

APRIL - JUNE 2024

# PAXTANG POST

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## MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR

COMMUNITY PICNIC  
**MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION**

One of the highlights of summertime in Paxtang is the tradition of the annual Memorial Day community picnic. This year's picnic will be held on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

This annual event is a time for the Paxtang community to come together as a community to remember and honor the men and women throughout history who have sacrificed for the freedoms that we all enjoy.

The event starts at 12 noon at Saussaman Park with an honor ceremony by the Lawnton Legion. Then join me, Borough Council, and the Borough Staff for a picnic on the lawn followed by fun and games on the field and at the pavilion. This is a great opportunity to spend time getting to know your neighbors and Borough team. Stay tuned to the Borough's social media pages or website for additional details. There is no rain date for this event, so in the event of inclement weather the picnic will be canceled.

If you or your company would like to sign up to be a sponsor for the 2024 picnic, please contact the Borough Office for sponsorship information. Support from our sponsors make this event free for Borough residents. I hope to see everyone at the park on May 27<sup>th</sup>!

Mayor Nathan Martin - [paxtangmayor@gmail.com](mailto:paxtangmayor@gmail.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### MAY:

##### **COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm

Paxtang Borough Building

##### **COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> | 7:00pm

Paxtang Borough Building

##### **MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC**

Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> | 12:00pm

Saussaman Park

#### JUNE:

##### **COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm

Paxtang Borough Building

##### **COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm

Paxtang Borough Building

COMMUNITY

**YARD  
SALE**

PLAN AHEAD

### **BOROUGH YARD SALE JUNE 8TH**

The first of the biannual Borough yard sale will take place on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00am. This is a great opportunity to unload some of your unwanted items, or catch some great deals from your neighbors!

The Borough provides advertising for this event and no permit is required on this date.

As a reminder, all other yard sales require a permit from the Borough Office in advance. There is a maximum of two permits per address per calendar year. Visit the office or [Paxtang.org](http://Paxtang.org) for more details.

## SUMMERTIME SAFETY

# SAFETY TIPS ON USING PROPANE (LPG) FOR SUMMER COOKOUTS

From the Paxtang Codes Department in Partnership with Swatara Fire and Rescue and the Emergency Management Team.



As the days grow warmer, many residents enjoy the opportunity to cook outdoors using propane (LPG) grills and cook-tops.

When using LPG cylinders for cooking please keep the following tips in mind!

- Always ensure adequate ventilation and never use indoors or in confined spaces.
- Read the manufacturers operating instructions.
- Do not connect or disconnect cylinders near a naked flame.
- Do not use LPG in windy conditions.
- Keep cylinders cool and away from flames, sparks and heat

### Before getting started

- Make sure your gas connections are tight.
- Turn on the cylinder valve and test for leaks. You can do this by using a squirt bottle or brush and coating the gas connections

and hose with soapy water. Get into the habit of regularly checking for leaks every time you use your LP Gas appliance.

- If bubbles start forming, there is a gas leak.
- Turn off the gas cylinder valve. Disconnect the left hand thread connection and check that the faces are clean.
- Check the rubber Bull Nosing or O-Ring is not damaged and is present on the hose that connects the appliances to the LPG cylinder valve. Leaks are caused by damaged or missing O-Rings or rubber Bull Nosing or where connections are not tight.
- Check for cracks or damage on the hose or a damaged gas regulator, which may need replacing. Always take care when reconnecting.
- Turn the gas back on and test everything again with soapy water.

- If bubbles are still forming, turn off the gas supply and do not use the gas appliance.
- After you have finished using your LP Gas appliance, you should always close the cylinder valve first before turning off the LP Gas appliance.
- Keep your LP Gas appliance clean and in good condition.
- Never use a propane grill in enclosed spaces like garages, where dangerous carbon monoxide can accumulate.
- Position the grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any other buildings or overhangs, and avoid putting it in areas like wood decks or patios where grease and other flammable debris could collect.

See the safety video at:

<https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/health-and-safety-portal/safety-topics/dangerous-goods-and-hazardous-substances/liquid-petroleum-gas-lpg-safety>

## FIRE SAFETY REMINDERS

# RECREATIONAL BURNING REGULATIONS



As the weather warms, many residents may look to spend more time enjoying the outdoors including cooking and outdoor fires. Please keep in mind that the Borough has established regulations that govern the outdoor burning and cooking to maintain a safe environment for all residents. Please note the following:

It shall be unlawful to deliberately or through negligence set fire to or cause the burning of combustible material in such a manner as to endanger the safety of persons or property. Burning that is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. The Fire Chief, authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) or personnel designated by the Fire Chief i.e.; Fire Officers is authorized to order the extinguishment of open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.



