

# The Pulse of Plum

Visit us on the web!  
[www.plumboro.com](http://www.plumboro.com)

Office:  
4575 New Texas Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

Phone:  
412-795-6800

Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
8 am to 5 pm  
Friday  
8 am to 4 pm

Borough Council:  
Mike Doyle, President  
Mike Dell, Vice-President  
John Anderson  
David Seitz  
Leonard J. Szarmach  
Steve "Skip" Taylor  
Dave Vento

Mayor:  
Richard Hrivnak

Borough Manager:  
Michael A. Thomas

*Council work sessions are held the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm and Council Meetings are held the 2nd Monday, at 7 pm*

## *From the desk of the Borough Manager:*

### **FLOOD MITIGATION FEE**

Too many Borough property owners lose thousands of dollars each year due to flooding. Only a portion of these losses might be recovered through the Federal Flood Insurance Program and the Flood Insurance Program only covers properties located within the federally identified "flood zones." Not all properties are eligible for Federal Flood Insurance.

Many properties in Plum are constructed too close to streams and creeks, and other properties experience flooding due to upstream development and/or insufficient storm water management controls (pipes, catch basins, retention ponds, etc.). These Storm Water Management Controls were not really used in new developments until the 1960-1970's and those that were constructed are inadequate or too old now to prevent damage.

Like many communities in our area, Plum Borough only adopted its first comprehensive Storm Water Management Ordinance 20-25 years ago (1992) to help control and prevent additional flooding. Unfortunately, of the more than 12,000 properties in Plum, only 10% were constructed after these storm water regulations were adopted. Consequently, 90% of the Borough has inadequate, deteriorating or non-existent pipes, catch basins, culverts and retention ponds.

Over the past 25 years, expenses for storm water have increased more than 2,000%! In 1995 the Borough budgeted \$50,000 for all expenses related to these storm water management controls or about 0.08% of the total budget. At that time, the total amount of money spent on all public infrastructure (roads, paving, etc.) was just under \$1,900,000. 2.6% of all expenses for public infrastructure was spent on storm controls. Then, in 1999 new federal regulations went into effect regarding storm water runoff and municipalities are now required to obtain permits and develop a storm water management program for all streets, ditches, pipes, etc. that are owned by the municipality to prevent pollutants from being washed or dumped into local waterways.

### ***FLOOD MITIGATION FEE (continued)***

In addition, the Borough is responsible for educating the public about storm water impacts, constructing storm water runoff controls to reduce and eliminate pollutants and test for and submit annual reports regarding the levels of pollutants discharged in the streams of our community. As a result of all of this, in 2015, storm water expenses are now 8% of the total Borough spending and 28% of all expenses for public infrastructure! 2015 Borough expenses for storm water construction, maintenance and related expenses are now \$1,200,000.

To pay for this massive increase in expenses, the Borough has implemented a Flood Mitigation Fee of \$5.00 per month for each household or “Equivalent Residential Unit” (ERU). An ERU is equal to 2,500 square feet and is based on the average amount of impervious surface generated by a residence in Plum. All residences are charged at the rate of one ERU and apartments are charged at a rate of \$3.00 per month. Businesses are charged based on the total amount of impervious surface in number of ERU’s (i.e. a business with 5,000 SF would be charged 2 ERU’s).

The Borough chose to fund these expenses as a fee and not a tax is because the tax structure does not take into account how much impervious surface a particular property has; a low assessed property can contribute significantly to the water runoff problem, while a very high assessed property may contribute very little. Implementing it as a fee also levels the playing field and requires entities that do not pay taxes to help fix this problem. 100% of the funds collected via the Flood Mitigation Fee are maintained in a separate fund/account to be used exclusively for the construction, repair, maintenance and monitoring of storm pipes, catch basins, retention ponds and other storm water-related infrastructure.

## LOCAL TAX RETURNS DUE APRIL 15

It's that time of year again. Your 2014 local earned income tax return is due on April 15.

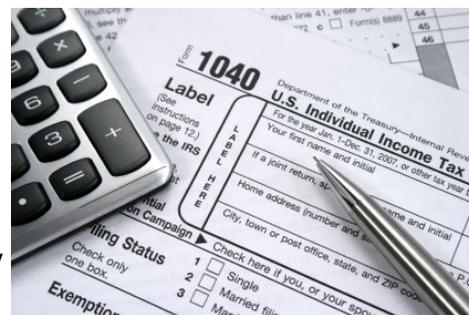
Did you know the quickest way to get your refund is to file online? If you live and work in Pennsylvania, you can e-file on our tax administrator's secure website, which is available 24/7 at [www.KeystoneCollects.com](http://www.KeystoneCollects.com).

