

The Borough of Cressona News

Vol. 2, No. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CRESSONA BOROUGH, PA

Spring/Summer 2026

2026 Cressona Borough Council Members & Staff

Following the Municipal General Election held this past November, the Spring/Summer issue of Cressona News is the perfect place and time to introduce the entire Cressona Borough Council and Borough Staff pictured/identified here.

Longtime Councilor and past president, Bob Barr, did not seek reelection in this last cycle. Successful in her first bid as a write-in candidate, Sofia Mabry is our newest face on Council, joining the others shown.

Sofia is a life-long resident of Cressona and has been an active community leader. She has participated in and been an integral part coordinating many events over the years, having volunteered her time since she was in grade school. She has worked as a life guard at the pool and helped to coordinate Food Truck Fridays through the Cressona Cares Committee, Memorial Day parades, Christmas in Cressona and, most notably, starting Cressona's Hometown Hero Banner program. Sofia is looking forward to bringing her own viewpoint and ideas to Borough Council.

Continuing to make Cressona an active and unique community, we all are looking forward to working together with this same goal in mind.



2026 BOROUGH COUNCIL AND STAFF - Seated from left: Regina Sonon (Secretary/Treasurer), Michelle Blankenhorn (Councilor), Linda Walinsky (Council President), Sofia Mabry (Councilor); Standing, Frank Killian (Public Works Supervisor), Mike Pontician (Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Chief), Mayor Sandi Renninger, Jennifer Wanamaker (Councilor), and Mike Pascuzzo (Council Vice President).

Borough Updates

Changes in Sanitation Billing

Challenges and inconsistencies when mailing our quarterly sanitation bills have resulted in a decision to change from the postcard format to a paper invoice mailed inside an envelope. This will ensure everyone receives their bill in a timely manner.

Customers interested in receiving their sanitation bill via email can go to the <https://cressonaborough.com> website and sign-up for e-billing. You can also pay your bill through the website, if you wish.

The sanitation rate will be increasing to \$87 per quarter for 2026.

U.S. and State Flags Donated

Cressona Borough thanks Sewer Authority Board member and lifelong resident of Cressona, Becky Strauch, for donating a new United States flag and a new Pennsylvania state flag. The flags are in memory of Lambert A. Strauch, Chief Burgess; Wharton H. Bittle, Sr. Chief Burgess and Coroner; and William H. Strauch, Borough Secretary. They are on display in our conference room.

DATES & EVENTS

Thurs., April 9 – Appliance Pick-Up Day

Sat., April 11 – Spring Clean Up

Thurs. & Fri., April 23-24 – Street Sweeping

Sat., May 9 – Drive-Thru Chicken BBQ

Tues., May 19 – Primary Election Day

Mon., May 25 – Memorial Day Parade

Sat., July 18 – America250PA~Cressona

Thurs., August 6 – National Night Out

Sun., October 25 – Trunk or Treat

Fri., December 4 – Christmas in Cressona

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Warm Weather Signals It's Time for Spring Cleaning

Do you have an appliance that is obsolete or beyond repair? Garage or basement items that are just taking up space? Ready to get outdoors and work in your yard and backyard garden? Cressona Borough has you covered!

APPLIANCE PICK UP DAY has been scheduled for Thursday, April 9. There is a cost of \$5 per appliance. If the appliance contains FREON, the cost is \$10. To arrange for pick-up, place your money in an envelope with the pick-up address, your phone number, and a

note listing the appliances. Deliver it to the Borough Office, placing it in the red drop box or bring inside to Regina during business hours.

SPRING CLEAN UP will take place on Saturday, April 11 (residents only) from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The Borough does not pick up items. Dumpsters will be located at Borough Hall, but residents will be required to unload their vehicles. NOTE: Small branches and twigs will be accepted.

NOT ACCEPTED - no electronics, no contractors, no tires; no batteries, paint, or oil.

And, a reminder every week... households are allowed to dispose of one large item each week with trash pick-up.

