

Spring 2013

The Pulse of Plum

Visit us on the web!
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
Keith Nowalk, Vice
President
John Anderson
Mike Dell
Don Knopfel
Len Szarmach
Steve "Skip" Taylor

Mayor:
Richard Hrivnak

Borough Manager:
Michael A. Thomas

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

From the desk of the Borough Manager:

ANNOUNCING.... PLUM COMMUNITY DAYS 2013

The Plum Rotary in conjunction with the Borough of Plum are busy planning this year's Community Festival. The Festival will be held Friday, June 21st and Saturday, June 22nd at Larry Mills Park on O'Block Road.

This year join us Friday evening for. . .

THE BUFFETTMAN & THE FRUITCAKES!

Tom Watt, known to his loyal following as "the Buffettman", has been dazzling fans around the United States for over a decade. He has performed more than 1,200 shows with his unique tribute to both the music and spirit of the Jimmy Buffett concert experience. Tom began performing his tribute show regularly in Pittsburgh in 1998 and by the following year he was performing Jimmy's music up and down the East Coast from Key West, throughout Florida, to the Carolinas and Virginia's East Coast.

His range of tunes include Buffett's favorites like "Margaritaville" and "Fins", not to mention "Brown-Eyed Girl", just to name a few!

So if you miss that feeling you get at a "Buffett Concert" and don't want to wait for a year to experience it again, set your course for Larry Mills Park and catch Tom Watt, the Buffettman, live in concert.

It really is paradise!! (cheeseburgers optional!!)



Plum Business Showcase

Tuesday, April 16th

5 to 8 pm

Plum Senior High School

Vendor Tables:

Members \$75 ~ Non-Members \$100

Electricity Available for additional \$10
(limited availability)

Payment in full is due at booking

Vendor Table Reservation Deadline April 5th

Reserve your space today!

For more information:

Plum Chamber of Commerce

412-798-2300

Don't have a table?

Come visit our vendors for free!

For more information about this event and sponsorship opportunities, contact:

Plum Chamber of Commerce
4555 New Texas Road, Suite D
Pittsburgh, PA 15239
412-798-2300

THE PITFALLS OF WINTER MAINTENANCE

Every property in our Borough includes an easement. Exactly what is an easement? An easement is defined as “*an interest in land owned by another that entitles its holder to a specific limited use or enjoyment*”. An easement becomes even more complex because of the many different kinds of easements.

One example would be a utility easement. The property owner owns all of the land including the utility easement. However, utilities have a right to access that portion of land which has been designed as a utility easement. These almost always exist along the streets, along rear lot lines and sometimes even exist between two lots. Keeping this portion of the property clear, aids all utility companies to perform routine maintenance, construct improvement projects and make emergency repairs. Utility companies usually encourage decorative landscaping and finishing touches on personal property, but keep in mind that these boundaries are subject to damage and are not the responsibility of the utility owner.

In the Plum Borough Unified Development Ordinance: Ordinance #507-93 defines the word “right of way” as follows: “A strip of land acquired by purchase, reservation, dedication, or condemnation and intended to be occupied by a road, storm sewer, sanitary sewer or public utility as well as the right of one individual or entity to pass over the property of another individual or entity.”

It is the goal of the Department of Public Works to provide efficient and thorough winter maintenance and at the same time, respect the personal property of each and every property owner in our Borough. The powerful force of snow as it exits a snow plow sometimes results in unintentional damage to objects such as a basketball hoop, decorative landscaping, or fencing ***on or near*** the cartway – the portion of a street right-of-way intended for public passage which constitutes the actual paved roadway.

As a courtesy, the Borough will usually make small landscape repairs to damages what occurred during winter maintenance operations. Do not hesitate to contact the Plum Public Works Department at 412-795-6800 ext. 251 to report damages.

REMINDER TO PLUM RESIDENTS:



PLUM BOROUGH PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Did you know?

A significant function of the Planning/Zoning, Building Inspection Department is the issuance of Permits. Permits applications are required for the following residential activities:

A **Residential Building Permit** is required for all new dwellings, additions, decks, porches and porch roofs, all swimming pools greater than 24" deep, spas and hot tubs, accessory structures over 1000 square feet, structural alterations, fences over 6 feet, retaining walls over 4 feet, sidewalks and driveways more than 30 inches above adjacent grade, and demolitions.

Zoning certificates are required for sheds detached garages, carports, pavilions, gazebos, greenhouses and pool houses.

Occupancy permits are required for all residential structures whenever there is a change in ownership or residents, not more than once every 2 years regardless of the number of occupancy changes.



Planning Department ~ Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a violation for that?

This is one frequent question that the Plum Code Enforcement Department is asked! Common code violations are: high grass, junk and debris, vehicles without current inspection and registration, sight obstructions due to vegetation, dumping, building without a permit, grading without a permit, sign permits and zoning violations. The Code Enforcement Department mainly complaint driven from the Borough's residents since the Borough employees that handle this task also handle several other daily job duties.

