To the great citizens of Armstrong County,

We, the Board of Commissioners, are pleased to provide this electronic newsletter. This is simply another source of information for you to see what your County Government is doing for you! Always feel free to reach out with questions or concerns about the activities, events, and/or issues taking place here in Armstrong County. Also, visit our website regularly where you can find valuable resources from all our departments.

https://www.co.armstrong.pa.us/

Have a great day!
Armstrong County’s Board of Commissioners presented a $15,000 check to the Allegheny River Development Corp. (ARDC), to support the entity’s mission to keep the county’s locks and dams open. Pictured (from left) are Commissioner and Board Vice Chairman Jason Renshaw, ARDC board member Donald Dulaney, ARDC President Brian Szep, Alle Kiski Strong Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lynda Pozzuto, and Commissioner and Board Secretary Pat Fabian.

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation Thursday declaring Feb. 14 Benjamin G. Rupp Day in the county. It is named after county World War II veteran Benjamin Rupp (center, seated), who turned 100 on Feb. 14. Pictured with Mr. Rupp (from left) are Commissioner and Board Vice Chairman Jason Renshaw, Rupp’s son David Rupp, Rupp’s daughter Annette Rupp, and Commissioner and Board Secretary Pat Fabian.
During its bimonthly meeting, the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners also unanimously approved a Marcellus Legacy donation of $1,500 to the Armstrong County Fire School.

According to county Director of Public Safety Bill Hamilton, all members of the County’s 30 fire departments/companies are invited to receive training classes at Butler County Community College (BC3).

Hamilton said it benefits to have all of the departments/companies come together for “county-wide” training, rather than each station pay $1,000 for classes.

Hamilton sent letters and emails to all stations in the county, encouraging them to come to the classes or have BC3 instructors come to their fire halls.

Commissioner and Board Chairman Don Myers said, “It is important to have well-trained members of the fire departments/ companies. You hope and pray you never have to call 911, however if and when you do, these are the dedicated people who come in your time of need. We the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners whole heartedly support our VFD’s and EMS crews!”

**Economic Development**

**02/21/2020**

**Department of Economic Development**

**Employment Expo:**
The 2020 Armstrong County Employment Expo will be held on April 1st at Armstrong Jr./Sr. High School. The event includes a career fair and job fair. All Armstrong County employers with current or future job openings are encouraged to participate in this free event, employers may participate in one or both events. The Career Fair, 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., will include students from Apollo-Ridge, Armstrong, Freeport, Leechburg, and West Shamokin high schools (including Lenape Technical School). The Career Fair provides an opportunity for our local businesses to tell students about careers available throughout Armstrong County. From 12:30 p.m. until 1:00 p.m., the Job Fair will open exclusively to active military and veterans from all branches of service. The Job Fair will open for all job seekers from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The employer registration form is available at [www.armstrongidc.org](http://www.armstrongidc.org).
Census Bureau is hiring!
The Census Bureau is looking to hire roughly 600 people in Armstrong County for Census Taker positions. Paying $16.00 per hour and $0.58 per mile, these are temporary, part-time, flexible jobs with weekly pay and paid training. The job consists of going to the homes of residents who may not have completed their Census forms and assisting them in doing so. Applications can be completed on the following website //www.2020Census.gov/jobs

A Census representative can be found at the following locations for help applying or to answer any questions weekly through March:

- Tuesday’s from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Apollo Memorial Library
- Thursday’s from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at PA CareerLink Armstrong County
- Friday’s from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Worthington/West Franklin Library

Or, feel free to contact:
Bridget Wright
Recruiting Assistant
U.S Census Bureau
Philadelphia/Cranberry Township
Cell: 412-235-8721
Email: Bridget.A.Wright@2020census.gov

http://armstrongidc.org/
A study is currently underway on the SR 28 corridor from Kittanning to I-80. The County, through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, had secured $250,000 in federal and state funding to conduct the study. The resulting plan will produce a vision for the future of the corridor that will include short-, medium-, and long-term improvement concepts to address safety, geometric, and operational deficiencies.

