

# The Borough of Cressona News

Vol. I, No. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CRESSONA BOROUGH, PA

Fall 2025

## Cressona Band Still Performing After 123 Years

Originally incorporated as the Cressona Cornet Band some 123 years ago, the Cressona Band remains extremely active today, performing throughout Schuylkill County. *Cressona News* got first-hand information for this on our local band and Answer format. Extensive information can also be found on the band's official website - [www.cressonaband.com](http://www.cressonaband.com) - and [Facebook.com/cressonaband](https://www.facebook.com/cressonaband).



### How did the Cressona Band get its start?

The Band was officially incorporated as the Cressona Cornet Band in 1902. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

### How many members are there today?

Currently there are 68 members of the band.

## DATES & EVENTS

**SUNDAY, OCT. 26** – Trunk-or-Treat+Good Eats, 4 to 6 p.m. Groups hosting a trunk give-away are asked to register with Borough Hall. Food trucks will be in the Goodwill Fire Co. parking lot.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 30** – Town-wide Trick-or-Treat Night, 6 to 8 p.m. Residents are asked to turn on your porch light to indicate children are welcome to receive a treat. Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 1.



**TUESDAY, NOV. 4** – Election Day; Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Borough Hall office closed; Change your smoke detector batteries.

**MONTH OF NOVEMBER** – Public Works will collect bagged leaves each Thursday. Call Borough Hall to be added to the collection list.

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY** – Borough Hall office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27-28.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 5** – Christmas in Cressona, 5 to 8 p.m.; Tree lighting, holiday music, food trucks and craft vendors. Vendors to register at Borough Hall.

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAY** – Borough Hall office will be closed beginning Wednesday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Jan. 2. Regular hours will return on Monday, Jan. 5.

### How do you find members, how many are from Cressona, and what are the requirements to be a member of the band?

There are currently five members from Cressona. This varies from year to year as we get new members. We have band directors and their students from school districts throughout Schuylkill County. Directors invite their students to join the band during the school year. We also make announcements at every concert for anyone who plays, or played an instrument years ago and wishing to start playing again, to dust it off and come on down.

### How far have you traveled for a concert and do you have a busy time of year?

The band plays all over the county throughout the concert season. The band has played in West Penn Township the past few years which is the longest distance. Our concert season begins at the end of May and runs through the beginning of August.

### What is the most popular/most requested music?

The band plays a variety of music, show tunes, marches, and contemporary music. We play a variety at each concert. The most popular, of course, is patriotic music. We end each concert honoring our veterans with their branch themes and have them stand to be thanked. These are followed by our National March, Stars and Stripes Forever, and America the Beautiful. We do a Flag Day Concert in June to honor our veterans, current service members, and our first responders.

### Are there requirements to becoming a member? Do you have to tryout?

There are no auditions to become a member of the band. Anyone wishing to explore his or her musical talents is welcome to join. Our band consists of members ranging in age from 15 to 85 years young. We begin rehearsals in April every Monday at 7 p.m. at our Band Hall, 12 Wilson St., here in Cressona.

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# Cressona Alerts (Code Red) Sends Critical Info...Fast!

## Get Signed Up to Know When an Emergency Arises

CRESSONA ALERTS is an emergency notification system that enables public safety personnel to notify Cressona Borough residents and businesses - by telephone, text message, or email - of emergencies

### Fall/Winter Reminders

Mike Pontician is the Code Enforcement Officer for Cressona Borough and can be contacted through the Borough Office... by calling his cell phone at 570-990-2382... or by email to [Cressboro.codeenf@gmail.com](mailto:Cressboro.codeenf@gmail.com). Mike is a long-time Cressona resident and is our Assistant Fire Chief.



**Clear your sidewalks** - Please know that sidewalks are the property owner's and/or tenant's responsibility to maintain. All sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours following the end of any snow/throw or shovel snow

ice event. It is unlawful to throw or shovel snow into the streets. Subsequent treatment or clearing due to thawing/refreezing must also be addressed for your and the public's safety.



**Burning Ordinance** - Cressona Borough has a burning ordinance. Do not burn without contacting the Borough Office with questions or for additional information.

**Quality of Life Ordinance** - Grass/weeds/hedges/trees must be properly maintained on your property. Residents, businesses, and visitors that are passing through will appreciate our fine town when each of us does our own part. Any questions, please reach out.

**Unlicensed/Unregistered Vehicles** - Whether stored outside on your property or on the street, unlicensed or unregistered vehicles are prohibited within the Borough.

