



Happy 200th Stroudsburg Borough!

This year, the Borough of Stroudsburg celebrates its 200th anniversary. The Borough was incorporated on February 6, 1815, making 2015 its Bicentennial year.

A variety of activities are planned to commemorate the occasion, with the main celebration event to occur along with StroudFest on Saturday, September 5 (Labor Day weekend).

For the year, the regular Borough logo appearing at the top of this newsletter is replaced with a logo designed especially for the Bicentennial. A contest was held, with the winning logo designed by Shane Izykowski and Sonia Leticia.

A time capsule from the Sesquicentennial (150th) celebration in 1965 was recently unearthed from its loca-



Photo by Bill Weitzmann

tion in Courthouse Square. Those at the exhumation ceremonies experi-

enced an added surprise treat with an unexpected honored guest attending — Robert Phillips who, in 1965, had the time capsule custom built and donated as part of the Sesquicentennial celebration. He is shown in the picture wiping off the top ring of the capsule, which revealed names he had hand-etched inside the ring of prominent persons involved in the 150th Borough anniversary.

The capsule is now stored at the Borough office and will be opened just prior to the start of the Council meeting on February 3rd. Artifacts will be on display at least until September and ultimately re-entombed along with a new time capsule with items placed from current-day Stroudsburg and the Bicentennial celebration.

Volunteers still needed for 200th

For more than a year, volunteers of the Bicentennial Celebration Committee have been meeting to discuss plans on what events to hold to commemorate the Borough's 200th anniversary. Early meetings included brainstorming a variety of ideas.

Committee attendance, however, has been quite limited, and this has impacted event planning, limiting what could be managed with a relative small number of community volunteers. More recent meetings have seen attendance dwindle and further paring down planned activities is being considered.

The next meeting of this Committee is Thursday, January 22 at 2 p.m. at the Borough offices (700 Sarah Street). More volunteers are required so that all of the planned events can occur. Those are:

- an ice cream social;
- creation of a commemorative publication;
- a car show featuring one car from each year, 1915 to 2015;
- a variety of musical presentations from area groups;
- selection of items for inclusion in a new time capsule to be buried and marked for opening in 2065;
- a fireworks display finale.

Please consider volunteering to help plan events for this momentous occasion and attend the next meeting of the Committee. Another chance to celebrate a Borough milestone won't come along for another 50 years!

Handouts don't help

It's OK to say no to panhandlers!

Recently, a group of citizens and local business owners met concerning the issue of panhandling. The meeting was organized by Stroud Area Regional Police, where a number of concerns and potential ways to address them were discussed. It was agreed that public education is an important component in tackling the issue.

Persons who give money to panhandlers unknowingly may encourage this activity, which can result in a less than ideal environment in the vicinity where panhandlers operate. Also, many persons believe that panhandlers are homeless, however this is not always the case.

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*Now On Sale! Limited Edition
Stroudsburg Bicentennial Collectibles*



Wooden Nickel: \$.50

Train Whistle: \$5 ♦ Coffee Mug: \$6

Candy Jar or Beverage Mug: \$12.50

Purchase at Borough Offices

700 Sarah Street, 9-5 M-F, Cash or Check

On tap for 2015

In addition to celebrating its Bicentennial, Stroudsburg has many projects planned for 2015. Work will begin, and be completed, on renovations to the Fire Hall. Construction is planned to start around mid-March and hopefully be completed by the end of September.

Roadwork projects planned for 2015 include Second Street and Clermont Avenue. Work includes pavement rehabilitation and the construction of handicapped-accessible sidewalk ramps.

The Borough will soon complete purchase of the Street Lighting system from the PPL company. Work has been underway to prepare the system for the transfer. Once completed, the Borough will pay significantly lower electric rates. This is because the system had been leased and PPL was responsible for maintenance, with that cost built into the rate.

As the system owner, the Borough will take over responsibility for the maintenance, which we expect will be improved with these services provided directly by in-house DPW crews.

The Borough also plans over time to replace fixtures and bulbs with more energy-efficient units, providing further cost savings to the Borough and its taxpayers.

Residential Building Permit information

Building Permits are required by State Law, Act 45 of 1999. Act 45 requires that all residential construction in the state comply with the latest version of the International Residential Code.

The building inspection department reviews submitted construction plans prior to permit issuance to determine if the plans comply with building code requirements. After a building permit is issued, periodic on-site inspections of the construction are performed in order to verify compliance with the approved plans, applicable building codes and municipal ordinances.

When do I need a Residential Building Permit?

