

Hearings set on new overlay district and HARB rules

The Council has scheduled two public hearings on Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. at the Borough Council Chambers (700 Sarah Street) to consider proposals to amend parts of the Borough Code related to zoning and the Historic District.

New Zoning Overlay District

Nearly three years ago, Stroudsburg Borough Council, along with the Stroudsburg and Monroe County Planning Commissions, started the process of developing an additional layer to the existing Zoning Ordinance that would extend beyond the requirements of the underlying Zoning Districts.

The Commercial Overlay (C-O) is an overlay of portions of the existing C-2 and C-1A districts. This means

that the existing underlying regulations for those districts remain intact, however the overlay includes supplemental regulations which applicants may opt to employ.

The intention is to encourage compatible types of infill development, consistent with the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, the Stroudsburg Historic Preservation Ordinance and the Traditional Neighborhood Development provisions of the PA Municipalities Planning Code.

The proposed overlay district provides an additional set of standards within designated areas and also offers a set of standards for an applicant who chooses to use the option in the C-O District, which includes allowing a slightly greater maximum building height.

Historic District changes

Revisions to the Historic Preservation Ordinance are proposed to help clarify several existing components within the ordinance and to provide new and/or expanded language intended to help express the provisions of the ordinance.

The proposed changes include text changes for clarity and assistance for the applicants and review boards. The changes also help align the Historic Preservation Ordinance with the provisions of the existing Zoning Ordinance and the proposed Commercial Overlay Zoning District.

All persons are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in the public hearings. The full text of the proposed changes are included on Borough Web site.

New newsletter

snags top State prize

The first edition of the *Stroudsburg Sentinel* newsletter won First Place Recognition in the 2014 *Borough News* Municipal Newsletter Contest, sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB), for preparation of an Outstanding Newsletter in 2013 in the 5,001 to 7,500 population category. The *Borough News* is the official magazine of PSAB.

This is the second time in three years that the Borough had its newsletter recognized by PSAB, having garnered Second Place in the 2012 Contest for the 2011 Summer/Fall edition of a Stroudsburg newsletter edited and designed by former Borough employee Terry Rosen.

Old Man Winter slams Borough

Stroudsburg endured a very severe winter, with frigid temperatures and huge snowfall amounts. Public works crews worked weekdays, nights and weekends keeping Borough streets drivable for all motorists. This included added work in commercial and densely develop residential areas to plow and later remove snow to storage locations so that travel and commerce would not be interrupted. The Borough spent nearly \$70,000 on salt and another \$28,000 on overtime labor (about 133% and 100% more than normal, respectively).

QUIZ: How many Public Works crew members are employed by Stroudsburg performing snow and ice control operations? (See back page for answer.)

**Borough Council meetings are now on
the first and third Tuesdays of each month.
See inside for more important dates.**

Borough tackling storm water discharge issues

Stroudsburg Borough is in the initial stages of a process to assess and address problems related to storm water runoff. The first area being assessed is South Stroudsburg, where known issues have been causing problems for an extended period of time. This problem, however, is also known to exist Borough-wide.

In an optimal storm water management system, surface runoff is collected and delivered through a series of dedicated underground storm water pipes to appropriate areas of detention, retention and/or discharge. Problems arise when excess storm water flows into the *wastewater* system through the *sanitary sewer* pipes. When this occurs, it is usually the result of infiltration and inflow (I&I).

Infiltration is when storm water seeps into sanitary sewer pipes through holes, cracks, joint failures and faulty connections. Inflow occurs when storm water enters the sanitary sewer system from sources such as illegally connected sump pumps, down spouts, floor drains, etc. A rule of thumb is that it is illegal for any property owner to have any system and/or connection on a property which allows storm water to enter the sanitary sewer system.

I&I increases the level of flow conveyed through the wastewater/sanitary sewer system and pumping stations. This results in increased costs to treat flows at the wastewater treatment plant. Storm water is being unneces-

sarily treated along with wastewater, which also impacts the wastewater treatment plant as far as optimal operations.

Recently, Borough Public Works crews have been coordinating efforts with the Borough Engineer to measure flows in the area of South Stroudsburg. It is evident from

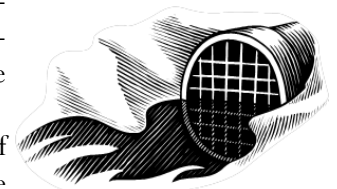
the data collected that a great deal of storm water is inappropriately entering the sanitary sewer system.

