



# Shoemakersville Borough SHOEY SCOOP

AUGUST 2025 Newsletter

## A DEEP DIVE INTO TRASH

Recent council meetings have brought some questions on how and why trash service rates have gone up. Therefore, we wanted to share additional information with our citizens who want to dig a little deeper.

**Hauler Selection** - Because the annual contract exceeds the state mandated \$25,000 threshold the hauling contract must be put out for public bid. In almost all instances the low bidder wins. There are some minor nuances but, in short, Borough Council does not choose the trash hauler. It would be more accurate to say, they chose us.

**Contract length** - Because there's a significant amount of advertising and legal expenses incurred by the Borough for the preparation of a contract, most municipalities opt for a multi-year contract. Usually, Shoemakersville has used a three-year contract with options for two additional one-year extensions. Structuring the contract in this way provides flexibility if we need to make a change after the third year, or stay with that hauler if we like the value we're getting from their service.

**Contract Cost** - The lowest responsible bidder wins the contract. To win, the bidder must provide his cost for each of the 3 years of the contact, and include the costs for Year 4 and Year 5 extension options in advance. Therefore, all costs are known in advance.

*continued on next page*

### **Borough of Shoemakersville**

846 Main Street  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Phone: 610-562-8030

E-mail: [administration@shoeyboro.org](mailto:administration@shoeyboro.org)

### **Borough Manager/ Code Enforcement/Zoning**

Paul Gruber

### **Borough Secretary/Treasurer**

Melissa Wagner

### **Borough Tax Collector**

Karen Hamm

Sign up for emergency notifications from the borough through the Code Red System. Scan the QR Code or go to [www.shoeyboro.org](http://www.shoeyboro.org).



 CodeRED™

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Closed 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm*

### **Borough Office Closures**

August 20-22 & 29

September 1, (11 & 18 close at noon)

October 10 & 13

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# And More Trash...

Annual Charge to Residents - Once the winning bidder is contracted the Borough establishes the annual rate to charge its customers. The calculation is not complex and in simple terms it reflects a per household share of the waste disposal contract plus approximately 1 1/2 % to cover some minor administrative expenses. Sometimes, when we know large increases are coming in future years and we will establish a rate a little higher so that the percentage of the next year's increase is not so high.

History of Cost - In 2021 the Trash Hauling contract bid was \$171,000. In 2022, \$184,000, an increase of 7.6% yr/yr. In 2023, \$204,000, an increase of 10.8% yr/yr. In 2024, the first of a new three-year contract, the cost was \$266,000, an increase of 30% yr/yr. In 2025 the cost is \$332,000, an increase of over 24% yr/yr And a full 94% higher than the 2021 contract. The cost increases over the past two years are certainly dramatic, but because due to timing our re-bid, we saved half of the 60% cost increase enjoyed by our neighbors to the north in Hamburg, who bid their contract just one year later. And, in preparation for this article, I read there are places in the Lehigh Valley with an 86% increase in cost year-over-year...Ouch.

Options - During our Borough Council workshop debates we contemplated several options including hauling our own trash with Borough employees, and in contrast, the consequences of not having a community-wide trash contract. We did this because there was some research presented regarding the comparison cost of individual homeowners hiring their own trash hauler vs community-hauler. After significant debate we realized we were unprepared to begin to pick up our own trash and the cons of having every household responsible for their own trash, by far outweigh the pros, and therefore we authorized the bid to be let.

The Future - Borough Council members have invested a significant amount of personal time and requested staff spend time reviewing cost saving options for purchasing supplies and operational changes which would result in saving a few dollars. We've enjoyed some modest success. However, we are seeing many costs across increase at a rate similar to the trash contract. Electricity is up nearly 50%, health insurance for employees - another 13% this year, property insurance costs by a similar margin, labor costs maybe at least increase, yet still significant compared to the past 30 years.

I hope this brief explanation was helpful and informative. In the next newsletter I will provide some detail on the very limited way the Borough's income grows while its expenses are subject to the same market forces each of our households must manage.




Please have a safe and healthy summer!

*Councilman Joseph Wertz, Jr.*



# Trash & Recycling

Please note that the quarterly trash rate for 2025 is \$135.

 Holiday - No service. If your collection falls on or after a holiday, it will be delayed one day.  Recycling  Yard Waste

Trash and bulk trash is picked up weekly on Tuesdays (if a holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday, service will be delayed one day to Wednesday).

