



**Borough of Stroudsburg**  
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# Stroudsburg News

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## OCCUPANT

### What Exactly is “Code Enforcement” And Why is it so Important to Our Community

What exactly is Code Enforcement? And why does it matter to you as a resident and to our Borough as a whole? The word “Code” refers to the Borough’s Code of Ordinances. An Ordinance is a local law, passed by Borough Council, and the Code is a compilation of all Ordinances passed by Council. Code Enforcement is how the Borough ensures that local laws, or Ordinances, are administered properly.

And what are these Ordinances? They are, generally speaking, rules to designed to make the municipality run smoother and to generally benefit the health and welfare of all residents. These Ordinances run the gamut from how trash is picked up, to how all properties are to be maintained, to where parking is allowed... and just about everything else in-between!

Stroudsburg Borough, like all municipalities, has a Code Enforcement Office with the task of ensuring that many of these Ordinances are followed. This office focuses on Ordinances dealing with property maintenance primarily, but also with the enforcement of the Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances as well.

So, the question remains, “Why is Code Enforcement important?” We are a country of laws, all designed to support the greater good of residents and the community as a whole. Code Enforcement, as it is pertains to property maintenance (and is commonly referred to at the municipal level), is a critical element in maintaining a safe and visually appealing community. It ensures that property owners maintain their properties in a condition that will not affect the property values of neighbors, will not be an eyesore, and will not be a safety and health concern to the community. In the bigger picture, the Borough wants to maintain Stroudsburg as a visually appealing community and one that *(Continued on Page 3)*

### Council Meeting Schedule

Come to Meetings and Let Your Voice be Heard

Do you want to be... “In the know?” Then take the time to attend Borough Council meetings! Literally every day, the Borough Office receives calls with many questions, and comments, about Ordinances that have already been approved by Council. If you want your voice to be heard—and want to affect what Ordinances are approved by Council and in what form—then you need to attend Borough Council Meetings!

Borough Council Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of every month, 7:00 pm, on the second floor of the Borough Building at 700 Sarah Street. Can’t come in person? We’ve got you covered! Every meeting is available online through a Zoom link on our webpage, [stroudsburgboro.com](http://stroudsburgboro.com).

If you can’t make a meeting, agendas for Council Meetings are posted on the Borough website NLT 5:00 pm on the day prior to the meeting.

Want to discuss something not included on an agenda? You can! All meetings include a public comment period.

And as a reminder, November 7th is election day! You have the power to decide who represents you on Council and as Mayor... get out and vote!

#### Council Meeting Dates

- September 5 & 19
- October 3 & 17
- November 6 (Monday) & 21
- December 5 & 19

## Stroudsburg Events | Fall & Winter 2023-24

<b>Monroe Farmers Market</b>	September & October Saturdays, 8:00 am to Noon November & December Saturdays, 9:00 am to Noon
<b>Spooky Stroudsburg</b>	Saturday, October 28 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
<b>Veterans Day Parade</b>	Sunday, November 5 1:00 pm Start
<b>Holiday Tree Lighting</b>	Friday, November 24 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
<b>Snowmen of Stroudsburg</b>	November 24 - February 24 All Day
<b>Small Business Saturday</b>	Saturday, November 25 All Day
<b>Winterfest</b>	Saturday, February 17 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
<b>St. Patrick’s Day Parade</b>	Sunday, March 24 1:15 pm Start

For more up-to-date information on events within the Borough of Stroudsburg, please visit:

[www.visitdowntownstroudsburg.com](http://www.visitdowntownstroudsburg.com)  
[www.stroudsburgboro.com](http://www.stroudsburgboro.com)

Or visit the Borough’s Facebook Page at:

[www.facebook.com/StroudsburgBoro](http://www.facebook.com/StroudsburgBoro)



Jeremiah Williams Photography

# Borough of Stroudsburg Summer Recap

## Multiple Successes Made 2023 a Summer to Remember

Summer is a busy season in the Borough, and Stroudsburg residents had an opportunity to enjoy a wide range of activities all summer long, with events and activities for every imaginable taste and inclination!

For music aficionados, Thursday evenings were magical, with the return of the ever-popular Concerts in the Square. For twelve Thursdays from June through August, the square came alive with live music from the area's top performers. From jazz to folk and everything in between, Concerts in the Square continues to gain popularity and is eagerly anticipated by many in our community!

