



## The reliable information source

### “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

#### A House Divided

We all know Abraham Lincoln’s famous quote; “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” Human nature is such that we will always take sides on issues, and have disagreements. However there is one passionate notion or belief that continues to divide our house. One side says that we, the government, should **care** for society. The other side says that we, the government, should **enable** society to care of themselves. The hard question asks, are we our brother’s keeper or our brother’s enabler?

Keepers are more identified as Democrats and Liberals, Enablers Republicans and Conservatives. There is not much middle ground; we come down on one side or the other. But, maybe some just don’t even know where they stand, or they struggle with the question, and consider themselves moderate or independent.

It is not enough to say that our neighbor is enabled with freedoms

and all the opportunities to make their own way. Enabling must also be backed by some positive assistance.

We often hear about children who do not receive the proper guidance at home, and true, this is a fact. Yes, there are kids dragging down quality education, receiving no parental guidance, and ultimately becoming blight on society. Some of the parents are even kids themselves. Yet, we righteously point the finger and place blame on those who appear as irresponsible, and possibly rightly so.

But point all we want and take on a righteous posture all we want; it does not and will not solve the problem. To solve this problem, we must vastly improve education, and make our kids productive citizens in a very competitive world, we must accept the idea that it does take a village to raise a child. **If the parents don't do it, then society must!** It is up to the schools, churches, community

organizations, community leaders, business community, and others to step up for the children. We all must do it, and not leave any kids behind.

Our nation is acutely divided by this simple Keeper vs. Enabler notion. We must find a way to discuss it, debate it, understand it, and find some common ground where we can agree, thus "enabling" us to move forward. No more name calling and finger pointing.

Getting past this Keeper vs. Enabler divide alone will allow us to solve many of our most difficult issues; this alone may allow us to become productive and competitive; this alone may ensure our world leadership. Talk, listen, be reasonable, understand, and work together. If we don't find the way beyond this barrier, we shall remain a house divided; a house that cannot stand. **Think about it.**



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## FREE Smoke Alarms

It won't be long until the furnaces come on and we will be lighting up the fireplaces. This is when we become most vulnerable to house fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

For the most part, we all know what we should and should not do for our own safety, but we don't always take heed?

Some of us just get a little lazy, very busy or forgetful, and that is when accidents occur. We can take steps to prevent the terrible fires and the consequences that are endured afterwards. **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors.**

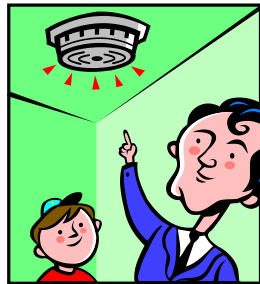
First, make sure that you have fresh batteries in both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors that you may already have installed. Test each to make sure they are operational.

If you have none installed, then it is a must that you acquire and install them. There is help available.

**The following text is taken from the Allegheny County Web Site:**

### Free Smoke Alarms for Allegheny County Homeowners

*The Allegheny County*



*Health Department has a free smoke alarm program for owner-occupied homes which have no smoke alarms or ones too old to be reliable.*

*"Smoke alarms are proven life-savers but only when they are in good working order," said County Health Director Dr. Bruce W. Dixon.*

*Nearly half of all smoke alarms don't work because they have missing, disconnected*

*or dead batteries or are more than 10 years old and no longer reliable.*

*Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a house fire by 50%, yet most residential fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or defective alarms.*

*The program, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, provides and installs a maximum of two battery-operated smoke alarms in an owner-occupied home.*

*To schedule an installation, please call the Health Department at 412-247-7800.*

***Under Health Department housing regulations, landlords must provide operable smoke alarms in residential properties and tenants replace the batteries as needed.***

**"Smoke alarms are proven life-savers but only when they are in good working order," said County Health Director Dr. Bruce**

## Cookie Lee Fine Fashion Jewelry Show, Calling All Women

### **MAKE YOUR FASHION STATEMENT WITH COOKIE LEE!**

How do you want to look today? With Cookie Lee jewelry, you can reinvent your style and build your jewelry wardrobe without breaking your budget! We're dedicated to providing women with the hottest trends in fashion jewelry at an affordable value - looking fabulous has never been so easy! There are 150

pieces for under \$25 that the hosting consultant has available for your purchase, Everyone attending

**Saturday, September 10, 2011  
12:30 to 3:00 PM  
Elliott's Back Street Barbeque Restaurant.**

will receive a raffle ticket for a door prize valued at \$30. Every order will also receive a raffle ticket.

Buy off the table or order from the

catalogue. All orders will be delivered to the customers.