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27	28	29	30	31		

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SEPTEMBER						
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28	29	30	31			

## A few reminders:

- If any food or trash is mixed with the recycling, it will not be taken.
- Recycling boxes must be flattened and bundled together.
- Have your items at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. on pick up day.
- The limit is the equivalent of four 30-gallon trash bags or cans per week.
- If you are using a 55 gallon drum for a trash receptacle, please be sure to add handles and a lid.
- One bulk item per week may be placed out with your trash.

If you think your pick up was missed or have other issues, let us know here: <https://tinyurl.com/shoeyrefuse> or contact [administration@shoeyboro.org](mailto:administration@shoeyboro.org) immediately with any concerns.

Visit <https://shoeyboro.org/trash-and-recycling-pick-up/> for more information.

# From the Recreation Board

## Applications being accepted for new Rec Board Members

The Shoemakersville Recreation Board is a volunteer advisory board appointed by Borough Council. The Board meets monthly as needed. Events organized or supported by the Rec Board include:

- Children's Fair
- Free Summer Park Program
- Trunk or Treat in the Park
- Holiday Decorating Contest
- Christmas in the Park
- Egg Hunt in the Park
- Shoey Pool Special Events
- Annual Scibble Tournament



If you are interested in serving, please submit a letter of interest, including contact information and why you want to serve. Please submit to the Borough Office or [recboard@shoeyboro.org](mailto:recboard@shoeyboro.org) by December 1 for full consideration.

## Trunk or Treat - Friday, Oct. 31st - 6:30-8:30pm.

Join the Shoemakersville Recreation Board at the park on Friday, Oct. 25th. Bring your car, decorate your truck, and children will trick or treat from trunk to trunk.



Each trunk supplies their own candy. If we receive candy donations, we will share with you! There will be an award for best trunk! Don't want to bring your car? Devilish ghouls, Super heroes, and Ghosts are welcome, too, for trick or treating. Donations kindly accepted. Please let us know if you will be joining us as a decorated trunk! Email [RecBoard@ShoeyBoro.org](mailto:RecBoard@ShoeyBoro.org) or call the Borough Office at 610-562-8030.

Follow us on Facebook at Shoemakersville Rec Board

## Other Community Events

### **Park Master Plan Presentation - Tuesday, August 19 - 7:00 pm**

Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. will present to Borough Council and the public a park master plan. This plan can be used to apply for funding park improvements and help the Borough prioritize projects. The plan was funded in part by DCNR.

### **Community Yard Sale - Saturday, September 20**

- 7:00 am - 1:00 pm

*Local events can be found on Facebook at Shoemakersville History & Community*

# Crisp Air, Cozy Homes, and New Beginnings!

*Proud to help neighbors buy and sell their home  
here in Shoey!*



*Dana Randazzo*  
Realtor®

610.451.5473 C | 610.985.0224 O



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Facebook



 **CodeRED™**

Sign up to receive emergency notifications from the borough through the Code Red System. Snow emergencies, boil water advisories and more. Scan the QR Code or go to [www.shoeyboro.org](http://www.shoeyboro.org).



Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 am - 1:00 pm

## SHOEMAKERSVILLE

Community  
Yard Sale



# Fall Reminders



## Yard Waste Pick-up

Yard waste pick-up continues through October 28. Please use biodegradable paper bags for the waste. CLEAR PLASTIC BAGS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP. The weight of the bags should not exceed 30 pounds. Tree branches and sticks should be bundled together, with a length not to exceed 3 feet. Be sure to have your items at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday mornings, in order to assure proper pickup. The Borough asks that you do not sweep leaves and yard waste into the streets, as it may clog the storm sewers. This can create slippery conditions, flooding and water quality issues.

## Lawn Maintenance

**Grass and weeds:** Property owners should not permit weeds, grass or other uncultured vegetation to grow more than 10 inches in height when measured from the surface of the ground, provided that weed growth on lawns occurring between mowing shall not constitute a nuisance.

**Trees, shrubs and hedges:** Property owners are required to maintain any tree or shrubbery on the owner's property, so that branches do not extend over the public sidewalk at a height less than 8 feet of vertical clearance or extend over a public street or alley at a height less than 16 feet of vertical clearance.

