

## Steelton Codes Implements New Initiative to Crack Down on Blight

Neglectful property owners and absentee landlords take note: *Steelton Borough Codes is upping its enforcement of property maintenance and quality of life laws in the Borough.* The zones initiative will focus Codes Enforcement on strategic sections of the Borough, which will be divided into zones, to allow our Codes Office to focus on thoroughly enforcing Codes in one section of the Borough each week. Quick tickets, fines, and citations will be levied on everything from improper disposal of trash, high weeds and grass, and rubbish on a property, to property maintenance violations like buildings in disrepair, broken windows, and chipped and peeling paint.

It is time to be accountable! Take action to address potential violations now, or see fines later.

Some of the most common violations you can nip in the bud before seeing the Codes Officer are:

***HIGH WEEDS AND GRASS INCLUDING IN SIDEWALKS*** = **FINE**

***STORAGE OF RUBBISH ON A PROPERTY:*** = **FINE**

***IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF TRASH AND RECYCLING:*** = **FINE**

***PROPERTIES IN DISREPAIR*** = **FINE**

***CHIPPED AND PEELING PAINT*** = **FINE**

*A little action NOW will save you a lot of hassle (and money) later.* Heed our notice. We will be holding property owners, landlords, and tenants accountable and will NOT give breaks once a ticket or citation is handed out.

We look forward to seeing your properties shine this Spring. Help us Take our Community Back by cleaning and fixing up your property and keeping it that way.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO WATER CUSTOMERS

In the near future, you will be receiving notices from Pennsylvania American Water (PAWC) informing you about its pending application before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. The PUC requires that the notice be sent to all existing and new customers when a regulated water or wastewater company buys municipal water or wastewater system assets .

**STREET SWEEPING BEGINS APRIL 1ST**  
**THROUGH NOVEMBER—PAY ATTENTION TO**  
**POSTED STREET SWEEPER ROUTES**  
**YOU WILL BE TICKETED IF YOU ARE PARKED IN**  
**A ROUTE ON THE DATE/TIMES POSTED**

**WATERSHED FRIENDLY SPRING CLEANING TIPS**



Never clean brushes or pour paint in a storm drain: Rinse brushes used for water-based paint in the sink. For oil-based paints use and reuse paint thinner. Properly dispose of paints, cleaners, and solvents through hazardous waste collection programs.



Prevent trash/litter from getting washed into storm drains: Pick up trash and litter around your yard and street. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it with the trash.



Use Non-Toxic Cleaning Agents: Use only non-toxic, biodegradable cleaners when pressure washing, or try using just water.



Maintain your Septic System: Inspect your septic system and drain field annually. Pump out the tank every 3 years or as required by local/State regulations.



*Storm water from roofs, yards, driveways, and streets that flows into storm drains is transported via the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), and discharged untreated into our local waterways. Because so much storm water runoff originates from residential areas, you and your family play an important role in preventing water pollution!*

# Minute with the Mayor

Well here we are well into 2019 and before we know it, it will be 2020! I hope everyone is tolerating the winter and hopefully by the time you receive this we will be able to say "Phil" was finally right and we had an early spring!

I thought it important that this month I try and explain how local government works in Pennsylvania particularly here in Steelton Borough. There is always misconceptions about who does what and hopefully this will clarify much. Of course, all members of Borough Council and I are available at all times to consider residents concerns.

The Borough of Steelton has a council/manager form of government, comprised of an appointed Borough Manger and an elected Mayor and Borough Council. Council is comprised of 7 members who serve at large (throughout the Borough) for four-year overlapping terms. After each general municipal election, which is every two years, Borough Council is reorganized and a Council President, Vice President, and President Pro Temper are selected by Council Members to preside over council meetings and other events. Council members are also assigned to serve on committees. Borough Council is a collaborative body and all decisions must be discussed openly and voted on by a quorum of the Council. Council meetings are the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The primary duties of Council include:

- adoption of the annual budget
- establishment of policies for the conduct of borough affairs
- enactment of ordinances and resolutions for the protection of the public
- approval of contract and bids
- appointment of the Borough Manager and other respective officials, along with members of various municipal boards and commissions.

The Mayor, elected at large to a four-year term, is primarily responsible for the public safety of the community with emphasis on law enforcement. The Mayor also has full charge and control of the Chief of Police and Police Department and often initially responds to public emergency situations. Some other primary duties include:

- the power to administer oaths and affirmations
- prepare and issue proclamations
- preserves the public peace within the Borough
- can declare a state of emergency
- to report to council from time to time on the state of Borough and to make recommendations to Council on matters of Borough concern.
- perform marriage ceremonies
- from time to time serves as the spokesperson for the Community and represents the Borough at various civic and social activities.

