



**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FOR DUNCANNON'S  
SLED DROP 2017  
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION**

**10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.  
Clark's Ferry Tavern Grounds, Duncannon**

*Food, Fun & Music  
Sled Drops at Midnight!*

Free raffle tickets for door prizes  
Don't forget to get your commemorative wooden nickel

— Presented by Duncannon Borough Parks and Recreation —

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## Proposed budget calls for small utility rate hikes

***Anticipating need for higher rates to pay for needed repairs, Council is looking to phase in increases***

The average property owner in the Borough will see small increases in their tax and utility bills under the proposed budget Borough Council is expected to adopt at its December 21 meeting. Under the proposed spending plan, the owner of a property appraised at the Borough average of \$107,000, who also has the water, sewer, and trash accounts in their name would see costs go up about \$167 in the new year.

Council voted to advertise the proposed \$3.1 million budget after two rounds of meetings refined the original draft budget proposed in October. That original plan called for no tax hike, and deferred any rate increases until a study could be completed to determine where water and sewer rates will need

to be to fund badly needed upgrades to both systems.

The Borough is in the midst of a \$2 million-plus project to make state Department of Environmental Resources mandated improvements to its sewage treatment plant. Work is also needed to reduce the inflow and infiltration of fresh water in the wastewater system.

A major water project to add a new well, make improvements to treatment facilities at one of the existing wells, and to move the booster pump out of the Shermans Creek floodplain is also planned to get underway.

That project is being funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant. But other needed improvements to the water system are needed.

With that in mind, the decision was made to implement small, \$5 per month, increases in both rates in order to be able to more gradually phase in projected rate increases. The idea is to implement the needed higher rates through a few small increases over time instead of one, massive increase. The

hope is a gradual increase will be easier for residents to deal with.

Contrary to what was reported in the local paper, the minimum consumption charge is not increasing. It will remain at \$15 for the first 2,500 gallons. Only the Customer Service Charge will rise, going from \$10 to \$15.

Trash fees will also be increasing by \$3 per month, an increase needed to balance the Refuse Fund, which was operating at a deficit.

Council also agreed on a one-tenth of a mill increase in the Borough's Fire Protection tax after hearing a plea for increased funding from the Duncannon Fire Company Chief Byron Worner. Worner told Council increased funding was being requested to help pay for needed equipment upgrades, including a rebuild of the tower ladder truck.

A one-tenth mill increase in the Fire Tax will amount to a little over \$10 a year for the average property owner and will result in the Borough's contribution to the Fire Company rising from \$25,000 to \$30,000 in 2018.



# Happy Holidays

## Borough Holiday Schedule

Friday, December 22 - Office closes at noon (Staff Christmas luncheon)  
(trash pickup - regular schedule)

Monday, December 25 - Closed • Monday, January 1 -- Closed

## Borough Council OK's deal to preserve watershed

For many years, the Borough has relied on timber cuts in the watershed area as a source of revenue. Now that resource will be protected forever, thanks to a deal between the Borough and the Nature Conservancy.

Under the terms of the deal, which was approved by Borough Council at its November meeting, the Conservancy will pay the Borough a total of \$650,000 for a conservation easement on the Borough's 1,500-acre watershed area on the Shermans Creek side of Cove Mountain.

The Borough is to receive \$100,000 this year in exchange for granting the Conservancy a three-year option

to complete the easement deal. That deal is broken into three phases, with the Borough set to receive \$200,000 in 2018, and \$175,000 in each of the following two years.

The Conservancy has the option to close the entire deal sooner. Having just been awarded a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant to fund the project, the Conservancy is hopeful of completing the entire transaction in 2018.

In addition to the \$650,000 being paid by the Nature Conservancy, the deal also calls for the Conservancy to help the Borough develop a Forest Manage-

ment Plan, which will help deal with invasive and exotic plants which are threatening to take over huge swaths of the parcel. Those undesirable plants can choke out slower growing saplings from hardwood trees such as oak, maple, and tulip poplar.

Duncannon will continue to own the land. Hunting will continue to be allowed, and the land will be open to the public for passive recreational use.

The Borough also maintains all rights to use of the land for its water system. The Conservancy will pay to install security fencing and other protections to secure the Borough's water facilities.

## New faces to join Council in 2018

Borough Council will welcome two new faces to the table when it convenes on January 2, 2018 for its biennial reorganizational meeting.

Joining Council will be Lisa Landis, who won one of the full, four-year terms that were on the ballot in November, and Michael May, who was elected as a write in candidate for a two-year set to fill the remainder of a term that had been vacated due to a resignation.

Two elected members of Council had resigned their seats since 2016, when they were sworn in. Those seats had been filled by individuals appointed by Council, which is required by law to appoint someone to fill in until the next municipal election.

One of those who had been appointed to fill a vacancy, Chris Adams, will continue to hold that seat for the

remainder of its term after winning a write in campaign for one of the two two-year terms. The other current appointed Council member, Jeff Kirkhoff, will remain on Council as well, having won one of the full four-year terms.

Incumbent Roger Williams also was reelected to another four year term. Mayor John Cappawana, who was appointed to that office to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the late Mayor Jack Conrad, will also remain in office, having won election to a full, four-year term.

All those who won in the November election will be sworn in during that January 2 reorganization meeting. A new Council President will also be chosen at that meeting to replace current President Kraig Nace, who chose not to seek another term on Council.



### —The Duncannon Dispatch—

*The Duncannon Dispatch is the official newsletter of the Borough of Duncannon. Published periodically, The Duncannon Dispatch is distributed to every residence and business in the Borough. For information on advertising in The Duncannon Dispatch, please call 717.432.8311.*

#### **Borough Of Duncannon**

##### **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Kraig Nace, Council President**

**Chris Adams • Darryl Croutharmel • Fred Eppley  
Jeffrey Kirkhoff • Roger Williams • Christie Young**

**John Cappawana, Mayor**

##### **BOROUGH STAFF**

**Chris A. Courogen, Manager**

**Robert F. Kroboth, Finance Director**

**Kathy Bauer, Borough Secretary**

**Michael Criley, Public Works Foreman**