



Parkside Borough Hall



Parkside Fire Company

# THE PARKSIDER

“Raising the level of communication”



Parkside Elementary School



The Woodlot

Vol. 4-2; **Spring 2020**

| WHAT TYPE OF MASK DO I NEED?    |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>HOMEMADE MASK OR PAPER MASK</b></p>  <p><b>WHO SHOULD WEAR:</b><br/>General public</p> <p><b>WHEN TO WEAR:</b><br/>When a person can't perform social distancing; scarves and bandanas can be used if necessary.</p> <p><b>USE LIMITATIONS:</b><br/>Cloth masks should be washed after each use; don't wear damp or when wet from spit or mucus.</p> | <p><b>SURGICAL MASK</b></p>  <p><b>WHO SHOULD WEAR:</b><br/>Health care workers and patients in health care settings</p> <p><b>WHEN TO WEAR:</b><br/>During single or multiple patient interactions or routine health procedures; recommended when N95s aren't available.</p> <p><b>USE LIMITATIONS:</b><br/>Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter. Extended use is preferable to reuse.</p> | <p><b>N95 RESPIRATOR</b></p>  <p><b>WHO SHOULD WEAR:</b><br/>Health care workers</p> <p><b>WHEN TO WEAR:</b><br/>Caring for patients with COVID-19 and performing procedures that put them most at risk of virus exposure.</p> <p><b>USE LIMITATIONS:</b><br/>Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter. Extended use is preferable to reuse.</p> |

Parkside's Emergency Management team, first responders and Police department continue to work with Delaware County Council officials in maintaining important safety measures for borough residents due to the national health emergency of Covid-19 throughout the world.

Parkside Fire Marshal, Rob Powers, was charged with leading the Parkside Emergency Management team as Coordinator. Powers indicates he has been in constant contact with local and state officials in the constant, rapid changes in protocol of the coronavirus sweeping through the county and state.

“Being that Delaware county does not have its own health department made communication from the state level down to the county level, very limited. Therefore, that was one of the first challenges tackled by Delaware County Council. Council submitted the proposal of Chester County's Health Department also taking on responsibility of Delaware county (when it comes to Covid-19 affairs) to Governor Wolf”, said Powers. “Not having our own health department proved to be a challenge at the onset of the coronavirus emergency”.

The Emergency Management team consists of Parkside Police Chief Tom Murray, Parkside Fire Chief Joe Aiello and Councilman/Code Officer Nick Capobianco handling Public Safety. “Chief Murray's responsibility will be to continue to oversee the safety of the police force while Chief Aiello's focus will be maintaining the safety of fire department members as well as first responders”, said Powers. “I have had a lot of questions from borough residents and probably speak with Council President Shirley Purcival eight to ten times a day since this all began March 11”. Powers' main focus, keeping not only residents safe, but also police and fire members as well.

\*See COVID-19—page 2

\*COVID-19 (From page 1)

“If someone in the borough is found to be positive for coronavirus it is reported by Chester county's Health Department to state and local officials. That information is also loaded into Delaware county's Emergency Services

**Your mask protects THEM while their mask protects YOU. Homemade or paper masks protect everyone who is not a health care worker or first responder from droplets created BY THE WEARER. It is important that as many people as possible wear masks when leaving home. You do not need a surgical mask or N95 respirator. Please save those for front line responders and health care personnel.**

**MAINTAINING SAFETY FOR BOROUGH RESIDENTS**

CAD with the resident address as proactive protection to the first responders. If the borough has an ambulance call to that specific address, the first responders are alerted with the information, in accordance to HIPAA privacy guidelines, so they can gear up accordingly”, said Powers.

Each fire, EMS and police unit are now equipped with a kit containing gown, mask, gloves and safety glasses so that our personnel are safeguarded as best as possible”, said Powers.

Mayor Thomas Deitman declared a State of Emergency for Parkside, March 12, 2020, allowing the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator authority over their respective areas of response. The declaration, allowing the Emergency Management Coordinator to act as liaison between first responders and council President, was voted on during the March Council meeting. All Council members, but one, voted to approve the indefinite declaration.

Additionally, Delaware County Council also declared a State of Emergency, enabling the county to spend monies on emergency supplies, meet unbudgeted costs that occur with the virus and to also apply for any State and/or Federal funds, if made available, to recoup any unbudgeted funds.

Coronavirus symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing and sometimes loss of smell or taste.

CDC guidelines indicate if anyone experiences these symptoms, which appear 2-14 days after exposure, to first contact their primary physician. They may then be instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days or to go to their closest emergency room. However, officials suggest calling first. Of course, in any emergency, calling 911 is the best action.

