

BOROUGH OF SEVEN FIELDS NEWSLETTER



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Welcome New Council Members and Returning Council Members

Welcome new Council Member Dr. Michael Trotta and Council Re-Elect, Dawn Servello, who won their seats in the November Municipal Election. Returning Council Members include Brian Trimble, Kim Regan-Koch, and Dr. Kevin Caridad.

On Monday, January 6, 2020, Council will meet to re-organize. Members will be sworn in with Mayor Michael Baer leading the meeting. Nominations will be taken for Council President. Once the president is elected by his or her peers, Mayor Baer will pass the gavel to the President and the meeting will continue with the election of Officers. 2020 appointments will also be made.

This meeting is open to the public and will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Seven Fields Council Chambers, 2200 Garden Drive, Suite 100, Seven Fields, PA 16046.



I M P O R T A N T D A T E S

Monday, January 6th:

- Planning Commission Meeting at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers
- Council Reorganization Meeting at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers

Monday, January 13th:

- Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers

Monday, January 20th:

- Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Commission Meeting at 5:15 pm in Seven Fields

Monday, January 27th:

- Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Commission Meeting at 5:15 pm in Seven Fields (Tentative)
- Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers (Tentative)

For more information visit the Borough at www.sevenfields.org

COUNCIL NEWS / BRIEF

Council met on Monday, December 9, 2019 and approved the following:



- Borough Council officially adopted the 2020 Seven Fields Budget(s)
- Borough Council approved the 2020 Council meeting dates and times
- Borough Council approved the 2020 Planning Commission meeting dates and times
- Borough Council approved Resolution 2019-23 appointing Suzanne Mills to the Planning Commission with a term from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023.
- Borough Council approved Resolution 2019-24 appointing David Bochna, John Popojas, and Nick Mastrian to the Hearing Zoning Board with a term from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.
- Borough Council approved legal ads for the 2020 Seven Fields Road Resurfacing Project and the Seven Fields Community Center Exterior Renovation bids
- Borough Council approved the legal ad for amendment of Ordinance #79, Seven Fields Pension Plan
- Borough Council approved the 2020 Cranberry Twp/Seven Fields Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$8,632.50
- Borough Council approved the hiring of Public Works Laborer, Tyler Scherling
- Borough Council approved the 2020 3% COLA/Merit increase for eligible Seven Fields employees

*The next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2020 —All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.
Meeting Minutes and additional information can be found online at www.sevenfields.org*

2019 Fourth Quarter Water Bills

The 2019 fourth quarter water bills were mailed to all customers at the end of December and are *due January 31, 2020.*

Late fees are calculated on any and all past due balances.

If you are not receiving your quarterly water bills, please contact the Borough Office immediately at 724-776-3090. *****No exoneration is given for failure to receive a bill*****



EVANS CITY/SEVEN FIELDS REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

The November report provided to Council on Monday, December 9th identified 179 incidents with 98 in Seven Fields.

Residents are to call 911 for ALL police matters

Notary Service

The Borough offers free Notary services to all residents of Seven Fields.

Monday through Thursday -8:30 am—5:00 pm

Friday -8:30 am—12:30 pm & 1:30 pm—5:00 pm

Motor vehicle and driver licensing services are not available.

Please call the Borough Office to check availability

724-776-3090

Understanding Stormwater

Ten Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and gutters.
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- Compost your yard waste.
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.

For more information visit:

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

Reminders from the Public Works Department of the Borough of Seven Fields

- If a fire hydrant is located on your property, please keep it free and clear of heavy snow.
- On-street parking is not permitted on any of the Borough streets between the hours of 2:00 a.m.—6:00 a.m.
- On-street parking is completely prohibited in the townhouse neighborhoods. It is very important that the roads be free of parked vehicles when the plows are trying to clear the roads of snow before the morning rush hour.
- During heavy snowfalls, your patience is requested. Main roads must receive priority.
- If you witness a very dangerous snow condition that you feel needs immediate attention, dial 911. The 911 operators will contact the proper authorities to have the snow plow dispatched to that area.
- Please do not work against the snow plow operator's efforts. **When you shovel your driveway and sidewalk, do not throw the snow out into the streets.**



Borough of Seven Fields Community Center Rental Price Increase

Starting January 1, 2020, the cost for Seven Fields residents to reserve the Community Center will increase by \$25.

Residents will now pay \$125 for the first two hours of their reservation. There will be no change to the security deposit amount or the cost for each additional hour, which will remain at \$25 per hour.

The cost increase was implemented to cover the additional expenses of the cable TV and free Wi-Fi that are now available in the Seven Fields Community Center.