So how do I log a complaint?

If you think there is a property with a code violation you should contact the Code Enforcement Department at 412-795-6800, extension 231. Linda, the Department Secretary, will log your complaint. You will need to provide the address of the violation as well as your name and contact number, in case we need to contact you to follow up on the complaint. Please note that your name and information is kept anonymous. The violation must be able to be seen from the street since our employees are not allowed to trespass on to a property. If the violation can be seen from your property, let us know if we can enter your property to view the complaint. Once we receive the complaint, it will be issued to a Code Enforcement Officer for investigation. If a violation is found, we will notify the property owner via certified or registered mail of the violation and amount of time to rectify the violation. Please note that there is a determined amount of days per each individual Borough Ordinance for the complaint to be rectified. The time period begins when the certified or registered mail is received by the violating property owner. It is the goal of the Code Enforcement Department to have the violations addressed. We will work with the property owner to comply. If compliance is not received a citation will be issued with the District Magistrate. If a citation is issued a hearing is scheduled before the Magistrate within 2 to 4 weeks. Any fine or extension of time to address the violation is then decided by the Magistrate.

Trestle Road Traffic Safety

On October 10, 2012 Plum Borough Council enacted ordinance 857-12, which authorized the erection of traffic control devices that restrict vehicles from turning onto Trestle Road from Monroeville-Trestle Road during specific hours.

This ordinance was enacted to address traffic safety concerns which were identified as a result of a traffic study that was conducted on Trestle Road. The study found two significant factors that were affecting traffic conditions on Trestle Road:

- A high percentage of vehicles were traveling well in excess of the posted 25 MPH posted for the roadway.
- A high percentage of vehicles were using Trestle Road as a short cut to avoid traffic congestion at an adjacent intersection. This was determined from the higher traffic volume experienced during the morning and afternoon commute hours when the intersection of Monroeville-Trestle Road and Saltsburg Road becomes congested.

Signs restricting turning from Monroeville-Trestle Road on to Trestle Road between the hours of 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday, were erected by the Plum Public Works Department in February 2013.



Shortly thereafter, the Plum Police Department conducted several traffic enforcement details on Trestle Road to ensure that the turning restrictions are being adhered to. During each enforcement detail, it was found that a significant number of vehicles were disregarding the signs and making the illegal turn onto Trestle Road. Over a three (3) day enforcement period in February, an average of fifteen (15) vehicles per day were stopped and cited for failure to obey the posted turning restrictions. A violation of this nature will result in a traffic citation being issued under section 3111 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code. Section 3111, titled *Obedience to Traffic Control Devices*, states “Unless otherwise directed by a uniformed police officer or any appropriately attired person authorized to direct, control or regulate traffic, the driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any applicable official traffic control device placed or held in accordance with the provisions of this title...”. Violations of this section carry a fine of \$25.00 and costs. While this may not sound like very much, the associated costs when receiving a traffic citation in Pennsylvania are currently \$ 87.00, making the total cost for a citation of this nature \$ 112.00. There are on points assigned to your driver’s license with a violation of §3111 *Obedience to Traffic Control Devices*.

While current efforts have focused mainly on the enforcement of the newly implemented turning restrictions on Trestle Road, future traffic details conducted by the police department will revisit the issue of vehicle speed enforcement. Unlike §3111 *Obedience to Traffic Control Devices*, Pennsylvania Vehicle Code section 3362 *Maximum Speed Limits* carries much harsher penalties for such violations. Fines associated with violations of §3362 **start** at \$ 35.00. For any violation that exceeds the speed limit by more than 5 miles per hour, an additional fine of \$ 2.00 is added for every mile per hour in excess of the 5 miles per hour over the maximum speed limit the drivers is found to have been traveling. For example, Trestle Road has a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. If a driver is found to have been traveling 42 miles per hour on Trestle Road, or 17 miles per hour over the speed limit, they would receive a citation under §3362 *Maximum Speed Limits* that carries a fine of \$ 146.00. The fine breaks down as follows: \$ 35.00 for the violation, \$ 24.00 for the 12 miles per hour over the posted 25 mile per hour limit at \$ 2.00 per mile, and \$ 87.00 in associated citation costs. Additionally, a conviction under §3362 will result in points being assigned to your driver’s license. As with the fine, the number of points received is dependent on how many miles per hour over the posted speed limit the driver was traveling.

