



BOROUGH OF BRADFORD WOODS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1: Spring/Summer 2020

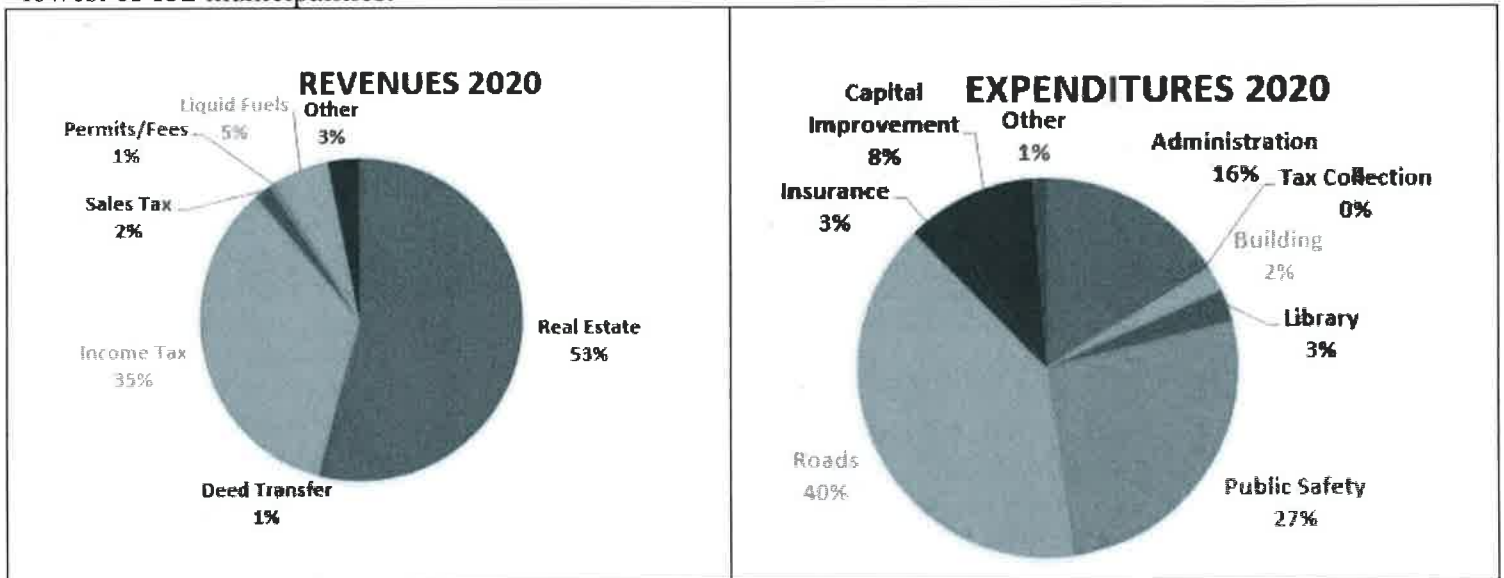
WWW.BRADFORDWOODSPA.ORG

COMMUNITY CORNER

2020 BUDGET

Budget development is one of the most important activities undertaken by the borough. During the process decisions are made to apportion scarce resources for the provision of services and capital asset investment. Borough Council's objectives: 1) Make informed choices for resource allocation 2) Promote resident awareness and participation. The process consists of activities that encompass Budget development, implementation, and evaluation.

In late 2020, Bradford Woods Borough approved a tax rate of 3.375 mills for 2020. The decision was necessary to cover increase costs in several areas related to infrastructure and service provision. Costs including Road Construction & Maintenance, Storm water management, Legal & Engineering Costs and Police Protection. The Borough is also purchasing a new truck to ensure reliability during Storm events and to reduce ongoing maintenance/ repair costs. The Borough last raised taxes in 2015 secondary to increased road construction costs. After the tax increase new Federal and State stormwater management regulations were implemented in 2016. These unfunded mandates necessitated the reallocation of the road construction budget dollars to the newly required pollution reduction plan. Even after the tax increase for 2020 the Borough still has one of the lowest tax rates in Allegheny County, 3rd lowest of 86 Boroughs, and 26th lowest of 132 municipalities.



If you have questions regarding the budget, please do not hesitate to attend a Council meeting (2nd Monday of each month at 7 PM) or contact the Borough office. Council typically starts the budget process in September.

BOROUGH ORGANIZATIONS

Bradford Woods Couples Club

For more information, email
bradfordwoodsclub@gmail.com

Bradford Woods Women's Club

Contact President Paula Irwin at 724- 935-4485 or
Bradfordwoodspa.org/2206/Womens-Club

The Heritage Committee

For more information contact June McCartney. (724-
816-3042) or visit Borough website.