Keystone Collections Group's e-file is the easy, fast and secure way to file your 2014 tax return. It lets you file your tax return when it is most convenient for you. You will need your W-2, your Social Security Number and any other income documents that may apply (such as a PA-UE or a Schedule C).

Please note that the forms changed this year. If you will be claiming an out-of-state tax credit or if you work in Philadelphia, you may be eligible for a local earned income tax credit up to the amount you owe to your resident municipality. The worksheet on the back of the form will help you calculate your out-of-state tax credit (attach a copy of your out-of-state filing).

If you have questions regarding local tax filing, call Keystone's **Taxpayer Helpline** at 1-888-328-0565 to speak with a local, knowledgeable Taxpayer Service Agent. You can also email your questions to "Taxpayer Support" at [www.KeystoneCollects.com](http://www.KeystoneCollects.com).

Taxpayers with earned income in 2014 are required to file a tax return by Wednesday, April 15.



## ELECTRONIC WASTE REMINDER



The collection of electronic waste (commonly known as e-waste) by your residential trash hauler is prohibited by state law.

Republic Services is not permitted to collect any type of electronic waste including, but not limited to, televisions, computers, computer monitors, DVD players, VCR's and similar devices. However, we are fortunate to have an electronics recycler located in Plum Borough.

All of the above mentioned items and more can be disposed of at eLoop located at 625 Plum Industrial Court, just off New Texas Road east of Route 286. There is no cost to dispose of any electronic materials at eLoop and a minimal cost for some appliances. For more information please visit [www.eloopllc.com](http://www.eloopllc.com).

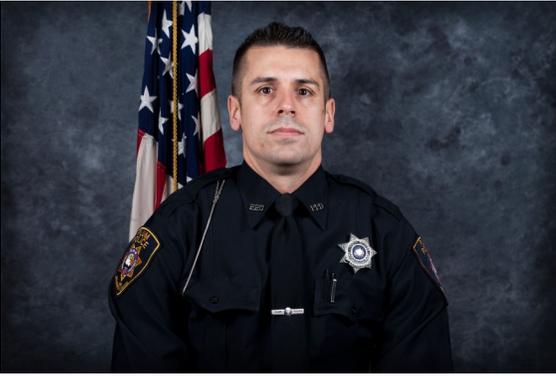
Every minute, 1.8 million new "likes" are made on Facebook! You can be one of them and **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**  
**The Borough of Plum**



### FUN FACEBOOK FACTS:

- Facebook has 59 million users and two million new ones join each week!
- The average US user spends 40 minutes a day on the site
- Smartphone users check Facebook 14 times a day

### Meet Plum's New School Resource Officer



**School Resource Officer Joe Little**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Joe Little and I am the most recent addition to the Plum Borough Police Department's School Resource Officer Program. I have been a police officer for over ten years in the Borough and my preparation for work had become routine. However, the morning of January 5, 2015 was anything but an ordinary day. This was the day that I began my new assignment as the School Resource Officer (SRO) at O'Block Junior High School.

I had been thinking of all the things I needed and hoped to accomplish such as establishing a relationship with the students, faculty and staff. Several weeks have since passed and I have learned a great deal.

First let me begin by saying, we have amazing children in Plum Borough. From my first day on the job, they were genuinely excited to have a police officer at their school. These children are friendly and respectful. They look for me in the halls, just to say "hello".

The faculty and staff at O'Block Junior High are true professionals. Mr. Fishell and his teachers are great motivators and educators. It is an amazing work environment and everyone has done an extraordinary job in making me feel welcome.

The most important aspect of my job is keeping the 600+ children at the Junior High safe, while maintaining an enriching educational setting. The kids understand that I am a police officer and a large part of my job is to discourage criminal activity and enforce the law. I truly believe that my presence alone promotes positive interactions between students and discourages unlawful behavior.

My favorite part of the job is mentoring these youths. I am able to sit with them and give advice or simply listen to what they have to say. A police officer, a majority of the time, deals with adults and realizes that they cannot change them. As a School Resource Officer, especially dealing with junior high students, I believe I can impact their lives in a positive manner. Many kids at this age feel awkward and alone, my reaching out to these students can make a difference in their future. My being their role model and mentor is truly the most rewarding part of my job.