## DCNR GRANT BRINGS IMPROVEMENTS TO SAUSSAMAN PARK



Last year the Borough was notified by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) that it had received a matching grant of \$75,000 for improvements and renovations at Saussaman Park. The matching grant was the result of a multi-year effort by Borough Staff, including Brian Rotolo who worked in partnership with the Borough Engineer to submit the successful grant proposal.

The first phase of the project began this spring and will continue through May. The project improvements include the removal and replacement of existing play structures and installation of safe landing areas surrounding all equipment.

The existing parking area will be reconfigured to provide for van-accessible handicapped parking. A newly designed ADA accessible pathway will extend from the parking area and

restrooms to the upper pavilion. This will allow for safer wheelchair access to all of the park's amenities.

In the playground area, the outdated pieces of play equipment are being redesigned and upgraded so they can be enjoyed by children of all abilities. The new equipment features accessible swing seats, more ground-level activities for children with limited mobility, and more sensory stimulating play panels for children with autism and sensory processing disorders.

The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in time for the annual Memorial Day Picnic.

*(Drone photo courtesy of Councilor Tom Wingert)*

**All burning devices shall be constructed of safe and approved materials.**

**The burning devices include but not limited to:**

- fire pits (wood/gas) - Must be located a minimum of 15' from any structure or vehicle
- grills (charcoal/wood/gas)
- outdoor ovens (charcoal/wood/gas)
- and outdoor fireplace (wood/gas)

**All burning devices shall have appropriate screens/covers to minimize the rising of hot embers. Things not to burn include but not limited to construction lumber, wire, and trash/rubbish. An approved clearance shall be maintained between burning devices and any flammable or combustible materials at all times. Open burning or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment shall be available for immediate utilization.**



## CARING FOR PAXTANG'S URBAN FOREST

Residents are invited to plant a new tree to honor a loved one, or adopt an existing Paxtang shade tree through two sponsorship options:

**The Honors Tree Program** is an initiative of the Paxtang Borough Shade Tree Commission. Its purpose is to honor loved ones, significant events in a life or family, or express community pride with a living gift that provides lasting beauty to the community.

The cost of an Honors Tree is \$250. This includes purchase of the tree, planting materials and a plaque permanently placed in ground beneath the tree. A certificate with the name of the purchaser, the information on the plaque and the location of the tree will be issued. The same information will be recorded in an Honors Tree Book, located in the Borough Office.

**The Adopt a Tree Program** allows adoption of a tree already growing in Paxtang's urban forest. The cost to adopt a tree is \$150 and includes certificate and commemorative plaque.

To participate in either program, contact the Borough Office or visit the Borough Website to complete an application.



## Train. Grow. Serve.

Swatara Township Fire & Rescue is looking for committed citizens to join our team of dedicated volunteers in protecting lives and property in our community.

### Become a Swatara Township Volunteer Firefighter Today!



Our Firefighters serve the community by responding to a wide variety of situations, training for and performing duties in the following general categories: fire suppression, emergency medical aid or rescue, hazardous material responses, and public education.

#### We offer three types of memberships for the volunteer:

Active Firefighter

Live-In Firefighter

Junior Firefighter

**GET STARTED TODAY**

## Our Stations



**Chambers Hill Fire Company**



**Rutherford Fire Company**



**Swatara Fire Department**

### VISIT [STFR91.COM](http://STFR91.COM) TO APPLY!

Swatara Fire and Rescue is the designated provider of fire and rescue services for the Borough of Paxtang.





The Capital Area Greenbelt (Paxtang Section) is a jewel in the crown of the Capital Region.

Every day, many people take advantage of the walking, hiking and biking paths. When you do so, please keep in mind the following:

If you have a dog, please use bags to clean up the waste and take the bag with you. There are garbage cans available at each end of the Paxtang Section. Do not leave the bags there for someone to collect; there is no one to collect them.

Please do not put food anywhere along the Greenbelt. Lately, well intended people have left food scraps for animals. What is important to note is that wild animals know how to hunt and forage. If they have continued access to human food, they could become ill and/or dependent upon human food.

Domesticated dogs cannot eat many of the food that has been left along the Greenbelt. For example, whole chicken carcasses. Dogs will choke on the bones and the meat may have turned rancid while lying on the Greenbelt. Please compost the food scraps and don't put them out on the Greenbelt.

### PROTECTING OUR STREET TREES TREE LAWN REMINDER

In all areas of the Borough, the "tree lawn" is the space between the sidewalk and the curb. These trees are managed and protected by the Shade Tree Commission. Trimming of existing trees or new planting in the tree lawn areas without prior authorization from the Shade Tree Commission is prohibited.