Bradford Woods Conservancy

Go to bradfordwoodsconservancy.org for more
information on becoming a member of the
Conservancy, as well view monthly events they host!

Bradford Woods Volunteer Fire Company

It's time to get involved and volunteer for your
community! Contact [facebook.com/BWVFC](https://www.facebook.com/BWVFC)

SAFETY INFORMATION FROM NORTHERN REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPEED LIMIT 25 MPH

Did you know that speed is the 3rd leading
contributing factor in traffic collisions? It is
behind distracted driving (#1) and impaired
driving (#2). Please note that driving *above
the posted* speed limit as well as driving too
fast for road conditions is illegal and
dangerous. Residents enjoy taking walks and
riding bike rides throughout our Borough. Driving over the
speed limit can put drivers and non-drivers at risk for serious
harm. We ask the following of our residents:



Pedestrians:

- Wear bright clothing
- Walk along the left side (facing on-coming traffic)
- Please move off the road when vehicles approach
- Curb your dog

Drivers:

- Obey the posted speed limits
- Stop completely at stop signs & look carefully
- Yield to pedestrians and leave 4 feet between car & person

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the monthly Council meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future. To keep the meetings safe and secure, Council requests all public comments regarding agenda items be submitted in writing before the Council meeting. To gain access to virtual meeting information, please email or call the Borough office. Access will be restricted to those who requested meeting information. Meetings are still the second Monday of each month at 7 PM. There will be information on the website when Council meetings return to in-person meetings.

2020 ROADS PROGRAM

The 2020 Roads program was placed out for bid in February/March and opened publicly March 12 at the Pine Township Municipal offices. The program was awarded by Council at the April 13th Council Meeting. The 2020 road program roads are: Commons Drive, Market Court, and Meetinghouse. Paving schedule is pending COVID-19 restrictions.

COVID-19 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Resident and firefighter Shelly Muhlenkamp is creating an assistance program to match elderly neighbors with younger neighbors that are able to offer assistance. Assistance may come in the form of grocery shopping, pharmacy runs, dog walking, or other outside the home needs. This effort DOES NOT INVOLVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE or PERSONAL CONTACT. If you feel you need assistance with shopping or other out of home needs, please respond with your email, home address, and phone. Your name will be matched with a nearby neighbor who is willing to assist during this "stay at home" mandate. More importantly, if you feel you can OFFER assistance to our elderly neighbors, please respond with email, home address, and phone. Your name will be privately shared with Shelly in order to match up elderly neighbors that needs assistance with nearby younger neighbors that are willing to assist. Assistance DOES NOT INVOLVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE or PERSONAL CONTACT. If you would like to partake, please contact Shelly: shellymuhlenkamp@zoominternet.net

**E.P.A.C. - ENVIRONMENTAL PARKS ADVISORY
COUNCIL
INFORMATION**

- Who is EPAC? An advisory council made up of 5 borough residents. A borough council member and 4 members that are volunteers appointed by borough council.
- What does EPAC do? Acts at the direction of borough council to focus on environmental issues in our community. EPAC gathers information, measures community opinion, and consolidate complex issues for review by borough council.
- What is EPAC currently focused on? We are reviewing the ordinances related to trees in our community, as well as, how to help manage our Borough's tree heritage.

Elements of this process for the tree ordinance have included:

1. Researching ordinances in other communities to learn how they manage their issues and how they will successfully apply to Bradford Woods. EPAC has reviewed ordinances from Fox Chapel, Sewickley, and Hampton.
2. Meeting with environmental management professionals, such as Tree Pittsburgh and Bartlett Tree, to understand the issues affecting our tree population in our community and what can be done to make improvements.
3. Exploring recent changes to the way our utility providers will manage right of ways and how this affects our community.

A few takeaways from this process:

1. We are taking a "long term" perspective in considering revisions and how best to address public concerns without disrupting private ownership rights.
2. Establishing a population of young trees in a mature wooded environment (the understory) is very challenging, however, we must consider the long term impact of not replacing the understory.
3. Tree management ordinance change is a very common occurrence in our region. Many communities in Western Pennsylvania are facing issues with aging trees, new development, and protecting the natural beauty of the region.
4. Bigger isn't always better - planting trees is a great way to impact the environment in our community. Here is a link to an interesting article on tree selection for new planting:

<https://extension.psu.edu/trees-lawns-and-landscaping>

Additional efforts of EPAC to review will include:

- Establish information for public on Borough website, for recommended plantings, types, characteristics and other resources.
- Consider project to assist residents to group-purchase young trees to offset the aging tree population in the Borough
- Heritage Tree program establishment.
- Continue to review possible tree ordinance revision(s) for the Council.
- Increased impact of deer population.
- Pedestrian and biker safety within Borough.