For example, last fall, heavy rainfall within a 45 minute span saw a significant increase of volume entering the

wastewater treatment plant. The logical conclusion for the cause is that numerous roof drains on private properties are connected and illegally discharging into the sanitary sewer system and flowing into the wastewater treatment plant.

This is a long-term project of the Borough. Throughout the process, in different stages and sections of the municipality, officials will contact property owners where storm water connections appear to discharge into the wastewater system. In cases where this problem is identified, the Borough will inform property owners that they must alter their private systems to be compliant with the law. As with most enforcement matters, the Borough will first attempt a preferred resolution to gain voluntary compliance. If that is unsuccessful, however, other more serious enforcement measures are available for the Borough to pursue.

For property owners who are aware that they have illegal connections within or around homes and/or businesses, a good idea would be to fix the problem now, negating the need for the Borough to make contact concerning this issue in the future.



Helped Wanted: Become an active member of the Stroudsburg Fire Department. Help your friends, neighbors and even strangers in times of fire and other emergencies. Contact: 570-421-6960 or email: admin@stroudsburgfire.com



The Stroudsburg Fire Department thanks all the residents of the Borough for their continued support.

Important Dates!

★ **Borough Council meetings are the first and third Tuesdays of each month.**

Visit the Borough Web site to view agendas for the Council and other Borough boards/commissions.

★ **The Stroudsburg Borough pool is planned to open on Sat., May 24 (weather permitting) and will only be open weekends until the full season starts, when the pool will be open every day through the end of the season.**

Visit the SROSRC Web site (srosrc.org/pools.php) for details on operating hours, prices and how to purchase daily and season pool passes, swim lessons, aquatic programs and events scheduled at the pool, including Dive-In Movies.

★ **Spring Bulk Item Drop-Off is Saturday, May 24 from 8 a.m. to Noon. Nominal fees apply.**

Visit the Borough Web site for details on fees and restrictions on what is accepted.

★ **The Borough is waiving the permit fee for Yard Sales held anytime from May 23 through 26, Friday through Monday on Memorial Day Weekend. (Note: No sales permitted on the sidewalks or in the tree lawns.)**

Visit the Borough Web site often to get the latest local government information: www.borough.stroudsburg.pa.us

Borough benefits from joint ventures

Intermunicipal cooperation is an often-used buzz phrase when discussing how governments at all levels can and should optimize their operations. The Borough of Stroudsburg is party to numerous cooperative agreements across a broad spectrum of various municipal partners. While these pacts are generally viewed as very advantageous, it is sometimes difficult to quantify objectively the precise benefits to the local government and the citizens it serves.

There are several specific and tangible examples, however, of how Stroudsburg Borough has benefitted from agreements of this nature. Insurance coverage is one area where Stroudsburg has obtained real financial advantages in the form of dividends paid to the Borough at the end of a policy year, as the following examples show.

- The Borough is a member of MRM Property & Liability Trust and recently was notified that for 2014 we will be paid a dividend of just over \$15,000, which is a reflection of our positive claims experience. For a number of years as a member of this Trust, the Borough has received dividends which cumulatively total more than \$98,000. As a result, Stroudsburg was featured in an MRM press release as one of the top 30 Trust members receiving the largest cumulative amount of dividends since 2006. Thanks to our local insurance agency, Small & Son, for advising the Borough years ago to consider joining this group, as we have now reaped the benefits for a number of years.
- For workers' compensation insurance, the Borough belongs to a cooperative group — the Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT). Each year, again based on claims experience, the Borough is eligible to receive a refund for a portion of the premiums paid. Most recently the Borough's share of refund from the group was about \$2,400. Since 2007, the total for all refunds paid the Borough is nearly \$13,500.
- Finally, the Borough belongs to a health care insurance consortium — the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC). This group provides health insurance benefits to local government entities and their employees throughout the State. Similar to the two groups mentioned above, members are eligible to receive annual dividend returns based on claims experience. In 2014, the Borough is slated to receive a refund of more than \$48,000 for the 2013 calendar year. For 2008 and 2011 through 2013, the total the Borough received in dividends was nearly \$215,000. More good news from this group is that even in years when a member does not perform well and has poor claims experience, if the result is a negative number, that is not charged to the specific member as an added premium assessment. Instead, the

continued on back page



Shade Tree Commission members and Boy Scouts from Troop 86 volunteered and teamed up with Public Works personnel to plant six trees on Arbor Day at the end of April. Trees were donated by Northern Nurseries of Wind Gap.