**Unightly Debris** - Storage of unreasonable rubbish, garbage, junk, or litter is prohibited. This includes appliances, construction materials, garbage, and animal waste.

**Need a Dumpster?** - If you are needing to rent a dumpster for removal of construction or household goods within the Borough, please contact the Borough Office before having the dumpster placed. You need a permit and must meet certain placement requirements.

Any questions pertaining to any of the Cressona Borough Ordinances, there is a link on the Borough website or reach out to Mike Pontician.

or urgent alerts. The system can reach individuals in minutes to ensure information is shared quickly.

#### WHEN WILL CRESSONA ALERTS BE USED?

Any message regarding the safety of our residents and community will be disseminated using CRESSONA ALERTS. This is a community alert system to ensure you remain informed of important information.

#### IS THERE A COST TO REGISTER FOR THESE ALERTS?

No, it's free; but, you must register to be included.

#### WHY IS CRESSONA ALERTS IMPORTANT TO ME?

CRESSONA ALERTS keeps you informed and prepared for any emergencies that may occur in our area. The system is precise enough to geo-target residents within an exact area of impact, so that only those people who are affected by an emergency situation are notified.



#### DOESN'T CRESSONA ALERTS HAVE MY PHONE NO.?

No, residents should not assume that their information is in the system. You must register. And, if your contact information changes at some point, you must notify the system of the change.

#### CAN I REGISTER MORE THAN ONE NUMBER/EMAIL?

Yes, you can register more than one phone number or email address for your location when you register. It is highly recommended you register at least one phone number AND one email address to ensure that you will receive CRESSONA ALERTS in the event of a power outage or an incident that may occur late at night when you are generally asleep.

#### WHAT IF I MISS A CRESSONA ALERTS PHONE CALL?

The CRESSONA ALERTS system will leave a message on your answering machine or voicemail. If you do not have an answering machine or voicemail set up, the system will attempt to call again after several minutes have passed.

#### HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Scan the QR code shown here. This is the same QR code found on the sanitation bills. Then create your profile to enter the required information online (address, name, phone number, and email). You can also register through the Borough website



- [www.cressonaborough.com](http://www.cressonaborough.com) - by clicking on the CRESSONA ALERTS block shown on the homepage.

If you don't have internet, give Regina a call at Borough Hall or stop in and she will give you a hand to set up CRESSONA ALERTS. It is important that every household and business get registered to be able to receive these emergency and critical messages when conditions arise.

# Cressona Cares Committee Elevates Town Events

## Trunk-Or-Treat & Christmas Events Yet to Come!

Multiple community events held throughout the summer made 2025, thus far, exciting and enjoyable, thanks to the Cressona Cares committee and to everyone that supported the activities. The committee thanks all who came out to support Cressona - our town, our community - with exceptional food, vendors/crafters, and entertainment.

But, we're not done yet. Upcoming events will feature "Trunk-or-Treat+Eats" on Sunday, Oct. 26 from 4 to 6 p.m. and "Christmas in Cressona" on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m.



In its 4th year, the Trunk-or-Treats+Eats has gotten bigger each year. Last year we introduced

food trucks and this year we will add vendors selling their crafts plus The Art Bus.

Past participants have really enjoyed this event... decorating their car and distributing candy. This year



we are offering a prize for the best decorated trunk.

Participation is free; but, we do ask that you sign up in advance because it helps us coordinate the event. Sign up through the Cressona Cares Facebook page, through the Borough website, or stop in-person to Borough Hall.

Christmas in Cressona is also shaping up to be bigger than ever this year. Denny Hardock will be singing Christmas carols... we will feature the fire pits once again to enjoy smores... there will be many opportunities to take holiday photos... numerous vendors, food trucks and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Artists and crafters are encouraged to register through the Borough website - [www.cressonaborough.com](http://www.cressonaborough.com); cost is \$25 per stand.

## Hitting the Road With Supervisor Frank Killian

### Mysteries of Paving Maintenance Are Revealed

Like most people, you may not know much about the theory behind the construction and maintenance of the millions of roadways that we travel daily. It is beneficial to know a little about a system that we all pay for by way of property taxes and every time we fill up our vehicle at the gas pump.

Cressona owns and maintains approximately 15 lane miles of roadway. If the Borough had to replace all of its roadway, it would cost north of \$3 million. That is why it is vitally important to complete regular maintenance to this important asset. But, due to rising costs and a limited budget, maintenance has become an increasingly greater challenge.