Coordinator Powers also stated that privacy is of utmost importance. “We intend to continue to maintain the privacy of anyone who contracts this disease, in accordance with HIPAA guidelines. The posting of anyone’s name and/or address on social media is in violation of state and federal laws”, said Powers. “There has also been acts of prejudice and personal attacks to the Asian community which will not be tolerated in the borough of Parkside”.

Officials continue to stress the need for social distancing, good hand hygiene and suggest the use of cloth masks when in public areas keeping distancing in mind of six feet between you and the next person.

“We have never dealt with this type of a pandemic anywhere, so everyone began flying by the seat of their pants, trying their best to cover all bases in times of stress and urgency. There isn’t a playbook”, said Powers. “We will get through this. But it is going to take time and cooperation of the public”.

### **Easter Bunny Drive-by**

Councilman Scott Sidlow and the recreation crew organized an Easter Bunny Drive-by through the borough, Saturday afternoon, April 10, in celebration of the Easter holiday.

With the help of Councilman Long and his convertible, resident Bob Germanovich and use of his pick-up,

Councilmen Sweigart and Capobianco along with the recreation crew, the Easter Bunny was led by Parkside Police Officer Brian McNeill, Jr. through each street of the borough.

Candy was thrown to awaiting children along the route as well as many pictures and video being taken.

With the cancellation of the annual Easter Bunny Meet-n-Greet and egg hunt due to the coronavirus epidemic safety precautions in place, Sidlow and committee came up with a back-up plan that proved to be just what residents needed.

In riding with Councilman Capobianco—there was a feeling in the air of much appreciation from residents and kids, as they smiled, waved, took pictures and caught candy being thrown. Because of the current climate of self-distancing the past month, it may have been just what many needed for a boost in spirits.

(Todd Bennett)



### **2020 Council Meeting Schedule**

Borough Council meetings are held at borough hall on the 4th Wednesday of each month, with the November and December sessions moved up, to avoid conflicts with the holidays. Council meetings start at 7:00 pm. The complete calendar is:

**April 22   May 27   June 24   July 22   August 26  
September 23   October 28   November 18   December 16**

### **Ford Fitness Trail Becomes Reality**

The Woodlot revitalization has begun, thanks to the borough being the proud recipient of a \$115,500 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in 2019. The CDBG program, begun in 1974, is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD and provides grants over one thousand general units of local government and States.

CDBG is a program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of community development needs.

Through the ongoing work of Council Vice-President Doug Bull and Borough Engineer, Lisa Catania, construction on the project began earlier this year and is partially completed with ten new fitness stations. Removal/installation of new lighting is scheduled the week of April 13, 2020—weather pme

New lighting and landscaping remain to be completed. The Fitness Trails Circuit is in place allowing residents to join the millions of participants across the country who enjoy the Fitness Trails Circuit regularly to develop and maintain overall physical fitness and good health. The Fitness Trails Circuit consists of a series of fitness stations, (where you perform specified exercises) which are spaced along the jogging and walking path in the Woodlot.

Participants can follow the numbers on the station signs to each fitness station until you reach the end of the Fitness Trails Circuit.

It is specifically designed to begin with stretching and warm-up exercises, then challenge you with more demanding exercises, followed by a cool-down series leading to the finish.

Fitness Trails Circuit signs act as a “coach” for people who are inexperienced in pacing themselves in an exercise program.



police vehicle to replace one of the two Ford Explorer SUV’s. “The units take a beating and even though we keep up on maintenance we must eventually cut our ties and upgrade”, said Chief Murray. The new unit will be a 2020 GMC Tahoe front-line vehicle. Delivery may be in May, but already delayed due to the health emergency, may even be early Summer.

~B&L Disposal is hiring Sanitation workers. If you or anyone you know is interested—contact B&L directly.

~Phil \* & Jim’s Steaks & Hoagies, a legend in Parkside, is under new ownership. They intend to bring their passion and commitment to good food back home to Parkside. Renovations are taking place to provide a cleaner, neater and more friendly atmosphere. If you haven’t visited lately be sure to stop by for take-out service. Their phone number is 610-872-9472. They will soon resume normal hours.

~Electronic recycling set for May 9, 2020 has been cancelled. An announcement will be posted if it can be rescheduled.

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**Meet Your NEW Parkside Chief of Police**  
Parkside Police Chief, Tom Murray, was sworn-in December 18, 2019, by Mayor Thomas Deitman, and began his new position, January 1, 2020:



**Be sure to pick-up a book or feel free to leave a few, at the FREE Public Depository Library, located in front of Parkside Fire Department**

**Borough Blurbs**

~Junior Council Member, Sara Powers, will be planting flowers Saturday, April 25, in the lower entrance area to the Woodlot from 11a to 1p. Anyone wishing to help would be more than welcome.