A building permit is required for all new construction and additions. Building permits are also required for the following projects:

- Interior remodeling/alterations that involve structural changes or changes to the means of egress (the exit path from any point in the residence, including stairways, ramps, exterior exit balconies, hallways and doors).
- Exterior decks where the deck surface is more than thirty inches above grade.
- Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs that hold at least 24 inches of water.
- Accessory structures (such as detached garages, carports, greenhouses and storage sheds) over 1000 sq. ft. in area. ***NOTE: If the accessory structure is less than 1000 sq. ft. and accessory to other than a single family dwelling (such as a duplex or townhouse) a building permit is required.***
- Building permits are also required for electrical, plumbing and HVAC system installation, replacement or alteration (ordinary repairs do not need a permit).

What work does not require a permit?

- Exterior decks with a floor surface 30 inches or less above grade.
- Interior remodeling and alterations that do not involve structural changes or changes to the means of egress.
- Replacement of roof covering, installation of aluminum or vinyl siding, and replacement of windows (if no structural framing changes are made).
- Replacement of existing concrete flatwork such as sidewalks, driveways and patio slabs.

What are the benefits of a Building Permit?

The building permit review and inspection process will ensure that your project meets minimum standards of safety as specified in the International Residential Code. Building permits are also reviewed for compliance with Stroudsburg Borough zoning regulations. Once a permitted project is completed, the building department will maintain a record of the plan review and all inspections for the life of the building. When properties are sold, potential buyers often contact the building inspection department to see if permits had been issued for construction or alterations. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. A building permit will protect the value of your investment.

How do I obtain a Building Permit?

Please contact the Stroudsburg Borough Office at 570-421-5444. We will be happy to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

Remember, for properties within the boundaries of the Historic District, for exterior work, in addition to a Building Permit, proposed work may need to be submitted for review to the HARB and obtain approval from the Borough Council for issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Listen carefully to Snow Emergency declarations

The Borough declares a Snow Emergency anytime three-inches or more of snow accumulates or when, in the opinion of an authorized official, street conditions are hazardous. Snow Emergency Routes are marked throughout the Borough. Vehicles parked on snow emergency routes during a declared snow emergency may be ticketed and/or towed.

The DPW Director provides notification of the declaration of a snow emergency to Police, *Pocono Record* newspaper, WNEP, WBRE, WSBG and TV13. Many of these media outlets have automatic alerts listeners can sign up online to receive.

Motorists should carefully note the declared start and end times for a snow emergency, as the ending time is normally at least 24 hours after the estimated end of the weather event. This enables public works crews to complete all snow removal and ice control operations.

HARB has new Chair and meets to discuss process improvement

A new Chair, Ken Lang, has been selected to lead the Historic and Architectural Review Board (HARB). Mr. Lang previously served as Chair of the HARB and recently rejoined the group, lending his experience and expertise to benefit the Borough's preservation efforts. The Borough Council appointed Mr. Lang to the HARB, after action had been taken to expand the group from seven to nine members. HARB members are all volunteers with an interest in preservation of buildings within the historic district.

For owners of properties in the Historic District, the Codes Office must be contacted, at 570-421-5444x109, prior to work commencing on the exterior of any building. Borough officials will provide advice and guidance if the proposed work requires review by the HARB and if the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by Borough Council is needed.

Late last year, HARB members held a workshop and roundtable meeting to discuss a variety of issues, including:

- ways of improving the application process;
- how to review applications using the recommendations for standards set by the Secretary of the Interior;
- educating the public about the benefits of preservation of buildings.

The meeting was a great success and very beneficial to the participants able to discuss the issues in an informal setting. The HARB plans to have more workshop meetings in the future in an effort to improve the process and educate all involved. The public is always welcome to any HARB meeting. Visit the Borough web site to find out regular and special meeting dates of the HARB.

Tenant registration info.

Starting last year and continuing this year, the Borough will not be mailing Tenant Registration forms.

At the beginning of each year, or within 30 days of a tenant change, landlords are required to complete these forms and return them to the Borough.

Currently the forms are available in PDF format on the Borough web site. The Borough hopes to soon have in place a more automated system for filing online.

The SFD wants you!

Volunteers needed, training provided

The Stroudsburg Fire Department, which includes the Chemical Fire Co. No. 1 and Phoenix Fire Engine and Hose Co. No. 2, is always looking for volunteers to become active members. Training is every Monday night.

The department participates in community events and does other functions besides firefighting. This includes hosting an open house during October (fire prevention month) and giving St. Nick a lift each year to his appearance at the annual tree lighting in December.