The weather plays a tremendous role in the deterioration of roadways. Yes, winter is hard on our roads; but, the summer is even harder, due to oxidation. The road surface is exposed to oxygen and ultraviolet radiation from the sun and heat, causing the pavement to become hard and brittle and no longer flexible to move with expansion and contraction due to changing temperatures. This makes the road vulnerable to cracking and separating as the road moves with every temperature change. Every new crack invites water into the sub-base of the roadway.

We apply a treatment to the borough's roadways each year to stay ahead of premature failure. Whether we are crack-sealing, applying a seal coat or a chip seal, this must be done while staying within budget.

### Annual spring street sweeping

Street sweeping affects our residents when asked to move vehicles from the street to let the sweeper do its work. We sweep to keep the roadway safe for cars, motorcycles, bikes, and pedestrians to travel.

Street sweeping also helps keep our stormwater collection system from becoming clogged by winter's grime, leaves, and anti-skid material.

And, sweeping helps preserve the roadway. Water laying on the surface and eventually getting into the roads sub-base eventually causes the street to fail. Removing dirt and debris keeps water flowing freely.

To residents willing to do their part regardless of the inconvenience... our Public Works and Borough Council extend our appreciation to those who freely move their vehicles prior to sweeping and to those who take it upon themselves to clear debris from storm drains.

However, there is always a handful of neighbors unwilling to move their cars. It is very disheartening for Public Works to have to knock on doors to get folks to move when disregarding No Parking signs and cones. During future no parking events, cars will be towed at the owner's expense.

If we as Cressona residents do not take pride in our community, we certainly should not expect anyone else to. Let us all do our part to ensure well-maintained and safe streets within our Borough.

Cressona Borough  
68 S Sillyman St  
Cressona, PA 17929

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of Cressona Borough

# LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Gold Award Honors Presented to Girls of Troop #31088

# Community Garden Grows Spirit & Harvests Pride

A lot has been happening in the local scouting world. Creating and managing the Cressona Community Garden, the Girl Scouts of Troop 31088 have been reaping Gold Awards from what they have sown.

A Gold Award is the highest community service-based award in girl scouting. To earn this award, a scout must complete 80 hours of community service towards a need identified in her community, submit a project proposal to the Girl Scout Council for approval, and then gather materials from contributors and labor from fellow scouts to complete the project.

The local girl scouts decided to build the Cressona Community Garden to complete their award. Working hard and planning since 2022, many scouts have now submitted their work for award consideration from the scout Council. As of this writing, four scouts have submitted and three have already been approved.

Recently receiving her Gold Award achievement, Megan Bassininsky would like to thank the community for putting the garden to good use. Without community involvement, the garden would be without impact. Megan adds that this project increased her skill set... she is more knowledgeable about garden-



ing and has improved her time management skills. The Troop's other scouts feel similarly, all desiring to give thanks to the community of Cressona.

Fret not, the garden is finishing out its 2025 growing season... and now, the community has Gold Award achievers of whom to be proud. The scouts thank the community for making this growing season even better than the last! As Megan claimed, "This would not be possible without community support!"

## Sewer Authority News

### Rate Increase in 2016

Due to increases in expenses - electricity, chemicals, insurance, etc. - the Cressona Borough Sewer Authority can no longer maintain its current sewer rates for customers.

Effective with the January 1, 2026 invoice, Residential rates will be increased \$3.33 per month to \$150 for the quarter. Commercial rates will now be a minimum rate of \$175 per quarter.

All customers will continue to receive a quarterly invoice. Payments may be made on a monthly basis and can also be paid online through the Cressona Borough's website. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Sewer Authority Office in the Borough Building, Monday through Thursday at 570-385-1155.

We appreciate your understanding during these difficult financial times and assure you we are constantly seeking ways to reduce our expenses and avoid increasing your sewer rates.

- Cressona Borough Sewer Authority

## Cressona Band

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**To have you play at an event, who do we contact?**

The contact for anyone wishing to hire the band is Caroline Tucci, our treasurer and booking agent. You can email her at [tuccicaroline47@gmail.com](mailto:tuccicaroline47@gmail.com) or call 570-622-8784.

**If folks want to donate, how do they go about that?**

The band appreciates all donations, as we have our own band hall we need to maintain. You may send a donation to Cressona Band, c/o Caroline Tucci, treasurer, 1702 W. Norwegian St. Pottsville, Pa. 17901. Checks should be made payable to Cressona Band. Your donation is tax exempt.

Thank you for your interest in our band. We hope to see you at one of our concerts next season or as a new member of our Cressona Band family.

68 S Sillyman St., Cressona, PA 17929  
[www.cressonaborough.com](http://www.cressonaborough.com) • 570-385-2933