Residents may not be aware that Officer Mark Kost has been the SRO at the High School for over 14 years and not only has he patrolled the High School, but the Junior High and Elementary schools as well. One of my first collaborations with Officer Kost was to develop a plan for visiting the District's six elementary schools, including St. John's School. I am happy to report that we have begun to do unannounced visits to these schools. This shared duty will allow for us to evenly and effectively visit the schools and give us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the students at an earlier age. With the opening of the new Holiday Park Elementary School, a large number of our students will be within a short distance from each other, meaning at any given time, a police officer will only be minutes away from each building.

I am currently developing numerous programs for both the elementary and junior high. These programs include relevant topics such as bicycle safety, cyber safety and bullying prevention. Plum School District students will have the opportunity to learn valuable advice, life lessons and insight from a law enforcement professional who they can trust and call a friend. I will also be available to the faculty as a guest speaker if requested.

I am excited and honored to serve as a School Resource Officer in Plum Borough. I believe our children should be provided with a safe learning environment and an education free of distractions and I will work diligently toward these goals. If I can be of assistance or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (412) 798-6319 or [littlej@pbsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:littlej@pbsd.k12.pa.us)

## Yard Waste Collection

Plum Borough and Republic Services will once again conduct yard waste collections for all residents of Plum. The yard waste collection allows you to dispose of shrubbery, chipped shrubbery, tree trimmings, garden residue and other vegetative materials at *no additional cost* to you as a resident of Plum Borough. No grass clippings or leaves will be collected during these special collections.

Collections will be held on the following Saturdays: **April 18, May 16, and June 20, 2015**. Republic Services will come to your house to pick up the yard waste as long as you have pre-scheduled the pick-up with them. Please contact Republic Services at 877-788-9400 to schedule a pick-up of your yard waste.

You must call Republic Services by noon prior to the day of the scheduled collection to arrange for your yard waste to be collected. Please place all yard waste at the curb prior to 7:00 a.m. on the morning of the collection.



Trucks will only be dispatched to homes that requested a yard waste collection and will not be canvassing the Borough looking for yard waste. If you don't schedule a collection with Republic Services, your yard waste will not be picked up.

The cost of the yard waste collection is included in your monthly trash bill, so please take advantage of the service that you are paying for.

### PAVILION RENTAL

It's that time of the year again when residents start thinking about renting various pavilions in the Borough parks for family events, birthday parties and other get-togethers.

Please book your pavilion early as there is a great demand for the picnic pavilions at Larry Mills Park and the Plum Baseball Field complex.

These pavilions are rented on a first-come first served-basis. Past rentals of these facilities do not guarantee you the same day or weekend, so book early.

Please call the Borough Building at (412) 795-6800, ext. 4205 to make your reservation or visit [www.plumboro.com](http://www.plumboro.com), select Public Works and Pavilion Rental.

### PLUM COMMUNITY CENTER



Craft Show—March 21st



#### Fitness and Exercise Classes:

Low-Impact Aerobics Monday & Friday 9:15 am

Silver Sneakers Cardio Wednesday 9:15 am

Silver Sneakers Sit Down & Exercise Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:30 am

Restoration & Relaxation Yoga Wednesdays 11:30 am

Line Dancing Thursdays 10 am

Silver Sneakers Yoga Fridays 11:30 am

Ping Pong Monday at 2:00 pm

## **Plum Borough Municipal Center Expansion**

The development of the Plum Borough Municipal Center is continuing at a rapid pace. Old Mine Road will soon be open to traffic to connect Renton Road with Old Leechburg Road. The 1,400 foot extension of the road was recently completed by A. Liberoni Contracting and will be open after the completion of an inspection by PennDOT. The extension of Old Mine Road will allow the tenants of the new Al Franci Emergency Services Building to access their entire service area in a rapid manor as they will have unobstructed access to all areas of the Borough with this road extension.

Construction of the Al Franci Emergency Services Building is on track for completion in March of 2015. Plum Borough EMS and the Renton Volunteer Fire Department will occupy this 17,000 square foot building which is currently under construction. Although they are sharing the building, each will have a separate entrance and separate facilities within the buildings to serve their specific needs. The building will be located on a two acre parcel of land across Old Mine Road from the Plum Borough Public Works Department.