STREET SWEEPING - The street sweeper will be operating on Thursday and Friday, April 23-24. There will be NO PARKING on the street until the Public Works Department has removed the signs and cones. Cars parked on the street sweeping routes will be towed at the owners' expense.

DIRT PILES - The Borough crew will no longer collect dirt piles due to safety concerns. Dirt collected from sidewalks can be deposited in your trash bin.

LEAF PICK-UP - Leaves will be collected every other Tuesday during April and May, starting April 9. Leaves must be bagged, placed curbside, and weigh no more than 10 lbs. If there are sticks or trash, bags will not be collected.

Take advantage of these resources the Borough offers... be a good neighbor, declutter, clean-up, and let the sunshine in! You'll be glad you did.

Public Works Update

As summer approaches, the Public Works Department is working throughout the Borough to maintain and improve our community's infrastructure. Our crews will be focusing on several seasonal projects, including road maintenance, stormwater system inspections, park and facility upkeep, and general property maintenance.

Some of the road work will include pothole repairs, crack sealing, and preparation for upcoming paving projects. Residents may notice crews inspecting storm drains and clearing debris to help prevent localized flooding during summer storms.

Regular mowing and trimming will continue in Borough parks, along roadways, and around municipal properties to keep public spaces safe and enjoyable.

With increased outdoor activity during the warmer months, we ask residents to remain mindful when crews are working along roadways. Please slow down in work zones and give workers plenty of space to safely complete their duties.

Summer is also a time when heavy rainstorms can occur. Residents are reminded to keep leaves, grass clippings, and other debris out of the streets and storm drains to help the drainage system function properly.

The Public Works Department remains committed to maintain the Borough's infrastructure and provide reliable service to our residents. We hope everyone enjoys a safe and pleasant summer season.

Needs for This Year... and Beyond

After such a long cold and snowy winter, I have found an even greater appreciation for the warmer temperatures and the blessings that come with spring and summer.

I don't believe anyone will miss all the hours of shoveling snow in the frigid temperatures that seemed more often than not this past winter.

I want to thank all of the Borough's residents for their patience and cooperation with the Public Works Department during this past winter while we were either plowing or hauling snow away. Thank you!

Now that the winter has passed and spring is here, we want to focus our attention on some of our plans

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Code Enforcement Tips

As we all get to spend more time out-of-doors as warmer weather and sunny days abound, following are friendly reminders from the Code Enforcement Office that will help keep Cressona enjoyable for all.

- Place trash at the curb after 6 p.m. the evening before trash pick-up.
- Remove your trash containers after collection and stow them to the side or rear of your property.
- Cressona has a grass/weed ordinance and also a burning ordinance. Violators will be cited.
- You are prohibited from storing unregistered or uninspected vehicles on your property.
- Pet care is your responsibility, both on your property and off. Clean up all fecal matter immediately. Dogs must be leashed when outside.
- The Cressona Grove is not a dog park and has camera surveillance. Persons found not cleaning up after their animals, or letting their dog run loose, are subject to citation.

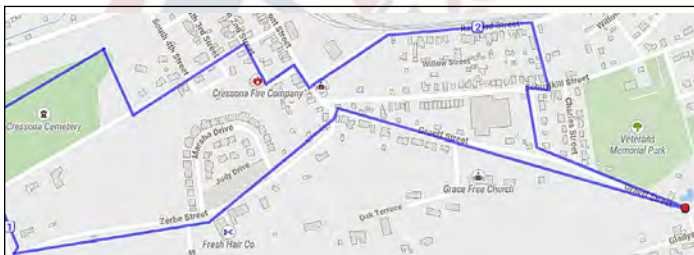
All ordinances can be found on the Cressona Borough website - <https://cressonaborough.com>. Contact the Borough Office or contact Mike Pontician directly if you have questions... by phone (570-527-0905) or email (cressboro.codeenf@gmail.com).

