



Presented by Ambler Borough

Home Town News

April 2005-1



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2005 Tax Rate Declared

Council established its 2005 Real Estate Tax Rate at 3.835 mills. The breakdown to specific funds is as follows: General Purpose 2.907; Street Lights .264; Fire Protection .231; Debt Service .183; Parks and Recreation .250. The 2005 rate was a 1.0 mil increase from 2004. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions.

Why the need for a tax increase? (1) A continued loss of revenue from earned income tax. In 2000, earned income tax revenue was \$784,319. In 2005 our budget projection for earned income tax is \$550,000. (2) Low General Fund reserve account. In 2000 our General Fund Reserve was \$1,300,055. Our General Fund Reserve as of 12/31/04 was \$892,642. (3) A continued operational cost increase of approximately 3.33% per year and (4) a decrease in operating revenue of approximately 5.34% per year.

What will a 1 mill increase cost an average homeowner? The average home in the Borough is assessed at \$113,000 so the cost for 1 mill per year would be \$113.00 per year or \$9.42 per month.

What will a 1 mill increase in taxes produce in revenue for the Borough? A 1 mill increase in taxes will produce \$267,000 in revenue to the General Fund.

How will the Borough use the increase in tax revenue? \$50,000 will be used to offset the budgeted decrease in Earned Income Tax. \$70,000 will be used to establish a Capital Project Reserve in the General Fund. \$28,000 will be used to meet increases in expenses. The balance will be used to eliminate use of Reserves to meet normal operating expenses. Last year's budget required use of \$119,000 of the Reserves.

Program Fast Tracked



The Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Program to video, grout and evaluate for major repairs was put on the fast track in December as Council voted to video and grout the remaining 61% of the system in 2005. This was a change from the scheduled 2 year plan as members felt they could make better decisions on how to proceed with the remaining repairs knowing the overall condition of the entire system. Video and grout of the first 39% cost \$138,000. After the video tapes were evaluated, repairs were categorized into 3 priorities. Bid specifications are being generated for repairing the priority #1s and any priority #2s that were in close proximity to a #1 repair. This program was initiated by Councilman Lou Orehek back in 2000. Recent changes to the PA Department of Environmental Protection regulations required the Borough to complete the program at an accelerated rate. A map showing the progress made so far can be found in the Borough's website archives.

New Sweeper for 2005

This year the Borough replaced its 10-year-old street sweeper. The weekly sweeping 34 miles of dust, dirt, leaves and litter for eight months of the year has placed nearly 23500 miles on the Elgin Pelican. Maintenance costs are increasing as the machine nears its expected life cycle so the Borough worked a 5 year lease/purchase.



Did You Know?

When the railroad arrived in 1855 the town's center of gravity started shifting from the crossroads of Bethlehem and Butler Pikes to the western end of Butler Avenue.

STANDARD MAIL
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
AMBLER, PA
Permit No. 43

RESIDENTS &
BUSINESSES OF
AMBLER BOROUGH



Environmental Corner

By Susan Curry

Impervious (*adj.*) incapable of being penetrated, as by moisture. This refers to types of surfaces that do not let the rain penetrate down into the ground to the water table. This term has become a common household word in the last decade. As development has increased, more pavement, concrete, and roofs (over houses, car ports, patios, sheds, etc.) have been capping the land.

A watershed is all the land from the highest ridge that drains to a waterway. Watershed associations often talk to property owners about impervious surfaces. Increased impervious surface causes more water to travel over land, creating flooding, sewer system overflows, stream erosion, and stream silt build-up.

Is impervious surface a concern for you personally? It is, if you live in low areas or near streams. Because of the unequal flooding damage that low areas suffer, boroughs and townships are passing ordinances to limit the percentage of a property that one can pave, concrete or roof-over. If you plan to widen your driveway, or pave what has been a gravel or dirt driveway, or construct a structure with a roof, you might be exceeding your property percentage limits for impervious surfaces. Check with the code enforcement officer for the impervious surface limits for your property.

Here are some best practices for households: Use gravel for driveways, rather than pavement. Build low areas on your property that will make temporary ponds when it rains. Collect some of the rain water from your roof in rain barrels. Minimize, or discontinue use of lawn fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides; use organic products instead. Convert some of your lawn area into bush, shrubs or trees. Their deeper root systems hold more water in the ground. Lawns are not as good as shrubs for retaining rain.

Tank Goes On-line

The new Lock Alsh water tank has been completed and was placed in service in March. This 750,000 gallon storage facility is providing an increased storage capacity for times of high water demand and fire service. The old 75 year old tank was demolished and the steel sold for scrap. The scrap fared a good price because of the recent increase in steel prices.



Recycling Feasibility Study

The Borough was the recipient of a grant to conduct a study on expanding recycling. This study will include 5 identified tasks: 1. Evaluate additional cardboard recycling; 2. Evaluate options for yard waste collection; 3. Review trash hauler agreements; 4. Review and update existing waste ordinances; 5. Provide a checklist of additional materials that could be recycled.

Storm Sewer Labels



Over four dozen storm sewer inlets were marked with colorful labels indicating that the sewer is a direct line into the waterways. Please don't litter, and do recycle your used motor oil. Check with your mechanic shop to see if they accept used motor oil for recycling.

Recycle your computer parts!