The building is being constructed by Plum Borough who will maintain ownership of the property with Plum EMS and the Renton Volunteer Fire Department as tenants. Both agencies will pay a portion of the debt service as tenants in the building.

An exciting addition to the Municipal Center this year will be the construction of a walking/biking trail along Old Mine Road. The master plan for the development of the Municipal Center showed a trail as part of this development and the area has already been rough graded for this amenity during the construction of Old Mine Road. At a minimum, the trail will extend 4,100 feet from Renton Road to Old Mine Road. Additional routes through the site are a possibility based upon available funding. A parking area and a handicapped area on the trail are also planned.

## **Parks and Recreation Improvements**

***Improvements are underway at Larry Mills Park and the Plum Baseball fields!***



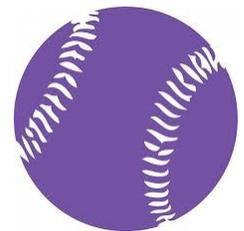
### ***Larry Mills Park***

At Larry Mills Park, several soccer fields have been reconstructed. The Borough has contracted with Zatolla Landscaping and their work includes resurfacing and underdrains on the upper soccer playing field. These improvements will allow for better playing conditions not only for Plum Youth Soccer and Plum High School Soccer, but for the public to enjoy as well!

### ***Plum Baseball Complex***



The Plum Baseball Complex, located on New Texas Road, has four new baseball dugouts under construction with four more to be constructed this year! Pampena Landscaping and Construction has confirmed that phase one (dependent on weather) will be completed on schedule and ready for baseball season. We anticipate the start of phase two this year.



## **Borough Road and Infrastructure Improvements**

Construction season will be beginning in the next four to six weeks and Plum Borough has a lot of projects scheduled for this spring and summer. Some are repairs to existing roads and infrastructure and others are improvements to Borough parks and facilities. Some of the construction projects planned in the Borough this year are:

Holiday Park Drive Culvert Replacement – Plum Borough has awarded a contract for the replacement of an existing storm water culvert on the eastern side of Holiday Park Drive near the intersection with Route 286. This project will replace the entire culvert under the road, repave the road in this section and re-landscape the surrounding areas.

Hemphill Hollow Road Re-Construction – Plum Borough will advertise for bids in the near future for the total re-construction of Hemphill Hollow Road which sustained a significant amount of damage during a heavy rain storm in June of 2014. The proposed project included the replacement of two bridges on Hemphill Hollow Road, replacement of storm inlets and pipe, repaving the entire road and re-routing a small portion of a stream in the area that contributed to the flooding and roadway damage.

Repp Road Landslide Repair – Plum Borough will advertise for bids in the near future for repairs to the slide area on Repp Road just south of Emerald Drive. This landslide occurred in March of 2014 as a result of excess water build-up under the surface of the roadway. The water problem will be corrected, all saturated soil will be removed and disposed of off-site, new fill material will be brought in and properly compacted, the road will be repaved in this section and new guard rail will be installed.

Road Paving – Plum Borough will attempt to pave approximately three miles of roadways during the summer of 2015. These include all of the roads in the Greendale and Edgemede developments. These roads have not been paved for approximately 25 years and are in dire need of repaving.

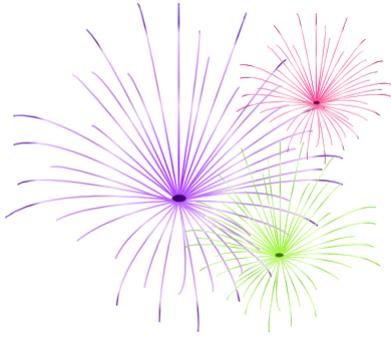
Storm Sewer Repairs and Replacements – Each summer the Public Works Department spends significant funds and a significant number of man-hours making repairs and extensions to the storm sewer system in Plum Borough. This spring and summer we will continue to make repairs to failing inlets and pipes throughout the Borough as needed. We will also be concentrating on the Frankstown Acres section of the Borough in 2015. A complete storm sewer system will be installed on Beech, McJunkin, Finley, Eighmy, Elm and Maple Roads. All work on this system is to be completed by Borough crews this year in preparation on paving this area in 2016.



## *Café Plum*

Café Plum is open for lunch Monday thru Friday 11 am to 2 pm  
Menu includes: sandwiches, fresh salads and hoagies. They are located in the Plum Community Center, 499 Center-New Texas Road.