Please call the Borough Office with any questions—724-776-3090

The Borough Office will be closed on **January 1, 2020** in observance of New Year's Day





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"We want our patients to leave with a smile on their face..." (...in more ways than one)



Borough of Seven Fields 2020 Budget Message

Borough of Seven Fields - 2200 Garden Drive, Suite 100 - Seven Fields, PA 16046
724-776-3090

www.sevenfields.org

Thomas B. Smith, Borough Manager

Introduction & General Comments

The 2020 Budget Message is important because it gives Seven Fields residents a high-level understanding of the financial and functional condition of the Borough in a concise manner and reflects the Borough Council and Borough Manager's vision for our community's future. The approved 2020 budget total for all funds is \$2,384,309, which is a 2.43% increase from 2019. This is due to efforts to sustain a consistent budget with the prior year while allowing for important projects and needed personnel to provide services. The details will be explained in the report that follows.

Demographics

According to the July 1, 2018 Census data, Seven Fields is a Borough of 2,754 citizens, having a median age of 36.8 years. It has a land mass of approximately one square mile. While the Borough is largely developed, there are some development opportunities in the Borough, namely the Enclave at Hightpointe which will be completed in the upcoming years.

Sources of Income

Seven Fields has five major sources of revenue income on which to operate: (1) Property Tax, (2) Earned Income Tax, (3) Local Services Tax, (4) Real Estate Transfer Tax, (5) Revenue From Sale of Water.

Fees for services are also another source of funds but are relatively minor in comparison to the ones above.

Taxes

Taxation in the Borough is as follows:

- Real Estate Property Tax at 7 mills is expected to produce \$230,000 in revenue. This millage rate has not been increased for 9 consecutive years.
- Earned Income is assessed on all residents at $\frac{1}{2}$ % of annual income.
- Real Estate Transfers are $\frac{1}{2}$ % for all real estate transactions.
- Local Services Tax is \$52 on all individuals who work in Seven Fields.
- Business Privilege Tax is \$1,000 for gross receipts over \$100k in revenue.

Butler County

The Borough remains the smallest part of an individual's real estate tax burden as shown:

<u>Taxing Authority</u>	<u>Millage</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Seven Fields Borough	7.0	4%
Seneca Valley School District	126.0	78%
Butler County	27.62	18%
	160.62	

all percentages rounded

Revenue Fund Structure

The Borough's financial budget is structured into three (3) funds as follows:

General	\$1,397,473	General Borough operations
Water	\$ 899,450	Funds from water operations
Highway Aid	\$ 87,386	2020 Estimated Liquid Fuel State Allocation

2020 General Fund Capital Reserve Project

Highlights:

The 2020 fiscal year gives us the opportunity for continued improvements within the Borough, including the following:

- \$31k has been budgeted for required State MS4 infrastructure improvements for storm water management in the Borough, including Mars Crider bridge repair and Bristol Drive culvert maintenance.
- \$225k has been budgeted for the 2020 Seven Fields Road Resurfacing Program, in which Liquid Fuel Funds will be utilized.
 - ✓ Roads to be paved include Seven Fields Blvd., Bristol Drive, Highpointe Drive, Northridge Park Walking Trail, Hillvue Drive, Farrington Drive, Dunston Court, Essex Court (subject to change)
- \$15k has been budgeted for installing a metal roof on the Seven Fields Town Park Pavilion.
- \$100k has been budgeted for Phase III of the Seven Fields Community Center Renovation Project to reface the exterior of the Community Center with stone veneer and make other improvements as needed.
- \$30k has been budgeted for the 11th Annual Seven Fields Community Carnival.
- \$32k has been budgeted for the illumination of Seven Fields Monument Signs.
 - ✓ Locations are: Welcome to Seven Fields Signs, Northridge Manor Estates Sign, Northridge Estates Sign, Brandywine Woods Sign
- \$18k has been budgeted for the planned redesign of the Seven Fields Website and to create a Borough of Seven Fields Mobile App.

2020 Water Fund Capital Reserve Project Highlights:

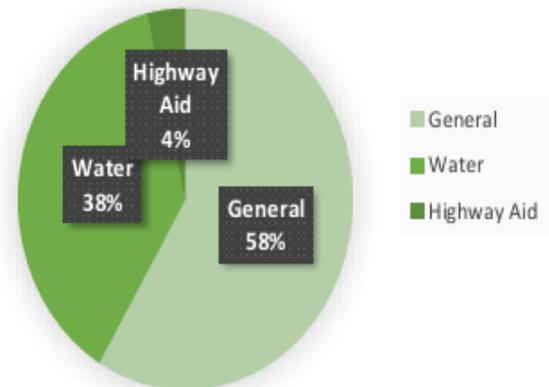
- Phase II of Forest/Hillvue Drive Water Line Project budgeted at \$25k.
 - ✓ Removal of PVC water lines to copper lines and shutoff valves
- Purchase of various necessary Bobcat attachments budgeted at \$10k.