## Keep the Streets Clean

Borough staff cleans leaves that naturally fall into the roadway and gutters. However, leaves and yard sweepings should not be swept into any street or alley, as it clogs the storm sewers. This can create slippery conditions, flooding and water quality issues. When the system becomes blocked with grass clippings and leaves, it creates a flooding potential that could result in property damage.



## Fire Safety

With fall approaching, we ask you to keep in mind that while outdoor fireplaces and cooking appliances may be used, a spark arrestor must be in place to reduce embers. Ordinance 429-2012 regulates open burning and recreational fires within the Borough.

Please keep these safety points in mind:

- Always have a spark arrestor in place to reduce embers
- Never leave a fire unattended
- Be aware of weather conditions
- Keep water close at hand
- No burning of yard waste, recyclables, or hazardous materials



# Advertise in THE SHOHEY SCOOP

The advertising revenue will help support the production and distribution costs of the newsletter, which provides valuable information and updates on the borough’s activities, events, and initiatives. Some of the highlights of the Shoey Scoop newsletter include:

- Events organized by the [Borough Parks & Recreation and Community Engagement Committees](#) including the Annual Spring and Fall Community Yard Sale.
- The schedule of events for the [Shoey Rec Board](#), which organizes the Annual Tradition of the Children's Fair, Shoey Trunk or Treat in the Park, Holiday Lights Contest and the Shoey Park Program just to name a few.
- Various community events throughout the year, such as an Easter egg hunt, fall picnic, Christmas lights, and Christmas in the park organized by the [Shoey Lions Club](#).
- The opening dates and hours for the [Shoey Pool](#), which offers a refreshing and fun place to swim and relax during the summer months.

### 2025 Newsletter Advertising Rates

	Size	One Time	Annual (4 issues)
Half Page (limited avail)	3 ½ x 9 or 7 x 4 ½	\$250	\$880 (\$220 x 4)
Quarter Page	3 ½ x 4 ½	\$125	\$440 (\$110 x 4)
Eighth Page (biz card)	2 x 3 ½	\$65	\$220 (\$55 x 4)

If you are interested in advertising in the Shoey Scoop, please contact the borough office at (610) 562-8030 or email [Newsletter@shoeyboro.org](mailto:Newsletter@shoeyboro.org) for more details and pricing. Don't miss this chance to reach out to your potential customers and support your local newsletter!

## Fall Election Information

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 4
- The deadline to register to vote for the 2025 General Election is Monday, October 20.
- Applications for Absentee and Mail-in Ballots for the Nov. 4, 2025 General Election MUST be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025.
- Voted Absentee and Mail-Ballots MUST be received by the Office of Election Services or returned to a designated drop box by 8:00 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2025, to be counted.



### County and Local Representation on Ballot

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| County Prothonotary | Judge of the Superior Court                           |
| County Treasurer    | Judge of the Commonwealth Court                       |
| County Coroner      | Judge of the Court of Common Pleas                    |
| Sheriff             | School Director Hamburg Area School District Region 2 |
|                     | Mayor Shoemakersville Borough                         |
|                     | Member of Council Shoemakersville Borough             |
|                     | Tax Collector Shoemakersville Borough                 |

### Polling Location

PERRY ELEMENTARY CENTER  
201 FOURTH ST  
SHOEMAKERSVILLE, PA 19555

**Interested in working the polls or have other questions?**  
**Contact Berks County Elections Services at 610-478-6490 or visit <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/election-services>**

**Borough of Shoemakersville**  
846 Main Street  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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# SHOEY SCOOP

August 2025 Newsletter

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E-mail: [administration@shoeyboro.org](mailto:administration@shoeyboro.org)

## **Other Contacts**

Trash & Recycling:  
Republic Services - 610-926-9132

Building Inspector: Bill Murphy - 570-499-7204

Zoning & Codes: Paul Gruber - 610-607-4866

Pennsylvania State Police - 610-562-6885

## **Current Borough Council and Mayor**

Council President	Chris Kline
Council Vice President	Amy L Botwright
Council President Pro Tem	Dana Smith
Council Member	Joseph Wertz
Council Member	Tara Kennedy Kline
Council Member	Dana Randazzo
Council Member	Michael Grim
Mayor	Dustin Remp

[www.shoeyboro.org](http://www.shoeyboro.org)