Misc.: News & Notes

FREE Ground-up Yard Waste is available for pickup at the recycling center.



PLEASE! Do NOT pour grease down the drain — it causes problems with the public sewer system. Instead, pour and store in any can (i.e., soup) and dispose of the hardened product in the trash.



Renters, homeowners and businesspersons:

Be sure to dispose of trash in receptacles you own or those provided by your landlord. Dumping trash in containers belonging to others is illegal and will be prosecuted!



**Any person holding a Yard Sale must first obtain a Permit at the Borough offices.*
(*Exception: Memorial Day Weekend.)**



**Upcoming Holidays: Mon., May 26
Fri., July 4 and Mon., September 1**

Borough offices are closed and other services suspended.



...is the answer to the front page quiz for how many Public Works staff members are employed by the Borough, including Public Works Director Brian Bond, all of whom are charged with handling various facets of snow removal and ice control. Many residents and business owners were surprised to learn that number was so low, with some guessing a crew complement as high as 25 to 30 workers, based on observations of the volume of work performed.

Given the severity of winter operations in 2014, work assignments were often split into day and night shifts, which means four on during the day and three on overnight. Further, workers often were assigned to shifts in excess of eight hours and crews were supplemented in some limited instances with personnel and equipment from private contractors. Kudos! to all those workers for the excellent job they did working in extremely challenging conditions.

Keep grass cut to avoid hearing from Code Enforcement officials

Stroudsburg actively enforces Borough Code provisions specifying how high grass can grow. Any property where the lawn is 10 inches or higher, a notice from the Codes Office will be sent advising the property owner to maintain the lawn.



In cases where prompt action is not taken correcting the matter, a citation may be filed with the District Magistrate and a fine may be imposed.

Celebrating 200 years, plans in the works for Borough Bicentennial

A group of volunteers has been meeting over the past several months planning the Borough's Bicentennial Celebration. Stroudsburg was originally incorporated as a municipality on February 6, 1815.

So far, the committee has selected a date for the main celebration: Saturday, September 5, 2015, which will be in conjunction with that year's Annual Stroudfest.

Group participation yields positive results *continued from page 3*

shortfall is covered by the overall group from a dedicated fund. Stroudsburg was in this position in both 2009 and 2010 and benefitted by the entire group covering our higher than normal claims for those two years.

The group dynamic in each of the above cases means that Stroudsburg Borough, along with numerous other municipal entities across the State, have broken away from the older, traditional insurance models where a private insurance carrier calculates a premium at the beginning of the policy year and keeps the entire amount, regardless of how much is required to be paid out in claims.

In those cases, in years when low amounts were paid out for claims, that only served to increase the profits of the carriers. The advantage to the trust-style groups is that members of the group can pay themselves back previous premium amounts paid, on a sliding scale in relationship to the claims paid out. This has been a very advantageous arrangement for the Borough, as detailed in the above examples.

Operationally, the Borough is involved in cooperative ventures to better provide a variety of services to residents, compared to what the Borough might be able to do on its own. These include services relating to recycling, parks and recreation, police and public safety and water and wastewater treatment. The advantages of having these services in partnership with other municipalities and on a regional basis will be explored in more detail in future issues of this newsletter.

Some of the celebration components include:

- Commissioning a commemorative publication and also having one or two quality memorabilia items available, which will include a logo designed especially for the Bicentennial.
- Music provided by local talent, which may be roving throughout the day and/or include one or more concerts.
- A ceremony to dig up a time capsule buried during the 150th Celebration, and creation of a new time capsule to be buried for the 200th Celebration.
- A car show, ideally with at least one car from each year for 100 years, beginning with 1915.
- An ice cream social supplied by local and/or area vendors.
- A fireworks display as a finale to the celebration.

The Committee is continuing its work and can always use added volunteers. Anyone interested in helping these efforts should contact Borough Manager Cathie Thomas at 570-421-5444x104, or CathrynT@choiceonemail.com.

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