The public can access the new website and online mapping survey at www.Route28CorridorStudy.com. The mapping survey is intended to gather information related to all modes of travel, potential improvement areas and detailed interests and concerns within the study area. Survey participants will drop pins on the map and comment to indicate their areas of interest. The survey will be active until March 6, 2020. Results of the survey will be shared on the website.

The Armstrong County’s Department of Planning and Development is working closely with the Complete Count Committee (CCC) – whose members were appointed by the Board of Commissioners – to help get the word out to all of our 45 municipalities about the importance of completing the 2020 Census.

Keep in mind that the 2020 Census is more than a population count, it is an opportunity to shape the future of your community!

Invitations to respond to the 2020 Census will be delivered to households from mid-March through to the end of March. Once you receive that invitation, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

When everyone is counted in the 2020 Census our communities get the funding they need for things like health care, education, emergency services, and more.

Have a say in your services! Participate in the 2020 Census. Visit 2020CENSUS.GOV to learn more.
Improving countywide housing stock is one of the priorities of the Armstrong County Commissioners, and some of that important work is accomplished through community development programs in housing rehabilitation, senior home repairs, housing preservation, and accessible housing.

Locating and obtaining funding is a continuous focus of the housing program, which currently has over $1,000,000 in various grant programs available to improve owner-occupied residences.

The need is great and the resources are being developed, but there is a shortage of available contractors to perform the work. That’s why the Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development has begun a recruitment campaign to enlist eligible and qualified contractors to bid on housing projects.

General contractors are needed for projects across the county. Projects include work in a variety of home-repair categories, such as HVAC, plumbing, roofing, carpentry, masonry, and electrical improvements.

For details on how to enroll in the contractor list and receive bidding announcements, contact 724-548-3223 or kaheilman@co.armstrong.pa.us. Information from the 2019 contractor’s workshop can be found on the department webpage.

Please click HERE to hear more about these programs and to learn about becoming a housing rehab contract.

https://www.co.armstrong.pa.us/index.php/departments-m/planning-and-development-m

Tourism

Greetings from the Tourist Bureau,

This is the time of year to plan for our upcoming busy season! So with that being said, I would welcome you all to let me know when you see upcoming events that we might be able to promote! We want to continue to grow our membership as well.

We’re very excited to announce that we are working on launching a brand new website! We are working with Gordon Barrows of TechReady Professionals from New Bethlehem, PA. Once we have the website up it will also integrate our other social media platforms together! I will keep everyone posted as we have updates!

I am always open to hear our community’s ideas so please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you,
P.J. Wilhelm
Executive Director
Armstrong County Tourist Bureau

https://www.co.armstrong.pa.us/index.php/departments-m/tourist-bureau-m
2020 Annual Tree and Seedling Sale Begins

The Armstrong Conservation District is hosting its 47th annual tree and seedling sale. Varieties of trees and seedlings are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Distribution of orders will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at Lenape Tech. It is suggested that orders be placed early to ensure them being filled. To obtain an order form, please contact the Armstrong Conservation District by phone at (724)-545-3628 or email jjschaub@co.armstrong.pa.us


https://armstrongcd.org/

Voting Registration

Voting by Absentee Ballot vs. Mail-In Ballot

Pennsylvania voters now have two options for mail ballots – Absentee Ballot or Mail-In Ballot.

Absentee and mail-in ballot applications for the April 28, 2020, Primary Election must be received by your county election office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. In order to request either ballot type, you must be registered to vote. The applications can be found at: https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsenteeBegin

Which Ballot Should I Use?

Absentee Ballot

If you plan to be out of the municipality on Election Day or if you have a disability or illness, you should request this ballot type, which still requires you to list a reason for your ballot.

Who may apply for an absentee ballot application?

