



# Parkesburg News

## BOROUGH OF PARKESBURG



### RAIN GARDENS A Household Way to Improve Water Quality in Your Community

Rain Gardens are just what they sound like — gardens that soak up rain water, mainly from your roof, but also from your driveway and lawn. They are landscaped areas planted with wild flowers and other native vegetation to replace areas of lawn. The gardens fill with a few inches of water and allow the water to slowly filter into the ground rather than running off to storm drains. Compared to a patch of conventional lawn, a garden allows about 30% more water to soak into the ground,

Holding back the runoff helps prevent pollutants such as fertilizers from washing off your yard, into storm sewers, and eventually into nearby streams and lakes. By reducing the amount of water that enters the local storm drain systems, rain gardens can also reduce the chances for local flooding, as well as bank and shoreline damage where storm drains empty into streams and lakes.

People in many parts of the country are starting to build rain gardens in their yards and promoting their use in other locations, such as neighborhood parks. You can help your own yard by simply building one or more rain gardens to collect runoff from your roof. Rain water can sometimes be collected from your driveway or lawn by locating a rain garden in a low spot where the water naturally drains.

#### Consider a rain garden for your yard

Rain gardens can be your personal contribution to cleaner water, healthier fish and wildlife populations, and a greatly improved environment for your family and community. Each rain garden may seem small, but collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and regional environmental benefits. Rain gardens work for us in several ways.

- ◆ Increasing the amount of water filtering into the ground, which recharges groundwater and helps reduce the amount of pollutants washing off to lakes and streams;
- ◆ Helping sustain adequate flows in streams during dry spells;
- ◆ Providing valuable wildlife habitat;
- ◆ Enhancing the beauty of your yard and the neighborhood;
- ◆ Helping protect communities from flooding and drainage problems;
- ◆ Helping protect streams and lakes from damaging flows and reducing erosion of the stream banks and lakeshores;
- ◆ Reducing the need for costly municipal storm water treatment structures.

#### Building a Rain Garden

Here are some basic steps to give you a good start building your own rain garden:

1. **Find a location.** The rule of thumb suggests that you place the garden at least 10 feet away from your home to prevent flooding in your house. Do not locate the garden over a septic field. You should try to choose a

*(Continued on page 4)*



Everyone wants to live, work and play in a clean and green community... and it's up to everyone to make it possible and improve the overall quality of life for us all. Join Borough Residents — and

Pennsylvanians across the state — for a the Great American Cleanup of PA from April 18th through 25th by cleaning up litter and trash along our roadsides, streams, parks, forests and neighborhoods. Anyone can help!

The Great American Cleanup of PA is a statewide cleanup campaign involving local and state government, businesses, waste haulers, and environmental and civic groups. The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), in cooperation with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Inc., are sponsoring the Great American Cleanup of PA.

Gloves, trash bags and safety equipment will be available after April 15th at the Borough office.

Join your neighbors in helping to make a difference in our community.

Please contact the Borough office 610-857-2616 or by email at [wakeegaOn@parkesburg.org](mailto:wakeegaOn@parkesburg.org) for information.

***Spring will bring the return of the Pedestrian Safety crossing signs along West First Avenue and Main Street. Please respect these signs and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk.***

## Community Market!



The Borough Council is developing the idea of holding a community market on Saturdays beginning sometime around early May. We think this will enliven our community this summer and we are considering ways to weave this into other community events of the season. The market would feature farm produce, crafters, resident "yard sale items", local business, church and community service tables. If you think you might be interested in participating as a vendor or would like more details please call Borough Councilman Tom Curtin at 610-308-3151 or email at [tcurtin@comcast.net](mailto:tcurtin@comcast.net).

Borough of Parkesburg 610-857-2616  
 315 W. First Avenue, Bldg 1 Fax: 610-857-1102  
 Parkesburg, PA 19365 www.parkesburg.org

## Community Calendar

### April

- 6 Council Meeting — 7 pm
- 13 Park & Rec Committee — 6 pm  
Streets & Property — 7 pm
- 14 Progress Committee — 7 pm
- 23 Finance Committee — 7 pm  
Police & Fire — 6 pm
- 20 Council Meeting — 7 pm
- 23 Planning Commission — 7 pm
- 25 Community Yard Sale 8—3

