



State of the Borough Letter

Dear Freeburg Residents,

As President of the Freeburg Borough Council for the past two years, it is my privilege to share this update reflecting on the past year and looking ahead to the future of our community.

In partnership with the Freeburg Municipal Water Authority, the Freeburg–Washington Recreation Association, and the Freeburg Volunteer Fire Department, we worked to maintain a balanced budget to ensure fiscal responsibility and sustainability for our borough.

We welcomed several new businesses and/or business owners including the Studio 35 Beauty Suite and the Freeburger Restaurant and Farm Market. We are grateful to all our borough's businesses including: S.J. Eaton Plumbing and Heating, Freeburg Family Chiropractic, Inc., Freeburg Auto, Gingrich & Associates, P.C., Watto Chiropractic, Witmer Accounting, LLC., Owens Historic Preservation Services, Ltd., and E&S Pets, LLC.

We applied for a DCNR grant to plan the Freeburg Commons down by the ball fields and disc golf course and to make improvements to the Justin Deese Memorial Park, where our Children's Garden Club was hosted for a second year. We received a "Spark Good" Walmart grant and a grant from the Battram Community Fund toward the purchase and installation of new basketball backstops for the gymnasium (donations are welcomed too). We assisted the Freeburg–Washington Recreation Association in acquiring their 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, which provides access to more grants in the future to improve and enhance recreational opportunities for residents.

Our fire department continued its outstanding service, with leadership implementing a working merger with Fremont Fire Department. In the borough, new solar speed limit devices were installed, and curbs and crosswalks were painted. We are grateful to Bruce and Sandy Blades for managing the Stray/Feral Cat Spay and Neuter Program.

New street signs have been installed (have you noticed?), designating East and West destinations to help with package deliveries. We have applied for numerous grants for repairs to our aging bridges, sewer pipes, and water pipes. Relying on two engineering partners (PESI/OPS and HRG), we worked on water and sewer upgrades, strengthening the foundation for our borough's daily activities.

Community events have brought neighbors together in various ways over the year. Many look forward to the annual yard sales in May, and the Freeburg Fireman's Carnival and parade in June. In the Spring and Summer, we can proudly look up to see faces of servicemen and women, composed of family members and friends, represented on the Hometown Hero Banners hanging above. Our Memorial Day Celebration and Christmas in Freeburg events provide more opportunities to visit and relate. Our Senior Center, located in the Community Center Building, is open each week for conversation, games, and fun.

While we celebrate these successes, we recognize ongoing needs, most importantly increased investment in our roads, bridges, water and wastewater distribution systems, and aging sewer plant. On December 18, just a few days ago, we were ecstatic to learn that Freeburg was the recipient of a \$464,349 LSA grant! This money will be used towards lining the sewer mains, laterals, and manholes in Route 35 and connecting mains to Route 35.

In the coming year, we will focus on strategic planning, budget analysis, and community initiatives that strengthen our economy, improve infrastructure, and enhance quality of life for all residents. Please take note of what has made our little community strong and has kept it moving forward ... Volunteers.

Your contribution in any way counts. **Support** our (Volunteer) Fire Company by "dining out" when meals are served there. **Participate** in Community Center events: bingo, sales, meals, etc... **Donate** a few hours to help at our annual carnival. The possibilities are endless.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Stop me in passing anytime to share your ideas with me! I welcome them!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tabbetha VanHorn-Price". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tabbetha VanHorn-Price

Freeburg Borough Council President