Future Fiscal Outlook

Overview

The Borough continues a strong commitment of prudent and frugal government spending. The Borough has established strong reserves to maintain fiscal integrity for the long term. Reserves can be used to offset emergency expenditures and large capital projects costs. These reserves are funded mainly through the operations of the Seven Fields Water Company which the Borough operates, so we do not rely on revenues generated through property taxes for such projects.

Borough Government Funds: Percentage of 2020 Budget



Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Department

Excellent public safety services have been provided for almost five years with the addition of the Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Department. Although public safety is the primary concern of Mayor Baer and Borough Council, they continue to monitor costs in a manner that is fiscally responsible and accountable.

2020 Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Department Highlights

- The Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Commission negotiated a Collective Bargaining Agreement with a term beginning on January 1, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2022.
- Due to the recalculations in the Apportionment Formula, Seven Fields' financial share of the police expenses will be 61.5%. This is an increase of \$81k from 2019.
- The Borough of Seven Fields will be reimbursed \$18k for the Borough Manager's managerial duties and oversight of the Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Department throughout the fiscal year.
- There will be a 3.5% salary increase for eligible Police Officers per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).
- \$2,500 has been budgeted for Plate Capture Cameras, giving Police Officers access to video surveillance at intersections in Evans City and Seven Fields.
- \$12,000 has been budgeted for further Police Officer training.

Water Fund

- 2020 water usage rates are to remain unchanged.
- As of April 2019, stricter mandates for water quality have gone into effect resulting in more frequent testing of Borough water and increased staff training.
- \$3,500 has been budgeted for the purchase of updated equipment which will help residents track their water usage.

The 2020 Seven Fields Budgets are available for review in their entirety at www.sevenfields.org

Residents are encouraged to contact the Borough Office at 724-776-3090 for any assistance or information as needed.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

Be prepared for everything winter throws your way. Working together, we can keep our community safe.

We urge residents to comply with **Section II of Ordinance No. 66**, which states, in part, *"The owner, occupant or tenant of every property fronting upon or located alongside any street in the Borough of Seven Fields is hereby required to remove or cause to be removed from all the sidewalks abutting upon such property, all snow or ice thereon fallen or formed within twenty-four (24) hours after the same shall have ceased to fallen or formed. Snow and ice removed from the sidewalk shall not be dumped or piled onto any public street or alley to the extent that it interferes with vehicular traffic..."*

Noncompliance will result in a warning notice being issued along with a \$25 penalty in accordance with Ordinance 80.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation during the winter season. The full ordinance can be found on-line at www.sevenfields.org or at the Borough Office.

Please call the Borough Office at 724-776-3090 with any questions.



SEVEN FIELDS TOWN PARK ICE RINK

The Public Works Department is in the process of preparing the Town Park Ice Rink for the public skating season. The rink has a plastic liner and will be filled with water when the temperature hits freezing. The ice will take approximately 5 to 7 days to set.

Please note that it is extremely important that no one step on the ice until it is fully frozen. When signs are posted that the ice rink is **CLOSED**, please do not attempt to skate on the ice before it is ready for use. The liner will rip and result in a delay of opening the rink for an indefinite period of time. When the rink is open for use, residents will be notified through the CodeRED system, as well as Facebook, NextDoor, and the Borough Website.



For everyone's safety and enjoyment, all skaters must make themselves aware of the following rules of the rink before going on the ice:

- **The rink operates on a first come, first served basis.**
- **Skating can be a hazardous activity and is entirely at your own risk. By using the Seven Fields Town Park Ice Rink, participants are acknowledging that there are inherent risks involved in the activity of ice skating and are voluntarily assuming those risks.**
- **Children, aged twelve (12) years and under, must be accompanied by an adult.**
- **Helmets are strongly recommended.**
- **When skating please obey all other Town Park rules and respect other skaters.**



Skate Safe and Have Fun!

New Year Holiday ~

Waste and Recycling Collection

Please note that Vogel Disposal Service will be collecting trash and recyclables one day later due to the New Year holiday. The week of New Years Day, collection day is on:

Saturday, January 4, 2020

*Christmas trees will be disposed of along with regular curb service during the month of January *



2020 RESIDENT DIRECTORIES

The 2020 Seven Fields Resident Directories are now available.

Please stop by the Seven Fields Borough Office to pick up your copy.



Snow Shovelers Wanted

We are seeking additional individuals to help with snow shoveling for the 2019-2020 winter season. If you are interested in assisting residents with shoveling sidewalks and driveways, please contact the Borough Office at 724-776-3090.