For additional information contact Senior Cookie Lee Consultant, Colleen Kudis at [colleensjeelry@comcast.net](mailto:colleensjeelry@comcast.net), go to <http://www.cookielee.com>, and view and print out Flyer at <http://www.vumore.org>

At the August 23rd Regular **West Jefferson Hills School Board** meeting, a motion was approved directing the administration to prepare the 2012—2013 budget earlier than usual, because of the possibility of a property tax increase in excess of the Act 1 allowed index. Several years ago, WJHSD opted to participate in gambling revenue. Based on an annual formula, school districts participating, are restricted from increasing school property taxes in excess of a

calculated index.

To achieve a balanced budget, the board may cut expenditures, request an exception from the state, or place a referendum on the ballot for the voters to accept or reject.

The earlier preparation of the budget will allow sufficient lead time to get a referendum on the ballot. Due to the current economic conditions, the Governor has reduced funding to school

districts. He is not in favor of tax increases. The alternative is to reduce expenditures. **Regardless of party affiliation or political philosophy, this is where we are.** The solutions are limited.

If the board cannot increase revenue and does not reduce expenditures, then it may be up to the voters to decide at the polls.

Source: <http://www.vumore.org>

## Entitlements

**We Hear that word tossed loosely about and many times in a somewhat derogatory manner.**

Entitlements of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, etc. By some, it is considered as a dole or something given to those not deserving.

One definition of entitlement is *“to give somebody the right to have or to do something.”* Is Social Security something that someone is giving you? If anyone thinks that it is, then take a look at your paycheck. Social Security is something that each of us pay for, and in reality a return

of our own money. It is a forced investment plan. We cannot allow the government to reduce or take away any portion of our investment. We cannot allow the government to go back on the promise.

Whenever one of the politicians suggest reducing, privatizing or eliminating Social Security in any way, we must strongly object. It is easy to write to or call those making such comments or suggestions.

In fact, Social Security payments to those retired should continuously increase. Over the last several years, payments

remained static - no cost of living. However, the government is and has been using our money that was contributed (tax) over our working years, which should be earning interest.

The true “Entitlements” must be considered in a different light. The primary responsibility of government is for the Health, Safety and Welfare of the people. We should then personally decide if the entitlements of Food Stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, etc. fall into government's category of primary responsibility, and then support that position.

**“Is Social Security something that someone is giving you? If anyone thinks that it is, then take a look at your paycheck.”**

## More about K9 Lawsuit

**Police Officer, Gawlas filed a lawsuit against the borough, council members, and former Police Chief Jack Maple . (Source: Tribune-Review)**

As reported, the suit claims that a three month investigation conducted

by Corporate Security and Investigations, Inc. (CSI) was intended to harass him, and to humiliate him once released to the public.

With the current council majority, since 2008, lawsuits have increased.

Citizens warned not to hire CSI to conduct the type of investigation that was done. There really was no basis for the



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investigation, other than for council to attempt to justify eliminating the K9 program. The K9 budget for the years 2008, 2009, and 2010 only amounted to **\$7,000.00**.

The investigation cost was **\$16,832.45** of our tax dollars, which

resulted in the lawsuit.

**“The investigation cost was \$16,832.45 of our tax dollars, ...”**

The legal fees and litigation settlement still remain to be seen.

The original lawsuit news article may be

found at the Tribune-Review, or see **www.vumore.org** on the internet. The borough letter from the Manager stating the investigation cost may also be found at **www.vumore.org**

## Pleasant Hills / Jefferson Hills - A Tale of 2 Boros

**People have been commenting how wonderful Pleasant Hills Community Day was, from the 5K walk, parade, the vendors, entertainment and the closing with**



**the Grand Finally - Fireworks.**

**Jefferson Hills terminated Community Day**

It is somewhat amazing and bewildering how two communities side by side and sharing the same school district can be so different.

Pleasant Hills is thriving and moving forward. **Jefferson Hills appears to be stagnating and moving backwards.**

Pleasant Hills Police Officer Ron Porupsky donated his own dog, a Belgin Malinois named Scrappi, and Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala's office provided a grant for training.

**Jefferson Hills terminated the K9 Program.**

Pleasant Hills land area is less than 3 square miles, yet has a large tax base of commercial establishments that do not interfere with residential areas.

**Jefferson Hills has little commercial tax base. Nothing is happening to develop the 51 Corridor, with much of it being an eye sore.**

Pleasant Hills recently participated in its 18th National Night Out Crime and Drug Prevention Event. This is a neighborhood and family event. More

details are available on their web site at **http:ww.pleasanthills pa.com**

**Jefferson Hills does not participate.**

**“Etc., Etc., Etc..“**

### Why?

It all comes down to leadership; their personal interests and capabilities. Since 2008, council's focus has been on increasing the administration size to handle what they either do not want to do, or do not have the capability of doing.