For complete menu and daily specials visit: [ww.PlumCommunityCenter.org](http://ww.PlumCommunityCenter.org)



# 2015 PLUM COMMUNITY DAYS

## FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH

## SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH

The 2015 Plum Community Festival will be held on Friday, June 26th and Saturday, June 27th. The festival will be held at Larry Mills Park in Holiday Park.

The Festival Committee has been meeting diligently and they are hard at work to bring you an event that you won't want to miss! The festival celebrates fun, food and entertainment. The goal of the Committee is to host a family-oriented festival that brings Plum Borough residents and businesses together for an enjoyable weekend.

Sponsorship requests were mailed to local businesses who in the past have supported this event. Without the business community's support this entertaining weekend would not be possible. However, the support which is received by the Borough and local businesses is not enough to finance this event. In an effort to raise additional funds, Plum Rotary will be sponsoring a raffle ticket. Tickets are only \$5 and winners will be determined by the PA Daily lottery evening drawing, everyday during the month of June! See any Rotary member or stop by the Municipal Building to buy your tickets.

And remember . . . there are four ways you or your group can take part! Sponsor an activity booth, participate as a crafter, a food vendor or a non-food vendor. Details about each category and registration forms are available by visiting [www.plumboro.com](http://www.plumboro.com)

**Support, Participate and Contribute to this wonderful event for the people of Plum Borough!**

*We would like to thank those who have already sent in their sponsorship!*

**Platinum Level:**

S and T Bank

**Gold Level:**

Standard Bank

**Silver Level:**

L.R. Kimball  
Boening & Scattergood, Inc.  
Rothman Gordon

**Bronze Level:**

Rucon, Inc.  
Peppi's Sandwich Shop  
Nesbit's Lanes, Inc.  
ARS Automotive  
Dr. Timothy Glasspool, Superintendent, Plum School  
District

# PLUM ROTARY..2014 YEAR IN REVIEW



*Service Above Self*

**The Plum Rotary not only sponsors the Plum Community Festival in June, but works year round to do amazing for the Community. The Rotary has raised and donated over \$9,000 for the following:**

\$180 sent two Plum High School students to the Rotary Ethics Symposium

\$1,500 scholarship to Plum Senior High School

\$100 donation to Plum Community Library

\$250 each to the participants of the 2014 Community Days Festival:

Russ and Jeannie Nesbit Scholarship fund

Plum High School Music Boosters

Plum High School Lacrosse Boosters

YMCA Indian Guides and Princesses

Plum Chamber of Commerce

Plum High School Cheerleading Boosters

Boy Scout Troup #111

Sarah Hrivnak Fund

Plum Republican Committee

Plum Democratic Club

Plum High School Majorettes

Plum High School Football Boosters

Salem Township VFD

Plum Community Center

Cub Scout Pack #899

\$1,000 to Plum Soccer Association for their assistance in the Plum Community Festival – we could not accomplish the event without their help and support!

\$1,000 to East Suburban YMCA for their Annual Giving Campaign

\$100 to Plum High Lady Mustangs

\$50 to the Rotary Foundation to support their booth at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

\$950 to the Rotary Foundation

\$250 to aid the Oakmont Elks in making their building handicap accessible for disabled veterans

\$250 to purchase gifts for recipients of Home Delivered Meals

\$50 to Plum Chamber of Commerce to support their Breakfast with Santa

The Rotary also volunteers their time to deliver meals every Monday to residents of Plum Borough who participate in the Home Delivered Meals Program (currently delivering over 25 meals each Monday) and for Christmas we purchased and wrapped gifts to give to each recipient.

We purchased and delivered dictionaries to the third graders of all Plum Elementary Schools, including St. John's, we collected over 600 pairs of shoes for the children of Nicaragua and partnered with the Plum Chamber of Commerce for their annual golf outing.

Plum Rotary was the proud recipient of the 2014 Special Recognition Award from the Plum Area Soccer Association for our dedicated service to the Community.

If you are interested in meeting new people, making new friends and want to serve your Community, join Plum Rotary! Call 412-795-6800 ext. 4203 for more information or email [mcostanza@plumboro.com](mailto:mcostanza@plumboro.com)

*As you know, the Plum Community Festival is Rotary's major undertaking!  
Mark your calendars for **June 26 and 27** and look for new rides, game and entertainment!*