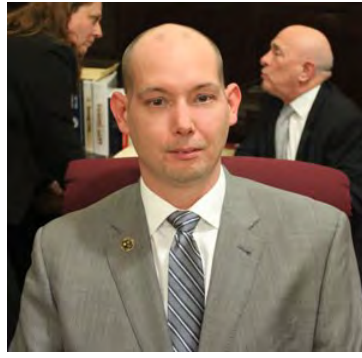
The Borough Manager, all members of the Borough Council and I are available to assist you in any Borough matter. All of our contact information is on the Borough website at [www.steeltonpa.com](http://www.steeltonpa.com). You can also follow us on Facebook at Borough of Steelton.



# Steelton Borough Council Members



**Brian D. Proctor, President**



**Michael Segina, Vice-President**



**Keontay R. Hodge, Pro-Tem**



**Kelly S. Kratzer, Member**



**William "BJ" Krovic**



**Dennis Heefner, Member**

**Natashia Woods, Member**



**All meetings of Steelton Borough Council are advertised in the Patriot News and at [www.steeltonpa.com](http://www.steeltonpa.com)**

## Upcoming Meetings:

### Council:

- 1st and Third Monday of Every Month @ 6:30 pm at Borough Hall

### Coffee with the Crew

- First Friday of Every Month @ 7am to 9am at Borough Hall

### Steelton Fest

June 22nd at 4PM across from Borough Hall.

### Steelton Showdown 2

June 1st and 2nd at the Steelton Skate Park

### Water Authority

May 13th at 5:30PM

August 12th at 5:30PM

For a full list of meetings visit [www.steeltonpa.com](http://www.steeltonpa.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### About Council:

*What is Executive Session?*

**Answer:** Section 708 of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act allows Council to meet in Executive Session to discuss a limited set of items. These include personnel matters, collective bargaining, real estate transactions, pending litigation, sensitive public safety information, and legally confidential matters. Council must announce the specific reason it is entering Executive Session before entering the session.

# **RECENT COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

Steelton Borough Council has gotten off to a fast start in 2019, passing and considering a number of ordinances to improve the Borough. Recent Council actions include:

## **Ordinance 2018-03-Escrow Requirements for Fire Damaged Properties**

To address the issue of fire damaged properties being left vacant and unaddressed by their owners, contributing to blight in the borough, this ordinance requires all insurance companies to post a portion of insurance proceeds in escrow until the property owner rehabilitates or demolishes their property and pays all delinquent bills to the Borough.

## **Ordinance 2018-06—Improved Collection of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes**

Another contributing factor to blight and financial difficulties in the Borough is the inability to collect delinquent property taxes. Borough Council sought to fix this by changing the way we collect delinquent real estate taxes. Under the old system, delinquent property owners could sit on unpaid taxes for years as their properties went through the protracted process of judicial and tax sales. With this ordinance, the Borough can now directly collect delinquent taxes through its agent, Portnoff and Associates, in a manner that has more “teeth” than the traditional delinquent tax collection process. This is our way of ensuring neglectful property owners are held accountable for paying their taxes.

## **Ordinance 2019-01—Expanded Vacant Property Registration Program**

We all see the vacant, blighted properties that exist throughout the Borough. Many times, these properties are owned by banks, companies from out of state, or out-of-town owners that simply neglect to take care of their properties. Many times, these properties switch hands like baseball cards, making it difficult to track and hold accountable their owners for their property’s condition. This leads to increased blight that impacts property values, safety, and overall attractiveness in the Borough. This ordinance forces vacant property owners, including banks, to register with the Borough twice per year. Registration includes providing a bona fide contact responsible for addressing codes violations, including demolishing their structure or rehabilitating it to proper form. This ordinance gives the Borough Codes Office a better tool to combat blight in Steelton.

## **2018-02-Decriminalization of Small Amounts of Marijuana**

It is no secret that an open attitude towards progressive marijuana policy has directly benefited the Borough. The presence of RISE medical marijuana dispensary, one of the busiest dispensaries in our region, has provided a bright spot in Steelton’s economy providing job and tax revenue. With Ordinance 2019-03, Steelton Borough will join a growing list of municipalities reducing the penalty for possession of small, personal-use amounts of marijuana to a summary offense. It is important to note that Police Officers, under this ordinance, will still have the ability and discretion to bring appropriate charges against marijuana users.

## **Pending Ordinances:**

### **Earned Income Tax and Property Tax Credits for Volunteer Firefighters**

A nationwide issue facing local governments is the decline in volunteer firefighters and emergency management personnel. To address this issue in Steelton, Borough Council plans to pass Ordinance 2019-02, which provide a break on the earned income tax and a portion of property taxes for residents that volunteer with the Steelton Fire Department. To be eligible, participants must be certified as performing a certain amount of service for the fire department, whether it be through emergency response, fundraising, or other activities that directly benefit the level of volunteer emergency services in the Borough.

