

# SUMMER HAPPENINGS...

<b>Aug. 2-8</b>	<b>West End Fair</b> Laurelton Fairgrounds www.ucef.com	<b>Tues., Aug. 18</b> 6:30pm	<b>Borough Council Meeting</b> Mifflinburg Borough Office
<b>Thurs., Aug. 6</b> 7pm	<b>Concert in the Park</b> Musicraft	<b>Tues., Aug. 11</b> 7:30pm	<b>School Board Meeting</b> 178 Maple Street
<b>Wed., Aug. 12</b> 7pm	<b>Concert in the Park</b> Patsy Kline & Friends	<b>Sat., Aug. 15</b> 8-11am	<b>Recycling</b> Industrial Park Road
<b>Thurs., Aug. 13</b> 7pm	<b>Concert in the Park</b> Kj & Friends	<b>Thurs., Aug. 20</b>	<b>First Day of School</b>
<b>Thurs., Aug. 13</b> 7pm	<b>MHRA Meeting</b> Elias Center	<b>Sat., Aug. 22</b> 1pm	<b>Critter Connections</b> Elias Center (\$10 Admission - Children free with paid adult)
<b>Mon., Aug. 17</b> 7pm	<b>Shade Tree Commission</b> Mifflinburg Borough Office	<b>Sat., Aug. 22</b> All Day	<b>50th New Berlin Day</b> Downtown New Berlin
<b>Tues., Aug. 18</b> 4:30pm	<b>Planning Commission</b> Mifflinburg Borough Office	<b>Sat., Sept. 12</b> 11am to dusk	<b>COVID Blues Festival!</b> VFW Carnival Grounds



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**MISSION STATEMENT**  
MHRA exists to help promote and maintain a supportive environment where business, community and government work together to foster growth and development, while preserving Mifflinburg's cultural heritage.

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*Mifflinburg News & Views is published monthly*



# MIFFLINBURG NEWS & VIEWS

published monthly by the Mifflinburg Heritage and Revitalization Association

## The Economic Realities of COVID

RECENTLY, I WAS INTERVIEWED BY MATT FARRAND OF THE STANDARD-JOURNAL. IT WAS A GOOD ARTICLE AND I'D LIKE TO SHARE SOME OF IT WITH OUR COMMUNITY:

Frustration shared by many was shared this week by the leader of the Mifflinburg Heritage and Revitalization Association (MHRA). Heidi Criswell, MHRA Executive Director, said it is still unclear how greater Mifflinburg was navigating through the economic consequences of COVID-19 and steps taken to mitigate it.

Criswell said business associates she'd talked with thought the state was coming out of it but now it appears not to be. The Mifflinburg area, where many businesses are reliant upon travel and tourism, was shaken up again when further restrictions were placed on restaurants last week (article published July 22).

"I know it was really hot this weekend too," Criswell said. "But the Scarlet D for instance, was not at capacity all weekend mostly because people assumed it is already going to be filled up, so nobody is coming."

"I worry about where the restaurants are going to end up at the end," Criswell said. "Some have survived on takeout and will continue to so. Some have developed new marketing ideas that hopefully they will keep doing even after this (pandemic) is over." The most successful of these strategies have been family take-out dinners from Hometown Eatery for instance, and of course the do-it-yourself kits offered by OIP.

Other Mifflinburg businesses are also hurting and at least one has been forced to make decisions sooner than they'd planned.

"Take a drive down Chestnut Street right now. It's pretty depressing," Criswell said. "Barb's Bouquet (and Gift Basket) was going to retire in December. But this all hit and she lost prom season on top of it and she decided to retire early."

A meeting with the Buggy Museum and the Historical Society was planned for later this week with Rep. David Rowe (R-85) to discuss what could be done to help smaller nonprofit businesses as well.

"Most of the assistance and the grant money out there that is coming into the state is being directed toward large nonprofits," Criswell observed. "The smaller ones are kind of getting brushed under the carpet. With every event being canceled and everything happening, everyone is hurting."