~Reconstruction has begun on the Parkside Church at East Roland Road/Edgmont Avenue. The new owner has completed the pulling of permits as well as approval of blueprints and demolition permits. Installation of new windows has also begun.

~Borough Council voted and at the February Borough Council meeting and approved the purchase of a new

## Police Chief Tom Murray

**Background:** In law enforcement forty years, beginning in 1979 as a patrol officer with the Marple Twp PD; rose through the ranks to Sergeant in 1992, Lieutenant in 2002 and Chief of Police in 2005. During my tenure, Marple Twp PD became the second municipal police agency in Delaware county to become accredited by the PA Chiefs of Police Association. Born and raised in Darby borough and moved to Marple Twp in 1969, where I continue to reside with my wife, Ellen.

Graduated from Cardinal O'Hara HS (1970); St. Joseph's College; University of Maryland; Municipal Police Academy at Delaware County Community College (1979); FBI National Academy/Quantico VA (2000)

### How did you choose a career in law enforcement?

Since I moved to Marple Twp with my family in 1969, I became involved in the community. I joined the Broomall Fire Company at the age of 17 and am still an active participant. I guess my interest in law enforcement stems from the desire to help the community. I met many of the police officers in Marple and immediately knew that I also wanted to become an officer.

### What would you say is the positive side of the career?

The positive side of the job is helping people. Law enforcement officers have an opportunity to make a big difference in people's lives. When they call us, they are typically at their worst, having had some event that they are unable to deal with on their own. Our response can make a big difference and help them through the difficulty they are experiencing. One of the negative sides of the job is the way people treat officers in general. Another is seeing people at their worst, a death in the family, a serious accident or some other such incident. But as I said, this is also a positive if we can make the difference.

### What advice do you give to future police officers?

Law enforcement is not for everyone. If someone asks me about a job in law enforcement, I say it can be a rewarding job, but it also comes with a lot of stress. Interested individuals need to have a good support system in place, (family/friends, etc.) who can help them through the difficult times. It is not easy to respond to the death of a child or an accident where someone is killed. Likewise, shift work can take its toll on the body. You need to know going in that these are issues you will face. If you think that you can handle the stress then the next step is to go to the police academy and learn all you can to prepare for the civil service tests that you will have to take in order to get hired. Competition is stiff so you must be the best in order to get hired.

### Are there any changes you plan for the force?

I am not one to come into an organization and make big changes, rather, I will watch and see how things are done and listen to the officers. If a change seems appropriate, we will make it but I do not see any major changes.

### What are your hobbies and off-duty interests?

In my spare time I continue to serve the residents of Marple Twp as a member of the Broomall Fire Department. I served as a Chief Fire Officer for 29 years and currently am one of the most active firefighters. I will continue there as long as my health is good, and I am physically capable. In addition, my wife and I love to travel. We have been all over the world which has enriched our lives enormously. We will continue to travel every opportunity we get.

### What was your most important experience in law enforcement?

Probably the most important experience in my career was the opportunity to attend the FBI National Academy. This prestigious school is very difficult to get into and only about 2% of all law enforcement officers have this opportunity. I learned an enormous amount about policing and police administration while at the FBINA and am forever grateful for having been given the opportunity. To this day, I stay in touch with many of my classmates from around the country and they provide a great network for handling issues that arise. I would have to say that this was the pinnacle of my career.

### What attracted you to the Parkside offer?

I was attracted to Parkside because the position was part-time, three days a week. As I stated previously, I have been in the business for 40 years and I was getting very close to retirement. When Chief Egan announced he was retiring we spoke about the job and I decided that instead of completely retiring I could continue to work in a part time capacity. I began to do some research on Parkside and found it to be a small, relatively quiet community. As I began to meet some of the leaders in the Borough, as well as some of the resident's, I decided that it would be a good fit, so I pursued the job. Fortunately, for me, the Borough officials saw something in me and were willing to give me a chance. I will do my best to live up to the expectations.

### What are your thoughts about the current gun violence in America?

The gun issue in America is a difficult one. I am not a constitution-waving second amendment fanatic. Having said that, I do believe that citizens should have the right to bear arms. The problem is the types of weapons available and the ability for people to get those guns even when they should not be able to do so. Taking the guns out of the hands of criminals is indeed a noble idea but the reality is that criminals have no regard for the law, and they will get the guns they want one way or another. Any prohibition on gun ownership is only going to remove guns from law abiding citizens, not criminals. The gun violence we experience in America has a lot to do with drugs and mental health. If we could solve those issues, I believe we would see a decrease in gun violence.

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**If your dog poops, but nobody is watching, you still need to pick it up! DOG WASTE TRANSMITS DISEASE AND CONTAMINATES DRINKING WATER...Leash-curb and clean up after your dog!  
IT'S THE LAW...**