The scheduling of points upon a conviction of §3362 *Maximum Speed Limits* is as follows:

MILES OVER LIMIT	POINTS
6 - 10	2
11 - 15	3
16 - 25	4
26 - 30	5
31 and over	5*

Using our example of a driver found to have been traveling 42 miles per hour on Trestle Road, the points assigned to their license upon conviction would be 3. Upon the accumulation of 6 points to a driver’s license, the license holder is subject to training, re-examination, or sanctions as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

In short, please be cognizant of all posted speed limits, not only on Trestle Road, but on every road in Plum. As the warmer weather arrives, it brings with it an increase in both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

The police department will be out conducting regular speed enforcement details throughout the Borough and addressing numerous other traffic safety concerns which affect residents and visitors alike. Please do your part to make the roadways safe for everyone by driving carefully, paying attention to signage, and obeying the posted speed limit.



**Plum Rotary
is looking for volunteers . . .
Join us for lunch Tuesdays at 12:15
at Palmieri’s Restaurant
Old Frankstown Road.
Come and see what Rotary is all about!**

“Service Above Self”

For more information on the Plum Rotary contact 412-795-6800 ext. 224

PLUM SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER HAPPENINGS

CAFÉ PLUM AT THE PLUM SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER



Café Plum, now open to the public for lunch Tuesdays thru Fridays from 11 am until 2 pm. Take out available at a convenient side door by the garage. The Plum Senior Community Center is located at 499 Center-New Texas Road. 412-795-2339

Craft and Vendor Show
Saturday and Sunday
April 27
10 am to 3 pm
April 28
10 am to Noon



Taste of Plum Cookbook is available at the Plum Senior Community Center for \$12.75. This cookbook makes a great gift or nice keepsake. Stop in for a copy!

Garage Sale at Plum Senior Community Center
Including office equipment and odds and ends
Friday April 26th
9 am to 3 pm
Saturday, April 27th
9 am to Noon



50/50 Raffle Tickets are available at the Center for the May 22nd drawing



Monday, May 6th is "May Day Celebration for Seniors" At the Carnegie Museum of Art And Natural History. This is a free event and OPT transportation will be available from the Center. OPT will leave at 10:15 am and return to the Center at 2:00 pm. Please call or stop in to register!

SUPER BINGO
JUNE 1ST
PLUM SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER



PLUM SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, May 8th starting at 11 am is **Country Western Day** at the Plum Senior Center. Join in on the fun with our live Country Western band, a line dancing performance, a special lunch and prizes for most original “western attire”!



On Wednesday, May 22nd come meet with Plum EMS at the Senior Community Center for a Q & A session to learn about what the EMS does in our community, the benefits of the subscription drive, what a Senior Home Check is and much more!

The program is open to the public and starts at Noon. Please call for details or to register!

LUNCH AND LEARN!!



**Tuesday, May 28th is
Caribbean Day
at the PSCC.
Join in on the fun!**

Call for details!!

There will be three Lunch and Learns at the Center sponsored by CCAC’s Lifetime Enrichment Program.



These programs are offered free to those who are at least 60 years of age and Allegheny County residents.

On April 30th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, the topic will be **Cinco de Mayo**. Tuesday, May 7th will be **Art and Museums of Pittsburgh** and May 15th will be **“Local Foods & Flavor”**.

Please call to register at least one week prior to each event!



Looking for a place to host a graduation party, baby shower, communion party or family get-together??

Call Plum Senior Community Center for information on room rentals. Ask for Earlene at 412-795-2330 ext. 103

PLUM SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER HAPPENINGS



Driver Safety Classes at Plum Senior Center

AARP will be holding a Driver's Safety Class on Friday, April 12th and Friday, April 19th from 9 am to 1 pm.



This two day program is open to drivers of all ages, but geared to those ages 55 and older. Check with your insurance company as you may be eligible for a 5% discount on your auto insurance.

There is a \$12 fee for AARP members and a \$14 fee for all others. Call the Center to register at 412-795-2330.

Driver Safety Refresher Class (55 Alive)

The Plum Senior Community Center is offering a one day refresher course for those who have taken the class within the last three years.

It will be held on Friday, April 26th from 9 am to 1 pm. Call the Center to register!

BEING AN ALZHEIMER CARE GIVER

Please join us at the Plum Senior Community Center on Thursday, May 16th at 6:30 p.m. for a free educational workshop for those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.



The workshop will cover how to manage behaviors, encourage engagement and care for yourself while caring for a loved one.

This seminar is sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care. Please call the Center to register or for details. The Caregivers Support Group (Caring Circle) will be meeting this night as well.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS FOR SENIORS



If you are recuperating from an illness, accident or surgery our Home Delivered Meal Program delivers meals throughout the community five days a week. You can request meals from a week to several months as necessary. To be eligible for Home Delivered Meals one must be 60 years of age, live in Plum Borough and need assistance. Call 412-795-2330 and ask for Toni Franco.

Visit our web site at: www.plumseniorcenter.org for additional details.

Send your comments or suggestions for future articles to mcostanza@plumboro.com