Thank you Matt for allowing me the chance to just scratch the surface of issues facing our borough business's and non-profits at this time.

We did have the meeting with Rep. Rowe and felt it was productive. He hopes to put together a plan to present to Harrisburg in hopes of directing some of the remaining CARES Act funding to nonprofits like MHRA.

MHRA exists because of the support of Mifflinburg. Money that we receive from the borough, our memberships, our sponsorships and donations, and of course- our festivals like Oktoberfest, Blueberries & Bluegrass and Winterfest. We use those monies to support our 1806 historic Elias Church (the oldest church in Mifflinburg), the Weirick House property, our small business programs, advertising and promotion on behalf of our businesses, our membership, payroll for one

employee and a lot of little things that add up.

Our biggest concern is the floor of the Elias. It was believed at one point to be the original floor but after some investigation it was determined to not be. Yes, it is old and probably dates to the time it was a buggy repository but it is not significant and it is becoming increasingly weak in spots. Replacement is the only option and could cost as much as \$34,000. MHRA hopes to have a capital campaign in 2021 to address this need.

We are still hoping to have our two fall festivals. The Wine, Brews & Blues

Festival that was supposed to take place in May is now September 12 and will still feature music, food, artisans and crafters, bingo, and best of all - evening fire-works thanks to the Fourth of July committee. We will not do wine and beer tasting that day although we may sell some wine by the bottle instead. I don't have a name for our new event yet - maybe the COVID Blues Festival!

Oktoberfest as we know and love it has been cancelled - it was for many reasons. It was difficult finding the German beer and many of our volunteers are older and did not feel comfortable the way the event is currently set up. There would be no way to prevent people not social distancing and there would be a lot of handling of dirty glasses, etc...

The Board of Directors instead has chosen to organize a smaller Autumn Craft Brew festival on October 3. It would be spread out across the carnival grounds and would include food and craft vendors, cornhole, entertainment at the main stage and more. The plans for this are still in the infancy as we figure out how to make this work with the ever-changing mandates from the state. We hope to bring the wineries from September 12 to this event as well. We would charge one ticket price to taste and it would include food vouchers to eat while doing so. There would still be music but at the main stage and lots of opportunity to spread out over the grounds and social distance while still having a great time.

With the success of the recent COVID restructured Fireman's Carnival, we think we can make these events happen. Next spring, we will bring back the Wine, Brews and Blues and we already have our bands excited to come.

We will navigate these "new normals" for now and hope for a great 2021 for our entire community. Remember to Shop Small when you can and don't be afraid to go out to eat - together we can truly get through this.



**Thank you to everyone that supported our Blueberries in the Park dessert sale! We are so grateful for the community support! Also a big thanks to M&T Bank for their continued sponsorship!**

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300 Chestnut Street  
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# Borough Briefings...

## SCHOOL BEGINS

Where has the summer gone?! Hard as it is to believe, Mifflinburg Schools begin classes on Thursday, August 20, 2020. Please be extra careful as we all work to get back in the swing of another school year. Let's be careful out there!

## SWIMMING POOL CLOSES FOR THE SEASON

As the school season opens, the swimming season is forced to come to a close. The Mifflinburg Community Pool will close for the season on Sunday, August 16. So get to the pool and take your last dip of the 2020 season!

## CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Borough is still having concerts in the park, and it's not too late to get out and enjoy one. Please check the Borough's website to see the schedule, then come and enjoy the music outdoors. Please bring your lawn chair and practice social distancing.

## SAFETY IN THE STREETS

The Borough would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be careful on our streets whether you're driving or walking. It only takes a second for an accident to happen. Slow down, take time for safety, don't drive distracted and watch out for others on the streets.

## UTILITY TERMINATION FOR NON-PAYMENT HAS RESUMED

Utility customers are reminded that all past due accounts must be paid up and current each month. Accounts that remain delinquent on the third Thursday of each month will be terminated. Individuals with questions about their delinquent accounts should contact the Borough office. Customers with good payment histories may be able to make written payment arrangements if they sign a payment agreement prior to the termination date.