Being a council member means devoting time to maintaining and improving the community, providing the services to residents, and more.

Jefferson Hills needs new devoted leaders. We will have the opportunity to choose new leaders on **November 8, 2011**

**Just Vote!**

**“Jefferson Hills terminated Community Day”**

**“Jefferson Hills appears to be stagnating and moving backwards.”**

**“Jefferson Hills terminated the K9 Program”**

**“Jefferson Hills does not participate”**

**“Jefferson Hills needs new devoted leaders”**

## 2010 Census Redistricting — The Right Way!

Article 1, Section 2, of the United States Constitution requires that a Census be taken every 10 years for the purpose of apportioning the United States House of Representatives. Likewise, the Pennsylvania Constitution requires redistricting the 203 legislative and the 50 senatorial districts. This is the year for redistricting.

Associated to redistricting, there is the practice of “gerrymandering,” a practice of manipulating geographic boundaries for a political advantage.

The term or word is attributable to Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry. In 1812 he signed a bill that redistricted a section of

Boston that on a map resembled a salamander. Thus, the name



**Gerry** and a portion of sala-

**mander** were blended to form the new word **gerrymander**.

Over a period of time, we’ve had voting districts formed with overwhelming voter registration of one political party or the other. The practice tends to polarize localities, cities, states and the nation.

Candidates and elected officials are drawn excessively to the right or the left in philosophy to satisfy constituents. The citizens would be better served by more

balanced districts with elected officials striving to serve a disparate constituency by being drawn to moderation. In all things, moderation is indeed the common sense approach.

We all have an opportunity to express to the redistricting commission to eliminate **gerrymandering** in favor of common sense balanced districts. Unquestionably, common sense moderation will foster working together to solve the important issues that will get us moving forward and again make us great.

To follow the Pennsylvania redistricting and make your comments to the commission, go to <http://www.redistricting.state.pa.us>

“Unquestionably, common sense moderation will foster working together to solve the important issues that will get us moving forward and again make us great.”

## \$2 Million Energy-Saving Upgrades to Municipal Buildings

**“The County is providing grants totaling \$2 million to fund municipal energy upgrades. Grant allocations are based on the percentage of low- and moderate-income population in each municipality.**

Thirty boroughs and townships are eligible for grants covering 100 percent of upgrade costs, 55 municipalities are eligible for grants

covering 75 percent of costs, and 19 are eligible for grants covering 50 percent of costs.” (Source: August 17, 2011 email from Office of the County Executive.

Jefferson Hills falls into middle category where 75% of the costs will be covered. This is the category where 25% to 46% of the population falls into the low to moderate income

groups.

The borough only has to come up with 25% of the costs to achieve 100% of the upgrade resulting in significant energy and dollar savings

***This is something our council should be active with, and something we all should watch.***

“The County is providing grants totaling \$2 million to fund the municipal upgrades.”

## More Legal Costs

Since reporting about two lawsuits in the last newsletter, against Jefferson Hills Borough, Council and former Police Chief Jack Maple, we now have another new lawsuit.

West Jefferson Superintendent, Terry Kinavey, who was suspended in September of 2009, filed a suit in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas against School Board President Shauna D'Alessandro and Solicitor Ira Weiss.

It claims that Shauna D'Alessandro asked solicitor Weiss to find a reason to fire Superintendent Kinavey, after the school directors were pressured by a group of citizens to hire teacher Denise Breisinger. The suit is for a judgment in excess of \$25,000 plus court costs.

As you may recall there were 14 hearing sessions over 4 1/2 months. In May of 2011, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Judge Alan D. Hertzberg ruled that the record for Kinavey's termination proceedings is incomplete and ordered the school board to provide a full record and comply with request for information from Kinavey's lawyers. The "remand" hearing has yet to be held.

To date, the cost of the proceedings have not been revealed to the residents,

**See original news stories at <http://www.vumore.org> on the internet**

"Since reporting about two lawsuits in the last newsletter, against Jefferson Hills Borough, the Council, and former police Chief Jack Maple, We now have another new lawsuit."

## Fly the Flag Campaign

**One of those thousands of emails that we receive, requesting us to take some sort of action and forward it on to others, stood out.**

Here are the contents:

On Thursday, September 11th, 2011, an American flag should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office, and store in the United States . Every individual should display an American flag on this tenth anniversary of one our country's worst tragedies. We do this in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms .

In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens

mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared. Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of



our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.

### Action Plan:

So, here's what we need you to do...

- (1) Forward this to everyone you know (at least 11 people). Take a moment to think back to how you felt on 9/11 and let those sentiments guide you.
- (2) Fly an American flag of any size on 9/11. Honestly, Americans should fly the flag year-round, but if you don't, then at least make it a priority on this day.

