support. That’s why I am pleased to announce that Castle Shannon was recently awarded \$345,900 in PA Small Water and Sewer grants for improvements and repairs to its water and sewer systems. These grant awards, which I was glad to champion in Harrisburg, will help to ensure clean water and a safe, sanitary sewer system

for the residents of Castle Shannon for years to come.

Money will be used to support two important projects.

First, Castle Shannon will use \$45,900 to make improvements to the storm sewer system on Killarney Drive. As you probably are aware, storm water runoff from Armstrong Park in Baldwin Township has been bypassing its intended inlet and instead ending up on the driveway and in the basement of property on Killarney Drive. The borough will install two catch basins, 75 linear feet of 15-inch corrugated storm pipe, and conduct road and curb restoration in order to alleviate this problem.

Second, \$300,000 will be used to replace two manholes and repair 4,650 linear feet of sewer lines that were previously identified as defective. This work will take place in the McCully Road and Connor Road areas.

I applaud the leadership of Castle Shannon for their work in complying with the requirements for these grants, and, as always, I am glad to partner with them on such efforts. Local and state cooperation can help get things done, and these are great projects for our area that need to be completed.

As always, if you need assistance with any type of state service, please don’t hesitate to reach out to my office at [412-343-3870](tel:412-343-3870) or repmiller@pahouse.net. I look forward to hearing from you! 🍀



Emergency - Police / Ambulance / Fire	9-1-1
Borough Administration	412-885-9200
Police Information	412-885-9300
Fire Department Information	412-884-7913
Medical Rescue Information / MRTSA	412-343-5111
Mayor Donald Baumgarten	412-885-9200
Real Estate Tax Collector	412-885-9260
Earned Income Tax Collector, Jordan Tax Service	412-835-5243
Community Library	412-563-4552
Animal Control	412-279-6911
District Justice David Barton	412-885-2111
District 6 Allegheny County Council Representative John Palmiere	412-350-6550
State Senator Wayne Fontana, 42 nd Senatorial District	412-344-2551
State Representative Dan Miller, 22 nd Legislative District	412-343-3870
U.S. Representative Conor Lamb, 17 th District	412-344-5583
U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Jr.	412-803-7370
U.S. Senator Pat Toomey	412-803-3501
Waste Management	1-800-866-4460
Castle Shannon Borough Municipal Center	412-885-9200
Administration	Extension 100
Borough Manager	Extension 103
Building & Zoning	Extension 105
Real Estate Tax Collector, Eileen O’Malley	Extension 107
Mayor Donald Baumgarten	Extension 108
Castle Shannon Police Department	412-885-9300
Administrative Assistant	Extension 111
Overnight Street Parking	Extension 120
Shift Supervisor	Extension 120
NON-EMERGENCY Allegheny County Dispatch	412-473-3056

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation was the recipient of Façade Improvement Program funding a few years ago. If your commercial building or business is located within the designated Downtown area and you'd like to upgrade your façade, please reach out as soon as possible to get the process started. The Façade Improvement Program will end in June of 2021!

The Façade Improvement Program operates on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursement will occur when the project is completed. The applicant will be reimbursed for 50% of the cost of the approved scope of work. Exterior improvements that comply with the guidelines will be the only improvements funded through this grant program. The maximum amount to be dispersed to any one project is \$5,000, which requires a match of \$5,000.

Façade funding may not be used on outbuildings located on a property, any interior work, or landscaping and general site improvements to sidewalks and paved areas. Labor provided by the owner of the property is not an eligible cost for reimbursement or match consideration. 🍀



For more information, please call (412) 885-9200 ext. 118

Recycling Pickup Schedule

November 2020						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2021						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Holidays

- Jan 1

Jan 18

Feb 15

May 31

July 4
- New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Day

Presidents' Day

Memorial Day

Independence Day
- Sept 6

Oct 11

Nov 11

Nov 25

Dec 25
- Labor Day

Columbus Day

Veterans' Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

GARBAGE & RECYCLING GUIDELINES

- Only plastics #1 and #2 are being accepted. Please check the bottom of containers for numbers.
- Please remove all caps and/or lids.
- Aluminum, steel, paper, and cardboard are still being accepted.
- Glass is no longer accepted.
- Please do not put your recycling in plastic bags. Any items in plastic bags are sent directly to the landfill.
- Please be sure to clean your recyclables thoroughly – do not put any items with food residue or other greases into your recycling bin. Recyclable items are not cleaned before sorting.
- Please do not recycle items that you are unsure about or that you can only hope are recyclable.
- Unfortunately, Castle Shannon incurs fines if the above guidelines are not followed.



***Should you have any questions,
please contact Waste Management:***

1-800-866-4460 | www.wm.com

REMINDERS:

***For glass, scrap
metal, wood waste
and other recycling:***

Michael Brothers Hauling
& Recycling
901 Horning Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15236.

(412) 835-6428

www.michaelbrothershauling.com

***Disposal of tires,
televisions and electronics
is prohibited by state law.***

Trash shall be placed curbside
no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on the
day preceding collection,
per Borough Ordinance #745



Municipal Center
3310 McRoberts Road
Castle Shannon, PA 15234

(412) 885-9200 Fax: (412) 885-9251
<http://csboro.org>

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage

PAID

Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2401