The Department provides the following winter fire safety reminders:

- Ensure all smoke detectors in the home are working properly. If you missed the chance to, "Change your clock, change



your batteries" in smoke detectors at the end of daylight savings time (at the beginning of November), now would be a good time to tackle that task.

- Check and clean chimney flues, as the build-up of soot is a fire hazard.
- Make sure all heating systems have been properly cleaned and serviced.
- Be especially careful when using space heaters, kerosene heaters, etc. Keep combustible items away from these heat sources.
- If a fire occurs in your residence, ***get out and stay out.*** Call 911 and give your name and address to the 911 operator clearly and calmly.



On behalf of the Command Staff and all the Volunteer Members of the Fire Department, we extend our thanks to our residents and the Borough organization for their continued support.

New for recycling in 2015

Twin Boroughs Recycling has just changed its policy on plastics recycling, in an effort to provide added convenience for its customers. Now all plastics numbered 1 through 7 are accepted. Further, they may be mixed together in one container for curbside collection. The only exception is that plastic motor oil containers are not accepted.

Recycling in Stroudsburg is performed every other week with three designated pickup areas collected Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The first day of collection for Stroudsburg in 2015 is Tuesday, January 6 and then every other week throughout the year. The full schedule can be found on the Borough web site.



Material for collection should be placed curbside no later than 5 a.m. on collection day. Call the Recycling Center at 570-424-5170 with any questions on the pickup schedule or items planned to be dropped off.

Visit the Borough web site to view a map of pickup areas by day and the full-year recycling calendar schedule, along with more recycling information.

The Borough is divided into three collection areas:

The **Tuesday** area is from the Borough line on the east, I-80 north to the Borough line and to 8th Street on the west, also including all streets that enter off of Phillips Street, even those west of 8th Street.

The **Wednesday** area is from 8th Street on the east and the Borough line on the north and west, including the areas off of Dreher Avenue.

The **Thursday** area is from the Borough line on the east, I-80 on the north and LaBar Village on the west.

All materials left for collection must be sorted.

- Bundle newspapers in brown paper bags or tie with cord. **Do not tape them together or bundle in plastic bags.**
 - Magazines and junk mail may be combined, but keep separate from newspaper.
 - Cardboard must be broken down & tied.
 - Rinse glass bottles and sort by color (labels may be left on).
 - Rinse plastic bottles, **remove caps and crush to save space.**
- New for 2015, numbers 1 through 7 are collected and can be mixed together for collection, either in containers or trash bags. No motor oil plastic containers will be collected.

For glass, no windowpane, blue bottles, ceramics or Compact Florescent Lamps (CFLs/light bulbs) are accepted.

Note that curbside pickup of recyclables will be suspended during snow emergencies. Check the Borough web site or tune to WVPO (840 AM) or WSBG (93.5 FM), or check the *Pocono Record* for information.

Recycling of electronics is a separate operation performed by the Municipal Waste Management Authority. For more information, call 570-643-6100 or go online to www.TheWasteAuthority.com.

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

PR-SRT Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 280
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Say no to panhandling

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Kindhearted and generous individuals are urged to consider giving to organizations who help persons in need, in lieu of money handed out to panhandlers. This area has numerous groups providing a wide array of help, including food (meals and provisions from food pantries), housing assistance and help in obtaining medical services for both physical and mental ailments, etc.

A few examples of the more prominent agencies providing help to homeless and other disadvantaged individuals in Stroudsburg include the Street2feet Day Center on First Street (570-369-1299) and the Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church Cold Weather Shelter (570-421-0750), and in East Stroudsburg the Salvation Army on Washington Street (570-421-5711).

Borough Holidays
Monday, February 16
Friday, April 3

Spring Brush Pickup: 4/7-9 & 5/5-7

In the spring and fall, the Borough provides a few dates of curbside pickup of woody yard waste. Materials collected are limited to tree branches and prunings, twigs, small bushes (without root ball), hedges and tree logs not exceeding 5-inches in diameter. Limbs must be cut to a 4-foot length and tied in bundles not exceeding 50 pounds. Other materials should be placed in containers for easy pick up. Place material curbside prior to 8 a.m.

Year 'round, these items may be dropped off at the Recycling Center on Fridays from 8 a.m. until noon at the facility on Lincoln Avenue in East Stroudsburg (behind Walmart).

Note that this program does NOT include pick up of grass clippings, leaves, flowers, vines, roots or garden and vegetable plants. These items should be composted.

Alert for alarm owners

All business owners and residents with active alarms must register each year with the Borough. The cost for a new alarm is \$25 initially and \$5 for each annual renewal.

Blank forms are available at the Borough office or on the Borough web site. Completed forms should be submitted with the proper payment to the Borough office.