The current ordinance can be found at <https://ecode360.com/12320742> . If you have any questions or information to contribute, please contact Natalie at the Borough office. Thanks!

DISTRACTED DRIVING EDUCATION

Did you know the number one cause of death for teens remains automobile crashes? On January 23, 2020, there was a free educational session for drivers relating to the dangers of distracted driving. Michelle Johnson of the Connor Johnson Memorial Foundation presented the session. The session taught parents and teens on best practices during the driver license process including the Pennsylvania Graduated Drivers License program and Impact Teen Drivers "What do you Consider Lethal?". Northern Regional Police Department officer was also present to review the license process and answer any police enforcement questions. Due to COVID-19, the sessions for April have been cancelled. Keep looking on the website for the next session!

**MESSAGE FROM BRADFORD WOODS VOLUNTEER
FIRE COMPANY:
BRADFORD WOODS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

Four Reasons You Should Join the Bradford Woods VFC.

1. The kids are grown and off to college, but you're by no means "over the hill" yet. A lot of parents who suddenly find themselves with a lot of free time find meaning in their lives by joining the volunteer department. They're perfectly happy with the day job they already have, but by giving their time to the community through volunteer firefighting, they find a whole new "post-kid" chapter in their lives.

2. Strong communities have citizens that form strong connections. Working with others towards a common goal: safety, is a way to be an active part of your community. Get away from social media and meet some real friends and help real people.

3. If you are new to the community, and have moved here from somewhere else, volunteering is a way to make a tangible commitment to your new neighborhood. You didn't have to grow up here dreaming about driving the big red truck, this is an instant way to be part of your new community.

4. We are volunteer firefighters who are here for one reason and one reason alone — because giving our free time to help out neighbors who are experiencing a traumatic event is just a fundamentally decent thing to do. Why don't you join us?

Shelly Muhlenkamp
(shellymuhlenkamp@zoominternet.net)
Membership Coordinator
Bradford Woods VFC

UPCOMING FIRE COMPANY EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

(please let Shelly know if you are interested in volunteering at any of these community activities)

8/29/20 Pancake Breakfast and Bike Parade

9/19/20 Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo

10/30/20 Community Halloween Parade

11/7/20 Fall Firehall clean up

12/12/20 Santa on the Truck through Bradford Woods

STORMWATER

D.E.P

Urban stormwater runoff pollution is a problem that has no boundaries, and neither does the solution! While the DEP Bureau of Clean Water works with counties, towns and other municipalities, construction firms, and industries to help them follow regulations to reduce stormwater runoff, Pennsylvania residents can also do their part to reduce stormwater runoff.

WHY IS STORMWATER A PROBLEM?

In 2016, DEP labeled approximately 19,000 miles of rivers and streams in Pennsylvania impaired for water supply, aquatic life, recreation, or fish consumption.

Stormwater runoff pollution is one of the biggest reasons for this impairment.

Over the past 100 years, streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and roofs have been a steadily increasing part of our communities as we've developed more and more of the landscape. As a result, rain that would otherwise soak into the ground instead rushes over these nonporous surfaces and into storm drains, which send it directly into rivers and streams.

Stormwater carries an enormous amount of pollution, including sediment, car oil, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, pet poop (and viruses and bacteria), and cigarette butts. As you might expect, this has many negative impacts on streams and rivers.

- Rivers are the source of our drinking water supply; when rivers aren't healthy, public health risks increase.
- Sediment harms aquatic life when it smothers macroinvertebrates and clogs spaces between rocks, destroying essential habitat for many species.
- Fertilizers stimulate excessive algae growth, causing algal blooms that remove oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, making beach closures necessary.
- Debris—such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, and cigarette butts—washed into rivers can choke, suffocate, or disable ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and motor oil can poison aquatic life.
- Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- Because groundwater levels don't get fully replenished, springs and wells can go dry.

Higher than Average Rainfalls

The National Center for Environmental Information has reported "much above average" rainfalls for the region. The short and heavy rainfall storms greatly affects the stormwater system as well as private properties. There are things homeowners can do to manage stormwater on their property. DEP has created a "Stormwater Guide for Homeowners" which can be found on our website. Unfortunately, we cannot control the amount of water that falls from the sky, but all of us together can manage it and keep our waters clean for generations to come.

