



Stroudsburg News

Fall 2022 | Volume 9, Issue III

Present and Future Stroudsburg Busy Summer of 2022 Points to the Future

The Summer of 2022 was an extremely busy one for the Borough of Stroudsburg, one that is pointing towards an exciting and vibrant future for our community.

First of all, we saw more events of all types in our downtown than ever before. The Monroe Farmers Market draws more and more visitors every Saturday morning. First Saturday Art Walks give everyone a chance to appreciate the many galleries in our community. Our popular Concerts in the Square expanded to twelve Thursday evenings, bringing free music to all residents of the community. The Borough hosted a number of large events in Courthouse Square—Pocono Pride Festival, Juneteenth Freedom Festival, Latin Fusion Fest and the Irish-American Festival— that drew large, appreciative crowds. And Stroudfest, an area institution, returned Labor Day weekend. It all capped off with the first event held on Main Street in many years, September’s Austin-Healey Car Show. What a great, and busy, summer for Stroudsburg!

Looking towards 2023, we are projecting approximately 80 events in the Borough! For a community of a little over 5,000, that is an incredible achievement! Numerous studies have shown that one of the major elements in a successful community – and one of the biggest factors in drawing new residents to a community – is a vibrant downtown with a plethora of activities for residents. And from a business standpoint, tapping into the Pocono Region’s largest industry, tourism, a multi-billion dollar industry, with events that draw visitors to local businesses, is a sound strategy for prosperity and growth.

With a growing number of public events in Stroudsburg, in August Borough Council convened an Ad-Hoc Committee to review and update policies and procedures for future public events in Stroudsburg. In particular, security concerns are being reviewed and updated to ensure the safety of visitors and residents alike. With a newly approved plan by PennDOT for Main Street closures , another potential venue *(Continued on Page 2)*



Residential Rental Registration An Annual Requirement For Property Owners

Stroudsburg, like most boroughs in Eastern Pennsylvania, has numerous properties with residential rental units. And like the vast majority of municipalities in the state, Stroudsburg requires that all rental housing units and tenants be registered with the Borough.

Borough Ordinance 1060, passed in 2018, requires owners of all rental properties to register their rental property, and names of tenants, to the Borough annually. It also requires landlords to notify the Borough of any changes to tenants between reports.

Why do so many municipalities require this registration? Mainly, for two important reasons. Firstly, it ensures that Zoning Ordinances are being followed, that all apartments are located in the proper zoning districts. And secondly, it verifies that occupancy limits are not exceeded for the safety of residents.

In August, the 2022 “Rental Housing and Tenant Reports” were mailed to all rental property owners. Property owners are required to return the report, along with a \$20 Fee per rental unit, to the Borough. To date, we still have not received reports from a number of landlords. The Ordinance clearly sets out penalties for those owners of rental properties who do not comply. Please accept this as a gentle reminder if you are a landlord and have not yet submitted your report.

The “Rental Housing and Tenant Report” can be found on the Borough website, and may be returned with payment by mail or by dropping it off at the Brough Office. Or, you may submit the report electronically through the Customer Services Portal on the Borough website.

Thank you to everyone for your support of this very important ordinance!

Stroudsburg's Tomorrow Planned Today

Mobility Study to Shape the Future of our Community

(Continued from Page 1) for events and activities in the Borough has opened, and with its new possibilities for the future. With a new venue for public events and new policies and procedures in place, Stroudsburg will be ready for growth that will undoubtedly increase the quality of life for residents while simultaneously boosting the economy in our community.

The other major event this summer was the completion of a Mobility Study for the Borough by Alta Planning + Design.

Presented to Borough Council on September 20th, the plan outlines a new vision for the Main Street Corridor the length of the entire Borough that will allow more space for outdoor dining, more trees and plants, and overall a more walkable community. It also looks at ways to reduce traffic speed and make Main Street more "pedestrian friendly." The entire study is available online on the Borough website, stroudsburgboro.com, as well as at the Borough Office. We invite everyone to take a look at this exciting plan, what is truly the blueprint for the future of our community. We received considerable community input in the creation of this study, and we cannot thank enough all of the residents and organizations that helped shape its content along with elected and appointed officials.

And not only do we now have the blueprint for the future of Stroudsburg, we have actually started work on implementation! At the end of July, the Borough submitted a grant to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for funding through their Multimodal Grant Program to begin work on select elements of the plan. This September, we submitted a second grant to DCED, this time through the Local Share Account Program, for additional funding.

We are also in discussions with PennDOT about the Mobility Study and the resulting changes to Main Street, which is a state route, Business Route 209. As a state route, PennDOT must approve any changes to the current road configuration. We are working with PennDOT engineers to develop a plan that is mutually agreed upon and will meet requirements for safety as well as the requirement to act as an alternate to I-80 in emergency situations.

The next steps include additional traffic studies to gather the required data to allow the Borough to submit a grant to the US Department of Transportation for funding in 2024 as well as work to incorporate any changes to Main Street into existing street projects, including the Borough's redesign of the Five Points intersection and PennDOT's I-80 Project.