Cressona's America 250 Block Party Celebration

Splash Dash, Car Show, Music Festival on July 18

The Cressona Cares committee is hard at work, making plans for our country's America250 Celebration here in Cressona on Saturday, July 18. Proceeds will aid in the repair of our Community Swimming Pool. In the event of inclement weather, activities could be postponed to July 25.

A portion of Front Street will be closed for the Block Party Celebration. Major spotlight events will feature a **Cressona Splash Dash - America 2.50 Fun Run/Walk** - to kick off the day. The race will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Cressona Pool site, then loop around the cemetery, and will wrap-up at the pool. To register for the Fun Run/Walk, visit online: runsignup.com/Race/PA/Cressona/Dash4Splash. The cost is \$25.



A **Car and Motorcycle Show & Display** will be held along Front Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants are asked to pre-register at Hot Rod Bar and Grill for preferred parking. All cars and motorcycles are welcome; the cost is \$25 per entry. Many prizes will be awarded and additional information will be announced when finalized.

No Block Party would be complete without a **Music Festival** with live music. Thanks to Tucker and the Hot Rod Bar and Grill, an amazing line-up of musicians will perform from the Hot Rod's porch starting at 10 a.m. Artists, thus far, include TJ Chupick, Hardock Live, Cody Wiley, Jake and Friendz, Big Ger, Eddie Gals, and Breckin. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music on Front Street.

Food trucks, kids' activities, and craft vendors will be enjoyed throughout the day and early evening.

At 9 p.m., the party moves inside the Hot Rod for nationally known artists, the Hill Brothers.

Help Fund the Block Party and Pool

Monetary donations are much appreciated in whatever amount your household is able to give. Checks should be made payable to Cressona Borough; write-in "Cressona 250 & Pool" in the notes area. Mail to Borough of Cressona, 68 S. Sillyman St., Cressona, PA 17929. For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope is inserted with this issue of **Cressona News**.

If you would like to volunteer some time, please reach out to Cressona Cares via Facebook or email cressboro@comcast.net so we can discuss when we are meeting and how you can help. Another way to help is by supporting our upcoming fundraisers.

Following are several additional ways you can celebrate Cressona's America250 and help raise funds to make necessary repairs to the Cressona Pool.

Porch Decorating Contest

To make Cressona as festive as possible for the celebration, residents are encouraged to purchase a patriotic bunting to hang on your porch, home, or business. There will be prizes for "Best Decorated Porch." The cost is \$20. The buntings are yours to keep. They are available to purchase at Borough Hall, Kelsea Apparel and Accessories, ShearLogix, Ltd., Agway, and Werner Lumber. Winners will be announced on Monday, July 20.

Drive-Thru Chicken Barbecue

Cressona Cares will hold a drive-thru Chicken Barbecue at the Cressona Borough Hall parking lot on Saturday, May 9 from 11 to 2 p.m. Cost is \$13 per meal... that includes a half-chicken, baked potato and a dinner roll. Tickets are available to purchase at Borough Hall or by contacting any Cressona Cares committee member.

Basket Raffle at the Barbecue

We are collecting gift baskets for a silent auction to be held during the Barbecue on May 9. If you wish to make a basket to donate, drop it off at Borough Hall no later than Friday, May 1. The baskets will be on display at Borough Hall, at the Chicken Barbecue and at one of the Goodwill Fire Company Bingos.

America's 250th Heroes Banners

Thank you again to all who previously participated in our Hometown Heroes Banner Program. We are evaluating our current banners and are looking at "special edition" banners to celebrate the birth of our nation and the signing of the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago.

If you would be interested in these banners, please give your name to Sofia Mabry at Sofia.mabry31@gmail.com or Regina at Borough Hall. This is to gauge interest in new banners; the official application timeline for the banners will be announced at a later date.

Vendor Opportunities on July 18

If you or someone you know would like a space to sell items at the July 18 celebration, please visit our website. Look for the Cressona Cares tab to sign up for a table.