We understand that it has been difficult to keep up with electrical bills throughout the pandemic, however, the Borough has made several changes to help during these times. Terminations were suspended for 3 months, penalties were suspended for 2 months, payment arrangements were extended to all customers, and the Borough is working on establishing a credit card payment option. Customers are urged to contact the office about your past due balances and we can provide some contacts for some potential sources of assistance during these tough times, and help to set up a payment arrangement. Please call the office at 570-966-1013 to discuss options.

Please understand that when service has been terminated for non-payment, payment of the entire account balance (not just the delinquent amount) plus the \$60 service charge must be paid in full before the utility service can be restored.

Restoration of service can only be done during normal working hours of 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and someone must be home at the time of restoration for home safety reasons.

## LIFE SUPPORT

If you or someone in your household has a medical need that requires continuous electrical service, please contact your physician and have them provide a medical excuse which states your needs to our office. Although this notice won't eliminate all outages, as there are circumstances that are beyond our control, it will prevent us from terminating service without notice for other than emergencies. These medical excuses will be recorded in our system and will be valid for 30 days, after which time another excuse will be required. Please understand that this excuse does not mean that you do not have to pay for your electrical service, you just will not be terminated for non-emergency situations without notice.

Please call the office for more information – 570-966-1013.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FOR UTILITY BILLS IS COMING SOON

The Borough of Mifflinburg is working to incorporate online credit card payments as another way to pay utility bills. This convenient option will allow customers to access their account information online and make a pay-

ment using a credit card from the comfort of their own home. This payment method will be accessible through the Borough's website. Please watch the Borough website for more details.

## UTILITY LINE MAINTENANCE AND TREE TRIMMING

The Borough of Mifflinburg is responsible for keeping our utilities operating efficiently and effectively, and we take that responsibility very seriously. This means that we must maintain our lines, keeping them clear and free from interference. This involves trimming trees and shrubs in our utility easements and rights of way. Please keep in mind that these easements provide us with the legal right to enter and clear anything interfering with our utility lines. Our goal is to keep the lines clear, so that our customers do not experience outages. This work is completed throughout the year, as ground conditions allow. Often times this trimming does not result in a tree that is pleasing to the eye.

Residents are reminded that easements and rights of way should remain open and free from any permanent obstructions (like trees, sheds or other landscaping). If you have landscaping in these areas, and you determine that you do not want the Borough to trim these trees, you may call the Borough and be added to a 'do not trim' list. Please keep in mind that you still have a responsibility to keep the easement open and remove any interference with the utility lines (trim or remove the trees), you will just be required to hire your own contractor to complete this work at your expense. Once on the list, the Borough would notify you of any work required together with a timeframe for the completion of this work.

We appreciate your patience and consideration as we perform this vital maintenance to our system.

## SPRING DROP OFF EVENT BECOMES FALL DROP OFF EVENT FOR 2020

Mifflinburg Borough will again hold the annual spring drop-off event at the Borough's maintenance facility near the recycling center, however due to the pandemic, this event has been moved to September making it a Fall Drop Off for 2020. The times permitted for the disposing of items will be:

**Wednesday, September 23**

**Noon until 8:00 PM**

**Thursday, September 24**

**Noon until 8:00 PM**

**Friday, September 25**

**Noon until 8:00 PM**

**Saturday, September 26**

**8:00 AM until Noon**

This event is for BOROUGH RESIDENTS ONLY – those who pay their utilities to the Borough. \*\* Borough employees will require proof of residency for those using this site. (photo ID or Borough utility bill will suffice) Non-residents attempting to use this site will be asked to leave and may be subject to legal action and/or prosecution. Please help us keep this valuable event for our residents, those who contribute to the budget that pays for this event, by following the rules.