### May

- 4 Council Meeting — 7 pm
- 11 Park & Rec Committee — 6 pm  
Streets & Property — 7 pm
- 12 Progress Committee — 7 pm
- 18 Council Meeting — 7 pm
- 28 Police & Fire — 6 pm  
Finance Committee — 7 pm  
Planning Commission — 7 pm

### June

- 1 Council Meeting — 7 pm
- 8 Park & Rec — 6 pm  
Streets & Property — 7 pm
- 9 Progress — 7 pm
- 15 Council Meeting — 7 pm
- 25 Police & Fire — 6pm  
Finance — 7 pm
- 30 Fire Company Fair begins

## Borough Holidays

- Memorial Day ..... Monday, 5/26
- Fourth of July ..... Friday, 7/3\*
- Labor Day ..... Monday, 9/7
- Thanksgiving ..... Thursday, 11/26\*
- Christmas Eve ..... Thursday, 12/24\*\*
- Christmas Day ..... Friday, 12/25\*\*

*\* These holidays will impact trash pick-up. If a holiday falls on a Thursday—South Side pick-up will be on Wednesday. If a holiday falls on a Friday, South Side pick-up will be on Wednesday and North Side pick-up will be on Thursday.*

*\*\*The week of December 21st—recycling will be picked up Monday-21st, South side trash will be picked up Tuesday-22nd and North side trash will be picked up Wednesday-23rd. Thank you for your cooperation.*



**Y**ard waste collection has begun for the season. Please place yard waste out by 7:00 am

for Monday collection. Grass clippings and leaves should be placed in containers or biodegradable/paper bags. Please don't use plastic bags as they cannot be recycled. Sticks and brush must be bundled.

### Fire Company Events

- April 4th AM — Car Wash to Benefit Relay for Life Team  
6:00 pm — Ham Raffle—Free Admission
- April 24th 7:00—10:00 pm Teen Night
- May 9th 4:00—8:00 pm Mother's Day Dinner
- May 16th 6:00 pm Cash Bingo
- May 29th 7:00—10 pm Teen Night
- June 26th 7:00—10 pm Teen Night

**Annual Fair June 30th to July 4th—Fireworks July 3rd (rain date 7/4)**

For tickets & information call Eileen Montgomery at 610-857-5050

## Reminder

There is a Borough Ordinance regarding pets. This ordinance will be strictly enforced as we approach spring and during the summer months. It is unlawful for any person to permit any animal to run at-large upon any public thoroughfare, upon any public ground or to run at-large on any private property other than that of the owner. It is further unlawful to permit any animal on Borough Park property except as posted.

Owners are responsible for immediately removing and disposing of all animal excreta from any public or private property other than that of the animal's owner. This includes streets and sidewalks.

Any person convicted of violating this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$300 together with costs of prosecution.





# PARKESBURG LIBRARY NEWS

**American Girl Club** – New members are welcome. Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, 4:00-5:00. No need to bring anything, but dolls are welcome. Please register at the circulation desk.

**Adult Book Discussion** – Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please register.

**NEW: Toddler Learn and Story Group** – Stories, music, finger plays, etc. Ages 18 to 36 months. Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30 – 11:00. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Play & Learn: Parent-Child Workshop** - (Formerly called "Family Place".) Ages 12-36 months, Wednesdays in May (May 6, 13, 20, 27) 10:00-11:15. Please register.

**Story Time** – Ages 3-5. Listen to a story, complete an activity, or work on a craft. Tuesdays 10:30-11:00 or Thursdays 1:00-1:30. Spring session: Tuesdays April 14–May 19, Thursdays April 16–May 21. Please register.

**Raise a Reader** – Kids 0-23 months. Rhymes, fingerplays, music. Give your child a wonderful start to becoming a great reader. Fridays, May 8–29, 11:00-11:30.

**AARP Driver Safety Program** – May 7 and 8, 9:00-1:00. Cost is \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for non-members. Please register.

**Learn Microsoft Office and Other Programs Online!** Go to [www.ccls.org](http://www.ccls.org), Databases, I to P Online Databases, Learning Express Library.

**For Kids – Books on CD & Books with Read-along CDs!**

**Special Computers for Kids** - We have 2 computers for children 2-8 years old. These PCs have easy to use programs and games that help with spelling, reading, math, writing and typing.

**Hot Spot – WiFi** -Wireless Internet access for your laptop in our library!

**Free Downloadable eAudiobooks** – go to [www.ccls.org](http://www.ccls.org). eAudiobooks are like books on tape or CD. Download them to your PC. Some can be transferred to PDAs or burned to CDs.