Registered Voters who are:

- College students who are not registered to vote at their school address
- People whose work or vacation take them away from the municipality where they live
- Those with a physical disability or illness that prevents them from going to the polling place
- Members of the military
- People who may have a conflict due to the celebration of a religious holiday
- Inmates who haven't been convicted of a felony

Mail-In Ballot

If you don’t qualify for an Absentee Ballot, you may apply for a mail-in ballot. You may simply request this ballot without a reason.

Who may apply for a mail-in ballot application?

Registered Voters who:

- Don’t qualify for an Absentee Ballot

The deadline to return a voted mail-in or absentee ballot is 8 p.m. on Election Day to your County Election Office. Post marks do not count. If you are unable to return your ballot by the deadline either in person or mail, you may only vote by a provisional ballot at your polling place.
Assessment

Field Assessors, Property Assessment, and Appeals

Our Armstrong County Field Assessors are Certified Pennsylvania Evaluators (CPE). CPEs attend 4 weeks of classes in Harrisburg given by the Assessor’s Association of Pennsylvania. They must pass a test at the end of each week, then pass the state exam to be certified. CPEs are required to have 28 hours of continuing education every two years, including eight hours of class concerning the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP). General appraisers and real estate agents are also required to take USPAP classes. CPEs are different from appraisers given that they value a property for taxing purposes only, which is somewhat different than appraising a property for sale on the market.

Our Field Assessors visit properties throughout the county that have some type of new residential or commercial construction or demolition. They gather a variety of data on the property using the following criteria: measurements of the structure, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, how many stories, type of heating, well water and septic versus public water and sewer, materials used, and quality of construction. The data is then entered into our CAMA system (Computer Aided Mass Appraisal), which uses statistical analysis to calculate a value.

The CPE then uses their own judgement, experience, and knowledge of the local area to decide whether the value given by the CAMA system requires any adjustment. The fact that a CPE or any general appraiser makes use of their own judgement means that the resulting value is considered “an opinion of value.” Ten CPEs or general appraisers would likely come up with somewhat different values for the same property. This is why every property owner has the right to appeal the value placed on their property if they believe it is incorrect.

Applications and instructions for appeal in Armstrong County are available on the county website on the Assessment Department’s webpage. Applications may be submitted between July 15th and September 1st. There is a $25 fee for residential properties and a $100 fee for commercial properties. Appeals take place in late September, sometimes running into October. If the property owner is not happy with the decision from the Board of Appeals, they have the right to take their case to the Court of Common Pleas.

https://www.co.armstrong.pa.us/index.php/departments-m/assessment-m
HISTORIC HOCKEY MOMENT

Jon Spangler honored for local contributions to sport

Jon Spangler (third from left), a Class of 2012 inductee into the Armstrong County Sports Hall of Fame and one of the founders of the Armstrong Arrows hockey program. On Thursday, February 13th, Jon shakes the hand of Armstrong County Commissioner Chairman Don Myers (far right) while gathering at the Belmont Sports Complex in East Franklin Township. Gary Montebell, the facilities Executive Director, (second from left) and Mr. Montebell’s cousin, Larry Montebell, who played on the Arrows team and also served as hockey referee for 40 years.

Jon was instrumental in starting the Amateur Armstrong Hockey League (AAHL) in December of 1967. He coached various amateur teams and was also the head coach of the Armstrong Arrows for 11 seasons starting the 1st team for the 1972/73 season.

Coach Spangler compiled an incredible record over 11 years. He was 127-67-11 and only had one sub .500 season. Jon dropped the ceremonial puck at center ice with several members of the Arrows 1st season along with Commissioner Myers prior to the start of the River Hawks game against Mars. The game was broadcast live on Sample Sports Stream.

Jon still attends games throughout the season!

Also, the Belmont is one of 3 rinks being considered for the Renovate the Rink contest worth $100,000 for improvements. You can vote daily by email and if you have multiple email addresses you can use them through March 9th. Go to Renovate the Rink Contest Pittsburgh and vote. Your support is greatly appreciated!

https://tradablebits.com/tb_app/446940?code=db3781c3-5f7b-4e01-9855-04b35d089519&state=light#=
https://www.belmontcomplex.net/