Residents may bring their waste materials, yard waste, etc. to the location above for disposal and transfer to the Lycoming County Landfill. Items that are not accepted by the landfill cannot be accepted at this event. Therefore, recyclables, tires, paint, shellac, varnish, batteries, and some electronics cannot be accepted by the Borough. Construction materials are also not accepted.

There will be a fee assessed for any items that contain refrigerant (air conditioners, freezers, refrigerators, etc.). This fee will cover the expense of removing the refrigerant prior to disposal and must be paid at the time of drop-off.

Please call the Union County Planning Department or check their website for details about Electronics recycling options.

Borough employees will be operating the drop-off site during the hours listed above and assisting residents with off-loading of vehicles for larger items only into the waste containers. Unfortunately, the Borough will NOT be available to pick-up any waste material at residences or businesses. There will be no exceptions. Absolutely no other drop-off arrangements will be permitted other than as noted above. Dropping off or dumping of materials at times other than as noted herein will be considered littering and subject

by Margaret Metzger

to legal action and/or prosecution. Dropping off or dumping of unacceptable items will also be subject to legal action and/or prosecution. The site will open and close promptly at the times listed.

All CDC and PA Department of Health rules will apply. Please watch the Borough's website for updates regarding this event.

## SEWER LINE MAINTENANCE

The Borough continues to work to improve our sewer infrastructure. Sometimes this work involves a project where we have to repair a section of sewer main, and sometimes we need to flush the lines to clear a sluggish or clogged area. You will see the Borough out and about with the Flush truck from time to time performing maintenance in some areas or responding to reports of back-ups or slow flows. You may also see us using a sewer camera to 'see' what's happening.

This is normal and routine maintenance for any sewer system. If your home is not constructed with a back flow preventer on your sewer line, you could experience a back flow of sewage to lower areas in your home (basement or first floor bathrooms) during this flushing. If you want to eliminate this from happening in your home, you can contract with a plumber to add this device to your service. New construction standards require that this device is installed on every service.

## ANNUAL STREET AND ALLEY MAINTENANCE

As you may be aware, the Borough has begun using more seal coat or 'tar and chip' surfacing material and spot patch paving for pavement maintenance as opposed to the previous standard asphalt patch and overlay methods used in the past. There are several reasons for this transition, all of which boil down to a huge difference in costs. Due to some previous issues with dust following this work, we will add an additional seal coat after the initial application. Please bear with us as we work to stretch our budget as far as we can to help keep our streets in the best state of repair that we can.

We anticipate that our annual maintenance work will begin within the next month or two and will be completed before school is back in session. Thank you for your patience as we complete this work.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR CARES RENT RELIEF

UNION-SNYDERCAA.ORG/HOUSING-ASSISTANCE



The Mifflinburg Hose Company would like to thank Andre Roupp for a very generous donation, presented at their company meeting recently and accepted by President Chuck Klose.

## Mifflinburg student billboard contest second place winner



The Highway Safety Network (HSN), Sun Area Technical Institute (SATI) and State Farm Insurance recently announced the regional second-place winner of the "No Excuses Billboard Design Contest" – a youth driven campaign developed to impact the #1 cause of death for teens: motor vehicle crashes. Through partnership with State Farm Insurance, the HSN offered students from the nine counties that comprise PennDOT District 3 the opportunity to submit billboard designs to be judged by traffic safety professionals.

Billie Gene Moran, a SATI senior attending through Mifflinburg School District, was recognized for her design "Don't Text and Drive" a billboard featuring a banned cell phone and a distracted driving crash statistic. Billie Gene was awarded a \$250 scholarship for her efforts and an additional \$250 for SATI.

In attendance at the event to honor Billie Gene was Mike Diehl, HSN; Nicole Spotts, State Farm Agent, Kim McBride, SATI Advertising Art and Design Instructor, and Jennifer Hain SATI Administrative Director.

About the contest, Hain said, "These partnerships are great because they help build a sense of community with the students and they are an important part of the community". Spotts added, "By partnering with the HSN the goal was to increase awareness of the dangers of distracted driving and decrease the number of teen crashes and fatalities."