# CAN YOU DIG IT?

**>> WELL, NOT WITHOUT CHECKING FIRST.** If you don't know where underground utilities are, digging can result in injury, service disruptions, and costly repairs. Here, we've dug up some stats, facts, and tips.

## WHAT IS 811?

Dial 811 and let them know what you've got planned. They'll notify the right utility to come out and mark your underground lines.



## THE TOP PROJECTS HOMEOWNERS PLAN TO DIG INTO:

- 62%** Planting a tree or shrub
- 37%** Building a fence
- 32%** Building a deck or patio
- 20%** Installing a mailbox
- 6%** Installing a pool
- 26%** Miscellaneous projects

## 5 TIPS FOR A SAFER DIG

1. Call 811 before digging. It's free.
2. Plan ahead.  
Call days in advance to leave enough time.
3. Confirm that all utility lines have been marked.
4. Consider moving your project, if it's near a utility line.
5. If you've hired someone to do the job, make sure they've had the lines marked.



811

## CAN YOU REALLY DIG A HOLE TO CHINA?

Theoretically, yes - but not from the US. To dig your way to China, you'll have to start in Argentina. You'll also need a way to survive the journey through Earth's molten core. Either way, call 811 first.





## THE FRIENDS OF KLINE LIBRARY

The Friends of Kline Library is pleased to present our 2024 program offerings:

### Story Walk

Check out the new story on Story Walk on the Paxtang Parkway. When you enter the Greenbelt from Derry Street (behind the City Line Diner at 3302 Derry St.) you will see the book pages in order. Each page of the book is enlarged, laminated, and posted on sturdy stands throughout the walkway. The story changes 5 times a year. It's a great opportunity to read to children and discuss while walking!

### Book Club

The Friends of Kline Library's virtual book club, the Happy Bookers, is entering its 3rd year of reading and discussing interesting books in Zoom meetings.

The Happy Bookers meet virtually on the third Monday of each month at 2:00 pm. Meetings last for one hour. New members are always welcome. To join the group or to learn more about the Happy Bookers, call or text Jo Sheppard at 717 512-5729 or email her at [josheppa@gmail.com](mailto:josheppa@gmail.com).

### BINGO!

The Friends of Kline Library host free Book Bingo on the first Thursday of each month. Bingo begins at 5:30 in the Kline Library community room. Prizes are books. Register online or at the library.

All Kline Friends are welcome to attend the monthly board meetings which are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm in the Kline Community Room. Check out the Friends' Facebook page! You can see photos from our many recent events and learn about upcoming events, at <https://www.facebook.com/FKL2015/>

## 2024 TOUR DE BELT SUNDAY JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> RAIN OR SHINE!

Tour de Belt is an exciting way to get to know the Greenbelt! The 2024 ride will start at Harrisburg Area Community College-Harrisburg Campus (HACC).

Riders will follow the 20-mile original loop and return to HACC, where we will host the Finish Line Fest, showcasing our sponsors, community organizations, and local food trucks. Your participation and contribution will help maintain and improve the Capital Area Greenbelt, which loops through Paxtang and surrounding municipalities.

The group ride is on Sunday, June 2, rain or shine. As always, the group ride is fully supported with volunteer guides, ride marshals and traffic monitors at crossings. A sag wagon is on standby to help you, if needed.

Parking and event is in HACC's West parking lot. After entering the main entrance, turn left and follow signs to free parking conveniently located near the start, finish, and Finish Line Fest. Entry to the West lot is available ONLY from the main entrance.

Event GPS Address: 1 HACC Drive, HBG 17110

Register Online at <https://caga.org/tour-de-belt/>

## Tour de Belt



**Bike it. Walk it. Run it.**



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKS AVAILABLE AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Statistics show that 4 out of 5 car seats are installed incorrectly. Accidents are also the leading cause of death for children under the age of 13. It is for this reason that it is extremely important to ensure that your child's car seat is installed and used correctly. The Swatara Township Police Department currently has 5 police officers who are certified as Car Passenger Seat Technicians (CPST). Not only do we show you how to install the car seat correctly but we also educate you on proper child restraint with the car seat harness/seat belt. Parents/guardians are also informed about turn around time and various other safety measures when traveling with a child. Having the opportunity to install your car seat with a CPST will provide you with the confidence and reassurance that your child will be traveling safely each time you get into the vehicle.

We offer car seat installations and checks to both residents and non-residents of Swatara Township and Paxtang Borough. Each installation/check takes approximately 20-30 minutes from start to finish. There is no cost to have this completed. Car seat installations/checks are conducted by appointment only. We can accommodate most schedules to include day time, evening and weekend hours.