Additional Events Still Being Planned

Poker Run - Later in the summer or early fall, Cressona Cares, along with Hot Rod Bar and Grill, will be organizing a Poker Run. Details are being worked out and will be announced soon.

Cressona Alerts and Activities

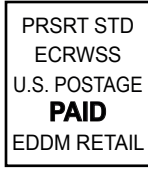
There is a lot planned for this summer. Cressona Borough wants to keep everyone knowledgeable and involved. Scan the QR Code shown here to sign-up to receive Cressona Alerts or call the Borough Office.

Join the Cressona Cares Facebook page to learn about activities and events.



Cressona Borough
68 S Sillyman St
Cressona, PA 17929

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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Gold Award Project Sustainability Assured in the Vision and Planning

Community Garden Is Ready for 2nd Year Planting

In the heart of Cressona, a group of dedicated Girl Scouts of Troop 31088 turned a vision into something that will nourish their community for years to come. As part of earning the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award, these girls set out to create and sustain a community garden serving all residents of Cressona, completely free of charge.

The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, recognizing leadership, planning, and lasting impact. For these nine girls, the goal was not simply to complete a project, but to leave behind something meaningful and sustainable. Together, they planned, designed, built, and now maintain a community garden.

Uniquely, while the garden was their collective Gold Award initiative, each of the nine scouts also developed an individual project connected to the garden. Their projects ranged from soil preparation and composting education to pollinator habitats, signage

and educational materials, seasonal planting guides, irrigation solutions, community outreach, nutrition education, and garden maintenance planning. Each girl took ownership of a specific area, ensuring the garden would not only grow vegetables, but also grow knowledge and community engagement.

The garden was built with one important principle in mind: it belongs to the community. This is a free garden for the residents of Cressona. Residents are warmly invited to help maintain the garden, pull weeds, water, and most importantly, harvest and enjoy the fresh produce.

Sustainability has been central to the project. True leadership means planning for the future and sustainability has been central to the project. The troop has arranged for the garden to be passed down to a younger Girl Scout troop and this next generation of scouts plans to continue maintaining the garden while adding their own creativity and improvements. The project lives on - evolving, expanding, and continuing to serve Cressona for years to come.

Planting will begin this spring, with a full and flourishing garden expected by summertime. Fresh vegetables, bright blooms, and busy hands will soon fill the space once again.

Cressona's community garden is not just a Gold Award project. It is a gift; rooted in service, sustained by community, and blooming with possibility.

- **Marcella Moyer, Troop #31088 Leader**

Public Works Update

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for 2026. We will continue with the upgrades that started in 2024... at what I call the "Gem of Cressona" - our picnic grove. It's so quiet and peaceful... and where the deer and the squirrels find it to their liking.

In 2024 we installed new playground equipment. This was followed by ADA upgrades to the restrooms and new plumbing fixtures have been installed. We plan continued upgrades including the addition of lights to the restroom building, both inside and out, and dusk-to-dawn lighting along the driveway from Walnut Street.

Also, there are plans to expand and beautify the spring-fed creek bed that runs along the walking trail on the west side of the property and future expansion of the small pond area at the bottom of the creek bed.

Who knows, maybe one day we will have a band shell built at the picnic grove, as well. I don't want to get ahead of myself; so, I will take it one day at a time.

If you haven't been to the Cressona Grove in a while, plan a nice, warm spring day and head over. It's a good way to spend an afternoon.

- **Frank Killian, Public Works Department**

Cressona Band



The 68-member Cressona Band has been performing throughout Schuylkill County for the past 123 years and has recently announced its 2026 concerts. Dates, times and locations can be found online at www.cressonaband.com and on [Facebook.com/cressonaband](https://www.facebook.com/cressonaband). Bring your lawn chair and enjoy an afternoon or evening of show tunes, popular marches, and patriotic music professionally performed by this locally popular band. For additional information, contact Caroline Tucci at 570-622-8784.

68 S Sillyman St., Cressona, PA 17929
<https://cressonaborough.com> • 570-385-2933