



**Borough of
New Bethlehem**
Incorporated February 12, 1853

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

210 Lafayette St. New Bethlehem PA 16242

Phone: 814.275.2003 | Fax: 814.275.4269

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www.NewBethlehemBoro.com

Hon. Rev. Dr. Gordon V. Barrows

Sept. 15th 2026

MAYOR'S REPORT

• **Public Requests/Concerns**

- Penn. St. Bridge project status update, and courtesy publication notice for the public?
- Penn St. resident sinkhole due to storm sewer drainpipe; resident asking for update?
- Washington St. resident inquired about blighted property; housing authority email questions
- Resident would like to donate sidewalk by pavilion at Gumbtown Park – thoughts?
- Chamber to request permission to operate duck race on borough street for PB Festival
- Penn St. resident concerned about generator; delegated to Police Dept. Ordinance Officer
- Folks on social media concerned about allowing bikes on sidewalks in downtown area
- Residents shared traffic concern on Vine Street with parents picking up school students
- Huge THANKS to Public Works department for cleaning up Gumbtown Park for PB Festival

• **Key to the City**

- Chamber invited NB Council to PBF on Saturday 9/19 at 4pm stage at Gumbtown Park
 - Special thanks to Julie Sabin for starting PB Festival (presentation/ceremony)

• **Playground/Park Project (ongoing)**

- Councilwoman Callenburg contacted Playworld rep. Emailed to schedule on-site visit.
 - Help establish strategic plan, financing, grants – retired Park Ranger (G. Pinkerton)
- Councilwoman Callenburg actively pursuing several grants and creative funding sources.
- Several individuals and businesses/organizations interested in donating to project

• **Ordinance Update Committee (ongoing)**

- Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Catering/Event Venue) (*Approve?*)
 - *Multiple letters of support received for Council's favorable consideration.*
- Dangerous Structures / Building Inspection Ordinance/Amendments (*In-progress*)
 - *In council's inbox; constructive feedback, suggestions for improvement?*
- President Barrett suggested training/playbooks for new council members (*In-progress*)

• **Letters/Writing**

- Drafted Letter of Intent for Penn St. Bridge Project & Smuckers (revisions?)
- Drafted intergovernmental agreement w/ Solicitor for Redbank Twp (Bridge Project)

• **Community**

- RV LIBRARY & RV COM CENTER: workshops, family-fun events (*See both FB pages*)
- RV CHAMBER: [FB.com/RVChamber](https://www.facebook.com/RVChamber) | Peanut Butter Festival: Sept. 18th, 19th, 20th 2026

New Bethlehem Borough fosters business, community, and personal growth within the borough while maintaining the small town appeal and family friendly environment that makes New Bethlehem a great place to work, live and raise a family.



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REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Budgets from SCCRPD to be submitted to Boroughs by end of Sept / start of October 2026
- Drone has arrived; lots of training required. Drone Unit to be fully operational by Q1/Q2 of 2027
- Meetings set the 4th Thursday of each month at the Windstream/Alltel Building @ 7pm

POLICE ASSOCIATION REPORT

- Gun Raffle Fundraiser went well | Preparing for Peanut Butter Festival booth/table.
- Events: [FB.com/SCPoliceAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/SCPoliceAssociation/) | Paying loan on 2023 explorer | seeking newer vehicles
- Monthly meetings @ 7pm second Monday of each month. Odd Months @ Rimersburg Community Building. Even Months @ NB Windstream/Alltel Building.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

- [FB.com/NewBethlehemFire](https://www.facebook.com/NewBethlehemFire/) | Seeking funding for new siren, new truck, and water rescue gear
- Bylaws approved | Three (3) new members | Chicken Dinner for PBF | Big Buck Contest & Raffle
- Meetings 2nd Tuesday of every month @ 7pm @ New Bethlehem Fire Hall

RVMA REPORT

- Hiring Sewage Plant Operator | Waterline Replacement Project begins Oct. 2026 (Street list?)
- **New Bethlehem Representative Replacement (Rep. seeking retirement by end of yr.); candidates?**
- Alerts/Notices: Water Main Breaks, Emergencies, Boil Water notices – [FB.com/RVMAOnline](https://www.facebook.com/RVMAOnline/)
- Meetings 3rd Thursday of even months @ 7pm @ Windstream Building 212 Lafayette St.

Respectfully,

Gordon V. Barrows

Rev. Dr. Gordon V. Barrows, Ed.D., D.B.A., M.B.A.
The Honorable Mayor of New Bethlehem Pennsylvania



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PENNSYLVANIA**

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