105 West St., Parkesburg. 610-857-5165 [www.ccls.org](http://www.ccls.org)  
Hours: Monday-Thursday: 12:00 – 8:00, Friday: 12:00 – 6:00  
Saturday: 9:00 – 4:00 (9:00 – 1:00 in July and August)

## Community Assistance Website

In December Governor Rendell launched [www.heretohelp.pa.gov](http://www.heretohelp.pa.gov), a new online resource for Pennsylvanians. The website allows citizens to find the resources they need through existing government programs to help make ends meet during these difficult economic times. The Here to Help website includes information on employment, family services, veterans' services, housing, seniors, economic development and education. If you or someone you know needs assistance in any of these areas, please visit [www.heretohelp.pa.gov](http://www.heretohelp.pa.gov) to explore the online tools and programs that exist to help you find a job, cope with heating expenses, apply for health and human services and more.



## Community Yard Sale

Saturday, April 25th – 8 am to 3 pm



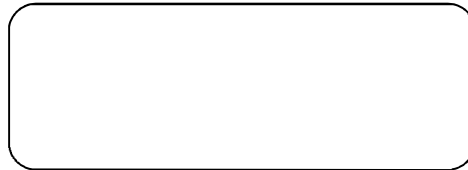
Advertised in the Daily Local News

Maps Available

Call the Borough Office to include your address on the map

315 West First Avenue  
Building 1  
Parkesburg, PA 19365  
610-857-2616

Presorted  
Standard Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Parkesburg, PA  
Permit No. 10



## Lions Club Events

**Basket Bingo** April 4th 7:00 pm—Octorara Primary Learning Center. Doors open at 5:30. Early bird games start at 6:45 for ADVANCE TICKET HOLDERS ONLY. Cost \$25—call 610-764-6643 or 717-442-0438 for tickets & information

**Murder Mystery at the Beale Manor!** May 2nd — 1:00 pm *Tea Luncheon and Mystery* featuring R&R Teas.

Tickets \$15 each includes appetizer, tea sandwiches, scones, desserts and tea;

6:00 pm *Murder Mystery Dinner*. Tickets \$22/each or \$40/couple—includes buffet style dinner and beverages

*Space is limited—advanced reservations required by calling Eileen Montgomery at 610-857-5050 or Pam Pomento at 610-857-1422*

(Continued from page 1)

naturally occurring low spot in your yard or position the garden where your downspouts or sump pump outlet can be used to direct rainwater into your garden. Try to choose a location in the sun either full or partial.

2. **Measure drainage area.** If you are building the rain garden in a low spot in your yard you do not need to measure the drainage area. Just ensure the area receives water regularly during a rainstorm.

If you are capturing water from a roof or other hard surface you will need to measure the specific drainage area of that surface and multiply by the number associated with the type of soil you have. For sandy soil multiply by 20%, for loam use 30-25% and for clay use 45-60%. These numbers are somewhat inflated but they will ensure the garden holds as much water as possible.

3. **Create a design.** Whether your garden is large or small the same basic principles apply. By planning your garden on paper first, you will be able to create the best appearance possible for your rain garden.
4. **Choose your plants.** Native plants are suggested for rain garden installations because they are best adapted for our climate. You will want to choose plants (flowers and grasses) that will grow well in both wet and dry areas because the rain garden will temporarily fill with rainwater from time to time.



5. **Lay out the garden.** Lay out the shape and boundary of the garden based on your design. Before you start digging contact PA One Call to locate the underground utilities.
6. **Dig the garden.** Remove the turf grass and dig your garden approximately 4-8 inches deep. Use the soil to build a berm around the garden edges if necessary.
7. **Prepare the soil.** Amend the soil with 2"-3" of compost. Mix in well.
8. **Plant the flowers and grasses.** Follow the design you created and place your plants in the approximate positions. Step back and look at the garden and the design. Plants should be placed about 1 foot apart from each other. Once you are satisfied you can start planting the flowers and grasses using a hand trowel.
9. **Mulch the garden.** Use coarse, fibrous, shredded woodchips that won't float or blow away. Apply the mulch about 2-3 inches deep. This will help to keep the moisture in and the weeds out. Avoid cypress mulch because it is made by chopping down rare old-growth cypress in wetlands.
10. **Water and arrange downspouts.** After you've planted the garden water every other day for 2 weeks if it doesn't rain until the garden looks to be growing on its own. Good water techniques and maintenance is the key to a quality rain garden.