Stroudsburg continues to be known for its large public events. This summer, two downtown events had the largest number of attendees in their history! Both Stroudfest, the "Granddaddy" of events in the Borough, and the Pocono Pride Festival, saw their largest crowds ever!



The Juneteenth Freedom Festival and the Irish American Festival were extremely popular with residents and visitors alike. Finally, on the Southside, in May the Happy Hour Street Fest drew a larger audience than ever before.

For those with an artistic bent, First Saturday Art Walks highlighted the area's talented artists and the numerous galleries in our downtown.

Stroudsburg is having a great 2023 in another way: while the US may be suffering economic woes, the Borough has actually seen increased tax revenues and other positive economic signs. With dedicated volunteers and Borough officials all working for the betterment of our community, a great Summer of 2023 bodes well for a great 2024! Our sincerest thanks to all who made Summer 2023 memorable!

## Safety Bollards Protecting Event Participants



Today, the watchword when it comes to public events is safety. Unfortunately, all of us have seen incidents in the news where people with evil intent target large gatherings of people. Unfortunately, this is even happening locally; in August 2022, one person was killed and 17 injured when a car was driven into a crowd at a fundraiser in Berwick, PA. In summer 2022, an Ad-Hoc Council Committee was formed to look at events in the downtown and how to improve the Borough's support of these important activities for our community.

While new procedures were developed and put in place by the Borough for events, the most important issue identified by the committee was improved safety for eventgoers. After researching various options, Borough staff determined the best and least expensive option for improving event safety was removable safety bollards. Bollards are large, carbon steel cylinders that are inserted in sleeves embedded in concrete, stopping vehicles moving up to 35 MPH.

Thanks to a grant from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, we were able to purchase enough bollards for two of the four intersections leading into Courthouse Square. In 2024, the Borough will purchase and install bollards for the remaining two intersections. Safety is paramount in the 21st Century, and the Borough is on the forefront of providing fun, safe public events for visitors and residents alike.



## Ann Street Park Grand Reopening

On Saturday, August 5th, Stroudsburg Borough celebrated the reopening of Ann Street Park after significant renovations. Overlooking the "falls" on McMichael Creek, Ann Street Park is a haven of quiet beauty in our busy downtown. However, after years of use, the park was in need of updates. Funding from several sources was obtained, and work was substantially completed by the grand reopening. Improvements/updates include a thorough cleaning and repainting; new sidewalks; stamped concrete on the



two lower levels by the falls; a new wooden deck around the beautiful Ginkgo tree; and a little library and public art, both Eagle Scout Projects by local Boy Scouts. Still remaining to be completed are the planting of flowers and a new picnic table and bench. The park is now awash with color, vibrant and inviting!

Our thanks to Representative Tarah Probst, who started this project as Mayor and was instrumental in obtaining the funding to make this project possible. On behalf of the Borough, thank you, Tarah!

## Courthouse Square | Then and Now

As anyone who has recently visited Courthouse Square can tell you, the Borough has repaved Courthouse Square and North 7th Street. With the Square being home to the Monroe Farmers Market and to multiple public events annually—and with the streets in dire need of resurfacing—we prioritized repaving the Square during 2023.

Several months ago, we came across the below photo of the Borough working on the street on the East side of Courthouse Square in the early years of the 20th Century. We took a photo of the same location in early September after the completion of paving. What a difference a 100 years can make!

A special "thank you" to HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program, whose funds were used for the completion of this project.



## Why Code Enforcement?

*(Continued from Page 1)* residents are proud of, one that maintains an excellent reputation both regionally and nationally. For all these reasons—and many more—strict, but fair, Code Enforcement is a priority in Stroudsburg.

A new cornerstone in the Borough's Code Enforcement efforts is the Residential Rental Property Inspection Ordinance, passed at Council's September 5th Meeting and due to go into effect in 2024. This Ordinance mandates inspections of residential rental properties, at a minimum, once every three years. Ordinances that mandate inspections on rental properties are common both regionally and nationally, and are a proven way to assist in property maintenance and beautification efforts.

Everyone at the Borough, elected and appointed officials alike, are dedicated to making our Borough the best municipality it can possibly be. Robust efforts in Code Enforcement are key to success in this endeavor. We ask your support, and patience, in the coming months and years as we work towards this goal.