NO CONTACTS OR GLASSES DURING THE DAY!

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lenses that I only wear
while sleeping.

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Suite 104
Seven Fields, PA 16046
Joseph Falbo, OD
Adam J. Dillner, OD
(724) 778-3937



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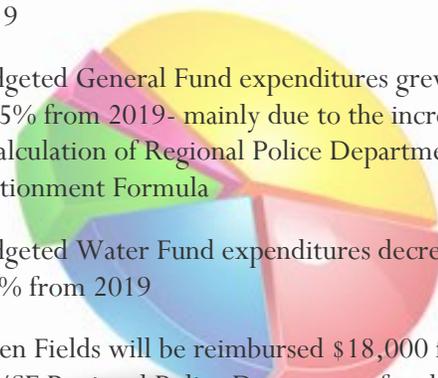
How to find help shoveling snow this winter...

Keeping up with snow removal can be a challenge for anyone. For a list of neighborhood teens that can do the job for you, call the Borough Office at 724-776-3090.



Borough of Seven Fields 2020 Budget Highlights

- No Increase in Millage Rate-9th year without a property tax increase
- Budgeted General Fund revenues increased 3% from 2019
- Budgeted Water Fund revenues increased 2% from 2019
- Budgeted General Fund expenditures grew by 6.65% from 2019- mainly due to the increase in the recalculation of Regional Police Department Apportionment Formula
- Budgeted Water Fund expenditures decreased by 0.4% from 2019
- Seven Fields will be reimbursed \$18,000 from the EC/SF Regional Police Department for the professional services of Borough Manager as Regional Police Administrator
- Increases in fees for community center rental, rental for pool parties, residency permits, and occupancy permits
- \$458k in General Fund Capital Reserve Projects- (down from \$465k in 2019)
- \$38,500 in Water Capital Reserve Fund Projects - (down from \$50k in 2019)



2020 Dog Licenses

Dog owners are reminded that Butler County Dog Licenses are valid for one (1) calendar year, and 2019 licenses will expire on December 31, 2019. All dogs, 3 months and older, are required to have a valid Butler County Dog License. Animal Control Officers do patrol and enforce the license requirement.

2020 Dog Licenses are now available at the Borough Office

2200 Garden Drive, Suite 100
Seven Fields, PA 16046
724.776.3090

ON-STREET PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The on-street parking restriction between 2:00 to 6:00 am is not just for snow removal. The need for rapid responses to fires and other emergencies is crucial for saving lives and property. The space that emergency responders need can vary considerably, depending on the (1) kind of fire apparatus and other emergency response equipment required and chosen by the department, (2) the type of incident and (3) the design of the neighborhood's streets.

Illegally parked vehicles could potentially impede access for emergency vehicles and emergency personnel. In an emergency, a few seconds literally can mean the difference between life and death.

The Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Department will be actively enforcing the Borough Parking Ordinance #46 - Providing Rules and Regulations for Parking and Operation of Motor Vehicles in the Borough.

Noncompliance will result in a warning notice being issued along with a \$25 penalty in accordance with Ordinance 80.

Full ordinances are available at the Borough office or online at www.sevenfields.org.



Keep Seven Fields Safe
and Accessible!



Seven Fields Accomplishments

~2019~



- ◇ 8th consecutive year with no property tax increase
- ◇ 2nd Annual Seven Fields Beer & Wine Fest with over 350 in attendance
- ◇ 10th Annual Seven Fields Community Carnival
- ◇ 4th year of Seven Fields Food Truck Nights in August
- ◇ Decorative metal roof installed on the Borough Building
- ◇ Complete overhaul and renovation of the interior of the Seven Fields Community Center
- ◇ Road resurfacing was performed on Cumberland Drive, Strathmore Court, Westburn Court, and Graywyck Drive.

The Borough of Seven Fields would like to thank the Community for their continued support!

We look forward to an even better year in 2020!



JANUARY 2020

Borough of Seven Fields
2200 Garden Drive, Suite 100
Seven Fields, PA 16046

Tel: 724-776-3090

Fax: 724-776-3082

E-mail:

newsletter@sevenfields.org

Borough of Seven Fields

Mayor:

Michael Baer

Council Members:

Michael Trotta, MD

Kevin Caridad, PhD

Dawn Servello

Brian Trimble

Kim Regan-Koch

Borough Manager

Thomas B. Smith

Police Department



All Emergencies: Dial 911

Evans City/Seven Fields

Regional Police Department

2200 Garden Drive, Suite 200A

Seven Fields, PA 16046

Fire Department



All Emergencies: Dial 911

Adams Area Fire District

645 Route 228, P.O. Box 232

Mars, PA 16046

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Seven Fields, PA 16046

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