# Steelton Showdown II Returns to Steelton Skate Park

Grab your skateboard or just come on down to watch. This bigger-and-better two day event brings some of the best skaters from all around, including out-of-state, to compete in a series of competitions. This year brings the return of the Young Guns contest, a Battle-in-the-Bowl, bands, food, and lots of prizes. Join us and The Skate Shop at Rayzor Tattoos for this one-of-a-kind event!

To learn more visit: [www.steeltonskatepark.com](http://www.steeltonskatepark.com)



# New Business Spotlight: Noor Market

## NOW OPEN! Grand Opening Event in April

**Location:** 107 North Front Street

**Hours:** Monday through Sunday  
10AM to 8PM

Rebekah and Mohammed Noor recently opened the doors to their international market providing fresh meats, fresh produce from Philadelphia's Italian Market, and international groceries to Steelton and surrounding communities.

Borough Manager Brown sat down with Rebekah and Mohammed to learn more about them, their business, and why they chose Steelton as a place to do business.

### Tell us a little bit about yourselves:

**Rebekah:** We relocated from Denver, Colorado in 2015 and quickly saw a lack of groceries and produce, especially serving the international population, in the area. We share a daughter Sophia (8 years old) who full of spunk! We also have one Son on the way. He will be born just after May. Not to forget we have two rescued silly cats, Girly and Luna. Mohammed is from Morocco and earned his Citizenship as a US citizen. He has spent more than 10 years here. He is a licensed electrician. As for me, I am 50% blood Apache from the San Carlos tribe.



### Why did you choose Steelton for Noor Market?

**Rebekah:** We wanted to be in Steelton from the start. We saw there was a need for a market. Also, everyone we worked with in Steelton, from the Borough Manager to the owner of the property to the Codes Officer, made us feel very welcome. So, we decided to set up roots in Steelton and began our mission.

### Give us a brief overview of Noor Market.

**Rebekah:** At Noor Market, we sell organic, grass-fed, kosher, non-caged meats and poultry. We also sell a variety of international goods like dates, spices, rice, and cheeses. We also sell fresh produce and provide butcher services for hunters.

### What would you like Steelton residents to know about Noor Market.

**Rebekah:** First of all, I would like Steelton residents to know that we are HERE at the heart of the borough at 107 North Front Street. We want you to come and visit. Secondly, if you have a question about international foods please ask. We are more than happy to share information.

### What is your goal as a business owner in Steelton?

**Rebekah:** It's our goal to serve our community by providing wholesome foods. Our goal is to grow enough to where we could support local outreach programs. We appreciate all of the feedback we have received so far and cannot grow without the constructive feedback of the community.

A vibrant poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. The background is a dark teal color, framed by a white border. At the top, there are several colorful Easter eggs in shades of yellow, blue, green, and pink. Three large, stylized Easter eggs are prominently displayed in the upper half: one orange with a red flower, one pink with a white flower, and one green with an orange flower. The text 'EASTER EGG HUNT' is written in large, bold, colorful letters. 'EASTER' is yellow, 'EGG' is light blue, and 'HUNT' is pink. The word 'HUNT' is flanked by two white decorative swirls. Below the title, the date and time 'APRIL 13, 2019 11AM-1PM' and the location 'MOHN ST PARK' are written in light blue. The address 'Mohr and S. 3rd Streets Steelton' is in pink. The activities 'Games, Food, Music, Egg Hunt and More' are in purple. At the bottom, 'FREE FAMILY EVENT' is in pink and 'BRING YOUR BASKET!' is in yellow. Green grass blades are visible at the bottom corners.