It's a fact that if you want to shape tomorrow, you have to begin today. We at the Borough have been working extremely hard to build a future for the Borough that will make our community both much more "livable" for all residents as well as one that will enable continued economic growth. The future looks bright for Stroudsburg; we are all extremely excited at what the future will bring!



Help Us, Help You | Take the HARB Survey

You might not be aware of it, but the Borough of Stroudsburg has a federally recognized Historic District!

The Academy Hill Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 and comprises much of the Borough's downtown. The Stroudsburg Borough Council passed the Stroudsburg Historic Preservation District Ordinance in July 2006 to protect and preserve Stroudsburg's historic buildings and streetscapes, enacting ordinances that set higher standards for exterior renovations and new construction.

To assist with the implementation of the Preservation District Ordinance, Council put in place the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) to review all construction and renovations within the Historic District, ensuring that they meet the federal requirements for historic districts from the Department of the Interior. To be clear, HARB does not make decisions. They only make *(Continued Next Page)*

Committee Members Needed

Do you love Stroudsburg? Would you like to serve your community? Do you have several hours a month to spare? If so, perhaps you would consider serving on a Borough Committee!

Borough Council appoints residents to a number of committees to assist them in effectively governing the Borough. Serving on a committee allows your voice to be heard and helps with the important business of working to make Stroudsburg the best community possible!

We currently have several openings on the Historic Architecture Review Board (HARB); an alternate position on the Zoning Hearing Board; and two openings on the Parks & Recreation Commission. We also have openings on Board Committees: Codes, Finance, Parking, Sewer, Streets, PR/Media and Redevelopment. For more information on committees, visit the Borough website. Subject matter knowledge isn't necessary, just a sincere willingness to learn!

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Borough Manager Larry Kopp by email at lkopp@stroudsburgboro.com or 570-421-5444, Ext 104.



(Continued from Page 2) recommendations to Borough Council, who are ultimately responsible for decisions. Maintaining the historic integrity of the district, and preserving historic structures, is very important to the Borough.

Borough Council is looking at ways at how to improve the functioning of HARB. If you reside within the historic district, we are asking your help by completing the enclosed survey. Your experiences with HARB, and your views on how HARB can better serve you and the community, are important to Council making informed decisions about HARB and the Historic District.

Please return the survey to the Borough Office at 700 Sarah Street by December 2nd. Or if you would prefer, you can take the online survey by following the link on the Stroudsburg Borough website, stroudsburgboro.com. Thank you in advance for your help in making HARB better serve our community!

Dumpster Ordinance Goes into Effect in 2023

After being delayed due to the COVID Pandemic, the Borough's Dumpster Ordinance is set to go into effect on January 1st, 2023.

What does the Ordinance contain? It requires that all properties in commercial and mixed use districts – except single or two family residences – and for all commercial properties in residential districts to screen dumpsters, trash and recycling containers so that they are not visible from the right-of-way.

The Ordinance also requires that screening in the Historic District meet special requirements in line with the HARB Ordinance.

Details of the Ordinance are available online on the Borough website, Copies of the Ordinance were mailed this summer to property owners in the Borough that have dumpsters on their property and thus may be required to comply with the Ordinance.

Borough Council is aware that in some cases, due to property size, dumpster location, or other circumstances, screening may be impossible and thus may not be able to meet the requirements of this Ordinance. If you feel that circumstances do not allow screening on your property, please contact Borough Manager Larry Kopp to discuss. Exemptions, in some cases, will be permitted. Any exemptions will be approved by Council.

Why is the Borough requiring screening? To make a cleaner, safer Borough, by keeping vermin out of trash, and making it a visually more attractive one as well. With your cooperation, working together, we can make Stroudsburg a better place for all!



Stroudsburg Events | Fall & Winter 2022-2023

Monroe Farmers Market	Saturdays through Nov 1st 8:00 am to Noon
Spooky Stroudsburg	Oct 15th through Oct 31st
Carved Pumpkin Contest	Saturday, October 15th 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Halloween on Main	Saturday, October 29th 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Borough Trick or Treating	Monday, October 31st 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Monroe Christmas Market	Saturdays, Nov 7th to Dec 17th 9:00 am to Noon
Christmas Tree Lighting	Friday, November 25th 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Snowmen of Stroudsburg	Nov 25th through Feb 25th All Day
Small Business Saturday	Saturday, November 26th All Day
Winterfest	Saturday, February 18th 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

www.visitdowntownstroudsburg.com

www.stroudsburgborough.com

Or visit the Borough's Facebook Page at:

www.facebook.com/StroudsburgBoro

A special "thank you" to Beyond Limits Productions for their beautiful photos of the Austin-Healey Car Show.



Borough of Stroudsburg
Municipal Building
700 Sarah Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
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Stroudsburg, PA
18360

OCCUPANT

Take the HARB Survey Enclosed Inside the Newsletter