Thank you for your participation .

**God Bless You and God Bless America.**

## What happened to \$1.1 Million Plus of Our Tax Dollars?

At the **June 13, 2011** Jefferson Hills borough council meeting, council refinanced a 2005 debt and issued new bonds in the amount of **\$3 million**. This new debt is to finance the construction of a **new public works garage**, and possibly a salt storage facility. **AGAIN!**

In **2005**, bond indebtedness was incurred in the amount of **\$6,364,360.86**, actually for the same purpose, except it included repairs and enhancements to the administration building. The total indebtedness was comprised as follows:

Refinance old debt	\$3,491,659.39
New projects	2,730,094.70
Bond Expenses	115,455.91
Accrued Interest	<u>27,150.86</u>
<b>Total indebtedness</b>	<b>\$6,364,659.86</b>

The public works garage and the salt storage facility were high priorities, and the administration building the lowest priority.

At the time, Gateway Engineers, Inc. Ruthann Omer, the borough engineer, estimated \$875,000 for the public works garage and \$300,000 for the salt storage facility. But, neither of these two projects where ever progressed. **So what happened to the \$1.175 Million ( \$ 8 7 5 , 0 0 0 + \$ 3 0 0 , 0 0 0 ) ?**

Well, two developers in the borough were planning and constructing approximately 512 new homes – Jefferson Estates and Hunters Field/Mill School that needed sewer “tapins” and a system to dispose of the sewage.

A likely possibility was to connect the into the system. already 143 tapped in, were from the



being built in the Jefferson Estates plan.

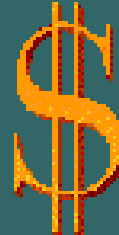
There were occupants many of those new homes

Instead, it appears, for some reason, that council was convinced that it would be more efficient and economical to construct a **\$1 million plus pumping station**, and flow the sewage all the way to Clairton for disposal. **Really? The wasted \$1 million, plus, is our tax dollars.**

Then, at the recent **June 2011 Council Meeting**, “Mr. Khalil moved to authorize the refunding of the **2005 bond issue** and the issuance of new bonds to fund capital projects, including but not limited to a **new public works garage, in the maximum amount of \$3.0 million**, seconded by Mr. Albrecht... Mr. Weber agreed this project has been reviewed for years by many Councils, and reported the current garage is deplorable and we need to show respect to our employees who work there... Motion carried unanimously.” **Source:** June 2011 council regular meeting minutes.

**This really needs to be explained!**

“The wasted \$1 million, plus, is our tax dollars. “



## Franklin Marshall Marcellus Shale Poll

A Franklin & Marshall poll shows the majority of Pennsylvanians are in favor of the Natural Gas drilling industry: 65% favor it while 23 oppose. Go to <http://www.vumore.org> for more information.

SOUTH PARK WAVE POOL  
PARKING LOT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011  
9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

There will be a \$2.00 - CASH  
ONLY - Fee per gallon.



## Sponsored by:

**Zero Waste Pittsburgh**  
<http://www.zerowastepgh.org>

**Allegheny County Health  
Department**



"Working to protect the environment since 1939"



### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE:

- **aerosol cans**
- **automotive fluids**  
motor oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze, brake fluid
- **batteries**
- **chemistry sets**
- **compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)**
- **gasoline and kerosene**
- **household cleaners**  
ammonia, drain openers, acid cleaners, oven cleaners
- **mercury**
- **paint products**  
latex, oil based, alkyd based, arts/crafts chemicals, rust preservatives, creosote, water sealers, paint thinners, furniture strippers
- **pesticides /herbicides**  
rodent killers, insecticides, weed killers, mothballs, fertilizer
- **photo chemicals**
- **pool chemicals**

### NOT ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- **ammunition**
- **appliances**
- **bulk waste**
- **commercial and industrial waste**
- **Compressed gas cylinders**  
(including propane tanks)
- **drugs**
- **explosives**
- **flares**
- **fluorescent tubes**
- **leaking containers**
- **medical waste**  
(including needles)
- **PCBs and dioxin**
- **Radioactive materials**  
(including smoke detectors)
- **Tires**

**View and printout Flyer at**  
<http://www.vumore.org>

*The drilling industry is depending on our  
ignorance, indifference and complacency.  
**GET INVOLVED with MARCELLUS SHALE!***



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If you prefer **not** to receive these emails, please return an email to [JHWwatchdog@comcast.net](mailto:JHWwatchdog@comcast.net),  
with "**no more**" in the subject line.

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Published by Patrick J. All, Citizen and Chairman of the Jefferson Hills Democratic Committee.