

March Borough Manager's Report:

Code Enforcement:

As I reported last month, Randall Woods has assumed his position as a full-time code enforcer for the Borough. In the month of March, Randall tagged 58 vehicles as being abandoned and issued 69 tickets for code enforcement violation fines. 21 tickets were issued for vehicles parked on grass, 34 tickets were issued for trash being left in yards, 5 issued for graffiti and 9 for various other issues. In total, during the month of March 22 stop work orders were issued for construction work being conducted without a permit which will ultimately bring in thousands and thousands of dollars in revenue that otherwise would not have been collected. Most importantly, this represents an increase in work being done correctly and safely. Please join me in thanking Randall for his great work!

As always, I would like to encourage residents to contact the Borough at (610)522-1305 or email me personally at manager@folcroftborough.org if they would like to discuss or dispute a fine or if they can commit to help correct a situation. Residents who would like to report a violation or for general questions can do so anonymously at the same number and email.

Highway:

The new zero turn lawnmower that councilmembers approved the purchase of at the last meeting has been ordered and should be here within the month. There is not much of a backorder right now so we expect to take possession shortly.

I advise that as grass season is fast approaching and as our highway department has continued to exhibit effective, hard work that Council consider hiring another full-time highway employee to replace a position which has technically been vacant since July of 2020. The highway staff and foreman have my complete confidence and I believe that this would be a worthy act. Hiring another full-time highway employee would also allow the Borough to bring more tasks in-house, potentially saving money and providing even better services.

Please note that the street sweeper will be out beginning in the middle of this month – any day now – but only to collect the large amount of debris which has accumulated all winter. This is being done so that the initial street sweeping which begins in May will be on-time and predictable. Please encourage residents to move their vehicles however fines will not be issued until next month.

COVID 19:

According to the most recent data from the State Department of Health, Pennsylvania is currently experiencing an average positivity rate has again decreased significantly from 15% as of 2/9/22 to 4.2% as of 4/12/22. In Delaware County, the number is hovering around 3.6%

According to the Montgomery County Health Department, anything below a 5% positivity rate represents suppression of the virus. Though a decrease from last month's number, this represents a slight increase from previous weeks. Right now, there are 8.8 new cases per 100,000 Delaware County residents per day which is a slight increase from the 8 for every 100,000 we saw just one month ago. Right now, 77.6% of Delaware County residents have received at least 1 dose of a COVID 19 vaccine which is below the state average of 84.3%. Notably, while deaths are up above summer levels the percentage increase is not nearly as huge as with positivity and overall case volume. This appears to be in line with the evidence that the Omicron variant of COVID 19 is both more contagious but also less severe.

OTHER:

In March, the Borough collected over \$66,000 in delinquent trash and sewer fees almost exclusively from rental properties. The Borough uses a company for this service however all of the legwork was done by Ramona Petty and she deserves the credit for this. In total, the Borough paid \$22,000 of the total amount to the company which provides this service despite having done the work ourselves. It may be worth discussing bringing some or all of this work in house or otherwise using another company for the work.

Lastly, I've changed the way I name these reports. You may have noticed that I issued a "March" report last month, however as this report deals with information and incidents during the month of March I opted to change the way I title them. Going forward, this will be adjusted.