# EASTER EGG HUNT

**APRIL 13, 2019 11AM-1PM**  
**MOHN ST PARK**

**Mohr and S. 3rd Streets Steelton**

**Games, Food, Music,  
Egg Hunt and More**

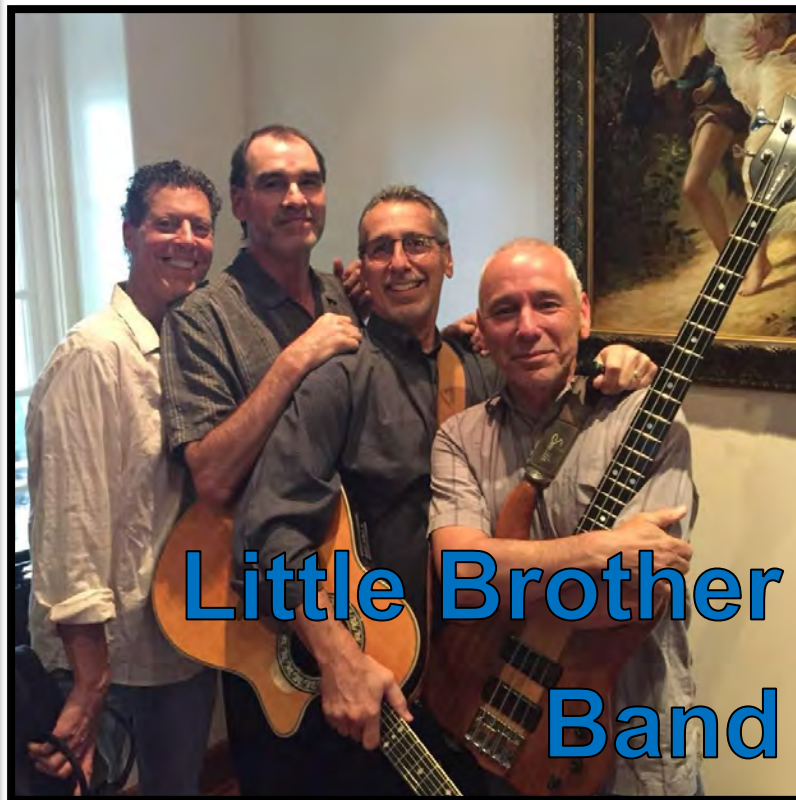
**FREE FAMILY EVENT BRING YOUR BASKET!**



# STEELTON FEST IS BACK

Saturday, June 22nd from 4PM to 9PM

Steelton Fest returns with bigger bands, a bigger beer/wine garden, and more food trucks. A top-notch slate of bands is scheduled to perform, including this year's headliner, Sugar Bear and the EU Band. You may remember them from their Top Ten hits "Da Butt", and "Buck Wild". If you think last year was fun, come out to on June 22nd to this **FREE** event.



# Olivia Palermo Sworn in as Newest Junior Councilperson

At its February meeting, Steelton Borough Council was proud to appoint Ms. Olivia Palermo as its newest Junior Councilperson.

Olivia is a lifelong Steelton resident and currently a junior at the high school. Aside from her interest in government, Olivia plays softball and is a cheerleader for football and basketball for Steel-High. She is a section leader in both concert and marching band and a part of student council as well.

Olive chose to participate in the Junior Councilperson Program to “give and be the youth of the community’s voice. I also participated to contribute to my community and help as much as I can.” After graduating from Steel-High Olivia plans on attending college and studying Pre-Law or Sociology. Her aspiration right now is to become a lawyer or a sociologist.

As a Jr. Councilperson, Olivia is a non-voting member of Steelton Borough Council who can deliberate with Council on any issues that come before the body. She is also an appointed member of the Police and Parks and Recreations Committees. Olivia's first project as Junior Councilperson is developing a strategy for educating school students about walking to school safely.

Program allows high school and college students the opportunity to learn critical skills including team building and collaboration, public speaking, public engagement, budgeting, and running effective meetings.



# Steelton Welcome Elizabeth “Libby” Bechtel to Codes Office

Steelton Borough recently welcomed its newest staff member, Libby Bechtel, to the family as the Codes Department Administrative Assistant.

Ms. Bechtel is a recent graduate of West Chester University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and Urban Planning. Part of her education includes coursework in: urban planning, land development, transportation planning, environmental conservation and sustainability, GIS, and urban studies.

Ms. Bechtel interned with the Philadelphia Planning Commission and is fluent in Spanish. Aside from an educational background in planning, Libby is also one heck of a basketball player.

In fact, the Steelton Borough Codes Office challenges any team to a three-on-three basketball game. Contact Aaron Curry at [acurry@steeltonpal.com](mailto:acurry@steeltonpal.com) if you're up for the challenge.

Stop by the Codes Office anytime and introduce yourself to Libby and help us welcome her aboard.



**WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you or a family member has special needs that Steelton's first-responders should be aware of during an emergency**

**Please fill out the form below**

---

## **2019 Steelton Borough EMA Special Needs List**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CELL PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEED: (Please circle those that apply to you.)**

HEARING IMPAIRED AND REQUIRES SPECIAL ATTENTION

PHYSICALLY DISABLED AND NEED AMBULANCE OR SPECIAL ATTENTION

WITHOUT PERSONAL MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, CAN NOT RIDE WITH SOMEONE ELSE

NO RADIO OR TV AND WOULD NEED SOMEONE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MESSAGES IN ANOTHER WAY

OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS

**COMMENTS ON YOUR NEEDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are a landlord, please have any tenants with special needs complete this form.

**THIS COMPLETED FORM MAY BE ENCLOSED AND RETURNED WITH YOUR WATER BILL OR MAILED TO THE STEELTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AT 185 North Front Street, Steelton, PA 17113**