Electronic equipment contains metals that, if not properly managed or contained, can become hazardous wastes. These include cadmium in ni-cad batteries; lead in monitors and televisions; mercury in electronic switches. These collection centers will take all electronics, including those often overlooked such as VCRs, tape decks, dvd players and televisions. All events are Saturdays, 9am-3pm

- May 14** Green Lane Park
- June 25** Norristown Area HS
- July 16** Methacton High School
- August 20** Temple Ambler Campus



For information on where to donate working computers, go to www.earth911.com



Ambler Main Street News

P.O. Box, Ambler, PA 19002; 215-641-1070; Fax:215-628-2280; www.AmblerMainStreet.org

Making downtown Ambler your social, cultural, and business center!

*What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us.
What we have done for others ... remains and is
immortal. – Albert Pine*



Upcoming Events



Main Street at Work

- Frostbite 5-mile run was held on President's Day. 451 runners participated and a huge number of folks braved the weather to cheer on their friends and family.
- We're on TV. Local Stations are now reporting and carrying our publicity releases promoting Ambler.
- AMS joins Valley Forge Visitor Guide which produces 300,000 copies of the bi-annual book.
- www.AmblerMainStreet.org is being updated with names, addresses, photos and phone numbers.
- **31 Main**, formerly know as the Easy Street Pub, had it's grand opening to a standing room only crowd. **PureCure Medical** has opened its doors at the former Burchett Tile at 17-19 East Butler Ave. It sells home medical supplies such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, braces and just about anything else you might need after being discharged from the hospital. **Sweet Things in Life** just opened at 127 E. Butler, across from the **Ambler Theater**. It is open from early morning until late at night for those who would like to pick up something on the way to the office, or for the after theater crowd. **Bridget's at 8 West** is an upscale, beautifully renovated restaurant (specializing in steaks) they are located at Main and Butler next to KCs Alley.

- ~~April~~ Ambler Fool's Party Thursday April 7th at Regan's Shoe Store from 5-8 pm. The \$12 donation supports Ambler Main Street's revitalization projects and includes beverage, food, and entertainment.
- 9th Annual Auto Show Sunday May 5 from 1 - 5 pm Butler Ave. 
- Art in the Storefront May 21 5:30-7 pm 41 E. Butler. This art deco building owned by Denney Electric lends itself nicely to this unique use. Meet the artists, view their work and share some light refreshments. 
- Victorian Tea Party May 22 at the Artman Home 2-4 pm 

Main Street Stores

The Main Skein and **The Flour Pot** (Best of Philly for Cookies) join Cottages & Castles, Wood'N'Wearables, Hyne's Consignment, Everything for a Buck, No Bare Walls, McFarland's Bicycles, Deck's Hardware, Manely For You, Unwind Salon, Insignia Signs, 31 Main, Flowers by Veronica, Reed's Beads and P.S. Vintage. WOW!

April showers bring May flowers. Help Ambler Main Street blossom by becoming a member.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____

Annual Membership; Resident \$35; Landlords \$200
Please send your tax-deductible gift to:
Ambler Main Street
PO Box 36, Ambler, PA 19002
Business membership based on number of employees

0-5	\$200	16-20	\$500
6-10	\$300	21-25	\$600
11-15	\$400	26-30	\$700
		31+	\$800

Presented by Ambler Borough

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Payment Box

A water bill payment drop box has been installed on York St. between Ralph's and the Police station, just past the old PNC rear driveway. It has a plate on the front "Ambler Borough Water Department." As you approach, on the side it states "Payment drop". **Please, no cash payments.**



Reminders from the Manager

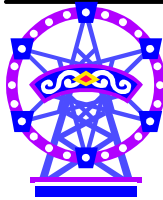
- Property owners must keep their grass no higher than six inches. Residents can be fined \$15.00 per day if they fail to comply with the enforcement notice.
- All trash must be stored in animal-resistant containers with lids.
- Abandoned vehicles on lots must be removed or brought up to code.
- Quiet Hours are between 10pm and 6am.
- Residents may place trash at the curb no earlier than 4:30PM the day before pickup and must return cans by 8:00PM after collection.
- Dog walkers are reminded be courteous to their neighbors and clean up after their dog. Violations can result in a \$300 fine.

Once Every Two Hours

The Annual Police Report showed the following statistics:

- 4582 total incidents.
- 674 Motor Vehicle Violations
- 8488 Gallons of gas for 66,317 miles.

In the 365 days of 2004 the police averaged a call to duty every 114 minutes. For the Borough's 18 miles of streets, police patrolled every street, every day, more than 10 times.



TRINITY CARNIVAL DATES

Trinity is the first carnival of the summer and it is for the whole community with profits going toward community programs like community cupboard, interfaith housing, and others programs.

Wednesday, June 1 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ride Special
Thursday, June 2 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ride Special
Friday, June 3 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Summer Fun!
Saturday, June 4 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Open Early!



Events at the Library

209 Race Street; 215-646-1072.



Musical Story Hour with Guitar by Miss Michelle:

Tuesdays, 4:30pm

Wednesday, Thursday
10:30am.

Bingo Game Night- prizes-
May 17th

Beading Group continues monthly, every 1st & 3rd
Thursday, 12:30 - 2:30.

Summer Reader's Club-
all activities begin at 7:00

June 21- The Science Show
Starring John Hadfield

June 28- Magic Show

July 5- Game Night

July 12- Dave Fiebert's Puppet
World

July 19- An Evening of Magic

July 26- Elmwood Zoo- Live
Animals

Aug. 2- Steve Pullara's Songs
and Drawings-

Aug. 9- Awards and Prizes

For more information: www.wvpl.org