To make an appointment please contact Cpl. Brandon Pokrop via phone at 717-564-2550 OR via email at bpokrop@swatarapolice.org.

## BOROUGH STAFF & OFFICIALS

### MAYOR:

Nathan Martin (717) 579-8879

### COUNCIL:

Kathy Bloss (717) 564-7605

Eric Fillman esfillman@aol.com

Jack Thomas (717) 558-0063

Tom Wingert (717) 307-1174

Jennifer Britten jennifermbritten@outlook.com

Corbin Bower (717) 712-6931

Matt Leonard MattforPaxtang@gmail.com

### SWATARA ACTING POLICE CHIEF:

Thomas Stauffer

### SWATARA DIRECTOR FIRE SERVICES:

Mike Ibberson

### MANAGER/RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER:

Keldeen Stambaugh (717) 564-4770

### SECRETARY:

Faye Clark (717) 564-4770

### TREASURER:

Linda Lightner (717) 564-4770

### Borough Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm. The first and third Tuesdays of the month, we are open until 6:00pm

## Is Your Child in the Right Car Seat?

### How to know for sure:



**REAR-FACING CAR SEAT**

**Babies and toddlers need to ride rear-facing as long as possible.**

Keep children rear-facing until they are at least two years old, or until they reach their car seat's height or weight limits. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats usually have higher height and weight limits for rear-facing (compared to infant-only seats) so you can keep your child rear-facing longer.



**FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT**

**Use a forward-facing seat with a harness when your child outgrows the rear-facing seat.**

When your child outgrows the rear-facing seat, he/she should ride in a forward-facing seat with a harness up to the highest weight or height allowed in the car seat instructions. Use the top tether strap based on your car seat and vehicle manufacturer's instructions. The tether (and harness) limit your child's movement in a crash.



**BOOSTER SEAT**

**Children are ready for a booster when:**

- They reach the limits for the forward-facing car seat with a harness, or
- Their shoulders grow above the car seat top harness slot, or
- Their ears are at the top of their car seat.

Boosters help keep the seat belts in the safest position. The lap belt stays low, touching the tops of the legs. The shoulder belt is centered on the shoulder and chest, so children don't put it behind their backs or under their arms.



**SEAT BELT**

**Is your child ready to ride on the seat?**

- Can your child sit with his hips against the back of the seat?
- Do her knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?
- Does the belt cross the center of your child's shoulder and is the lap belt low, touching the tops of your child's legs?
- Can your child sit like this the entire trip?

**If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs to keep using a booster.**

• The back seat is the safest place. Children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old.

• Always check your vehicle and car seat manufacturers' instructions to be sure your child's car seat is installed and used correctly.

• Attend a car seat checkup to be sure your child is in the right seat and the seat is installed correctly.

• Seat belts do not usually fit until children are 4'9" tall and between 8-12 years old.

Artwork from NHTSA. Layout, design and text copyright Child Safety Solutions, Inc.



**PAXTANG PTO**  
COME & JOIN US FOR OUR  
**HELLO SUMMER FEST**  
FRIDAY PAXTANG  
MAY 31 ELEMENTARY

**5:30 PM - 8 PM**

*Events*

Bounce House, Dunk Tank, Face Painting, Balloon Artist, DJ, Food Trucks, Games and Prizes



# PAXTANG POST PAXTANG BOROUGH



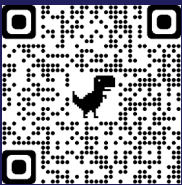
3423 Derry Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17111



(1) 717-564-4770



PaxtangPost@gmail.com



**VISIT US ONLINE  
ANY TIME AT  
PAXTANG.ORG**

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT NO. 308



**FREE ADMISSION**

JUNE	22	7PM	AUG	3	6PM	AUG	13	6PM
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PAXTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A number of years ago, Paxton Presbyterian Church started having free concerts in their Grove. During the pandemic, it was the perfect way to see friends, get out of the house and enjoy some music. These gatherings have continue and have grown since the beginning. It is a wonderful way to spend a summer evening with nature and music.

We would like to include all our neighbors and friends from the surrounding communities to come and enjoy these concerts. Please bring your own chairs, the ground can be hard, and if you wish a picnic supper. All ages are welcome. There is no charge to listen but a free will offering is always appreciated.

**Join us for one or all of our 2024 Concert Offerings:**

- June 22 - West Shore Symphony 7:00 p.m.
- July 27 - Cumberland Flutes 7:00 p.m.
- August 3 - Keystone Concert Band 6:00 p.m.
- August 13 - Lower Paxton Variety Band - 6:00 p.m.