ORDINANCE/NEIGHORLY REMINDERS

The complete Borough Code can be found at www.bradfordwoodspa.org or directly at www.ecode360.com/BR1973
If residents have any questions regarding the Borough Code, contact the Borough office at 724-935-2990 or bradfordwoods@zoominternet.net.

- Fence Permitting- It is required to obtain a zoning and building permit before the installation of a fence. §225-19(E)
- Homeowners are responsible for the removal of hazardous trees on their property. Please take note of dead/hazardous trees on your property as they are a danger to life and property. §210-4
- Remember to properly store your garbage cans in a timely fashion before and after pick-up days. *Remember there are fines associated with not bringing your refuse cans away from the curb.* Full ordinance: §183-4.
- Driveway permits are required when installing a driveway (surfacing or resurfacing). If over 400 square feet, a stormwater plan is required. §110
- Residents must obey 3 P.S. § 495-302 of the Pennsylvania Dog Law, including the regulation or prohibition of dogs running at large. **YOUR DOG MUST BE ON A LEASH.** Also, *please clean up after your pet!* ***Pet waste washes into our storm drains and pollutes our streams!*** Keep it clean—we all live downstream!

STAY INFORMED WITH BRADFORD WOODS NEWS FLASH!

1. Go to www.bradfordwoodspa.org
2. Click “Notify Me” on the left-hand side. You will find instructions on the page.
3. Choose Borough News for current information and choose Main Calendar for events. You have the option for email and/or SMS (text).
4. You will now be updated with current Borough information and news!

*All emails are treated confidentially by the Borough.
Call the Borough if you need help or have questions with signing up.

DO YOU HAVE A HOME BUSINESS? BE SURE TO REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS WITH THE BOROUGH!

BUSINESS OCCUPATION PERMITS CAN BE FOUND AT BRADFORDWOODSPA.ORG, UNDER “GOVERNMENT”>DEPARTMENTS>BUILDING/ZONING.
SEE §225-19 (C) FOR DETAILS REGARDING HOME BUSINESS OCCUPATION.

Waste Management COVID-19 Update

As a result of the pandemic, Waste Management has significantly reduced its “field” work force and focusing on essential services during this unprecedented emergency. For Waste Management to maintain its focus on municipal solid waste disposal and due to the reduced number of employees, effective March 24, Waste Management is temporarily suspending the performance of the following non-essential services during this emergency:

- Bulk Collection- furniture, carpet, mattresses, appliances, etc
- Spring and bulk clean-ups
- Yard Waste Collection- grass clippings, brush, tree limbs, etc.

PLEASE NOTE

- All trash/refuse must be bagged and sealed (and wherever possible) placed in containers. **Loose items will not be collected**
- All recyclable materials must be placed inside the recycling bin (including cardboard). **Items left outside of bin will not be collected**

When the Declarations of Emergency and social distancing recommendations have been eased and WM’s workforce returns to pre-pandemic levels, the services will be restarted.

Bradford Woods Borough
PO Box 163
4908 Wexford Run Road
Bradford Woods, PA 15015

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
15290
PERMIT NO. 1211

ECRWSS EDDM
Local / Postal Customer
Bradford Woods PA 15015

2020 YARD WASTE DATES

YARD WASTE DATES ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO
COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.
CALL OR CHECK WEBSITE FOR
UPDATES.
FOR MAY, COLLECTION WILL
BE MAY 2 AND MAY 16.

Borough Address: (Mailing) P.O. Box 163
4908 Wexford Run Road
Bradford Woods, PA 15015
Physical location: behind the Fire Hall

Borough office: 724-935-2990
Website: www.bradfordwoodspa.org
Borough Code: www.ecode360.com/BR1973
Email: bradfordwoods@zoominternet.net

Northern Regional Police:

(Non-Emergency) 724-625-3157 • www.nrpolice.com
(Emergency): 911

2020 BOROUGH COUNCIL

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Committee Chairman</u>
Public Safety	Victoria Pongrace
Personnel	Chuck Coltharp
Roads	David Baldonieri
Finance	Todd Hipwell
Environment	Kevin Rhule
Planning/Zoning	Jennifer Griffin
COG Rep/Library	Thomas Kosmala
Public Relations	

2020 APPOINTMENTS

Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement	Albert Kohan
Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator	Vince Cannella
Earned Income Tax Collector	Keystone Collections
Tax Collector	Jordan Tax Services
Del. Real Estate Tax Collector	Goehring Rutter Boehm
Case Sabatini/CPA Firm	Auditor
Borough Manager	Natalie Thiess
Borough Solicitor	Goehring Rutter Boehm
Borough Mayor	Doug Marsico

BOROUGH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 4908 Wexford Run Road (unless otherwise advertised)