



Stroudsburg News

Newsletter of Stroudsburg | Fall 2021, Issue II

Stroudsburg | A Community on the Move

A Message from Mayor Tarah Probst

Hello Stroudsburg! What a great summer! We had so many events this summer that were so inspiring and uplifting and brought our community together, from *Concerts In The Square*, *Greek Fest*, *Stroud Fest*, *The Irish Festival* and everything in between. We were a top 10 finalist in the T-Mobile Nationwide contest and won \$50,000.00! We were listed in *Travel Magazine* as a top 10 destination as well. I see the downtown busy, I see projects being done on homes and beautification in our neighborhoods. 2020 was tough on everyone, everywhere, but Stroudsburg hung in there and a big thank you to our residents, businesses and of course our first responders for doing everything you could to get through it... and we did.

And we see growth in the business and nonprofit communities. Biospectra, who just moved to Stroudsburg this summer, is working hard and getting the old Shop Rite Plaza ready for operation. This will create great paying jobs and helps the borough with earned local income tax. Many small businesses opened up on Main Street and side streets and they look great. In 2022, there are plans in zoning for many building projects that will put even more local earned income tax to our borough. We have expansion projects such as the YMCA, Monroe County Courthouse, Monroe County Historical Association coming up as well.

We have trails, parks, green space and a walkable borough and there is nothing better for me than seeing people enjoying our downtown, while seeing residents walk their dogs and go for walks through town. I LOVE IT. The borough secured many grants to brighten our streets, such as decorative crosswalks and sidewalks, to murals and historical markers. Our committees work hard and meet monthly to keep moving forward and making the lives of our residents better and keeping our downtown busy. I could go on and on talking about all the wonderful things, but if you go on Stroudsburg Borough Facebook page or Visit Downtown Stroudsburg Facebook page, you will always be updated. Thank you again Stroudsburg for giving me the honor of being your Mayor.



Recycling Redux

A Reminder to Recycle

In 1988, Pennsylvania enacted Act 101, requiring some municipalities within the state to adopt a recycling program for their residents. Stroudsburg is one of those communities affected by Act 101, and in 1990 an Ordinance was passed establishing the Borough's own recycling program.

So, what exactly is this program and what are you required to do as a resident of Stroudsburg?

Recyclables are collected every two weeks curbside. The Borough is divided into three pick-up areas; depending on your location, your pick-up will be on Tuesdays, Wednesday or Thursdays. A list of zones and a schedule of pick-up dates for the rest of the year are included inside this newsletter.

What recyclable items are part of curbside pick-up? Items include paper products, newspaper, magazines, cardboard & junk mail; glass jars and bottles; aluminum cans & foil; and plastic bottles. Please see inside for more details on curbside pick-up.

Why should residents recycle? It reduces the amount sent to landfills and it preserves crucial natural resources. And most importantly, it's the law. **The Stroudsburg Borough Code, §20-202, makes curbside pick-up of recyclables mandatory for all residents.** Penalties include fines of up to \$600. When you don't recycle, you are violating the law and depriving our community of much needed income through the sale of recyclables. And remember, when you recycle, you are helping to keep taxes rates down!

Our recycling partner is East Stroudsburg; the Twin Boroughs Recycling Center is the hub of both municipalities recycling programs. Located behind Walmart on Lincoln Avenue in East Stroudsburg, the Twin Boroughs Recycling Center is open Monday—Saturday to drop (Continued Page 3)

Stormwater Pollution and You

Keeping Our Waterways Clean is Everyone's Responsibility

Stroudsburg Borough is literally surrounded by water. With Broadhead Creek to the East, McMichael Creek in the South, and Little Pocono and Pocono Creeks in the West and North, our waterways are very much a part of the daily life of our community. And keeping our many waterways clean is critically important for the community's wellbeing. It also is ultimately the responsibility of all residents.

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground; impervious surfaces like sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. As stormwater flows over streets, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Like most communities, the stormwater runoff collected by our municipal stormwater sewer system discharges directly into our waterways without treatment. Pollution runoff is our Nation's single greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, residents can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off of the ground and out of stormwater. Follow these simple steps to help keep our waterways clean:

- Wash your car on the lawn (not the street or driveway), or take your car to a commercial car wash.
- Plant lots of trees, shrubs, and ground cover.
- NEVER dump used oil down the drain or onto the ground.
- Always pick-up after your pet and throw in the trash.
- Use a rain barrel to catch and store water for gardens.
- Redirect down spouts from paved areas to vegetated areas and make sure they are not entering the sewer system!
- Use porous materials (i.e. wooden planks and bricks) for walkways and patios.
- Grade driveway and walkways to direct water flow toward vegetated areas.
- Volunteer to help with the Brodhead Watershed Association.



For more information on the Borough's Stormwater Management Plan, visit the Borough's website, stroudsburgboro.com.

Stroudsburg Borough Budget & Finances 2022 | What You Need to Know

As the leaves turn to many colors and the temperature drops, the attentions of elected and appointed municipal officials turn to... the next year's budget! PA law states that all municipalities must have a budget in place by December 31st for the upcoming year. What do you, as a resident, need to know about the upcoming budget process?

To know where you are going, you need to know where you have been. Borough Manager Larry Kopp did an in-depth study of the past five years of finances to help Council prepare for the 2022 Budget process. This study was presented to the Finance Committee, and then to full Council at the September 7th Council Meeting.

Overall, the Borough's financial position remains strong. The Borough has substantial funds on hand— \$10.2 Million in the Borough's 10 Funds—to confront any emergencies. In 2020, the Borough's revenue only dropped 1.6%, which was remarkable in the year of COVID. That



small loss, combined with judicious cost saving measures, made the financial "hit" from COVID less than expected. Police costs are low, around 40% of the General Fund Budget; some municipalities spend as much as 70%. And 2021 looks to be a great year financially, with all funds under budget for expenses and income stronger than expected.

What concerns were noted in the financial study? Expenses have been rising, although within budgeted levels. 2022 will call for an across the board look at expenses and making judicious cuts without affecting necessary services. Health Insurance costs have been rising. Earned revenue needs to be maximized to lessen the need for property tax increases. No serious concerns, just a need for careful planning in 2022.

A Reminder to Borough Residents to Recycle

(Continued from Page 1) off recyclables. Electronic devices can be dropped off at the Recycling Center as well.

By recycling you are reducing the amount sent to landfills as well as conserving finite natural resources. And the sale of recyclables provides much needed income to the Borough. But most importantly, by recycling you are following the law in the Borough and making it a better place for all residents!

Recycling Calendar September—December 2021

Tuesdays

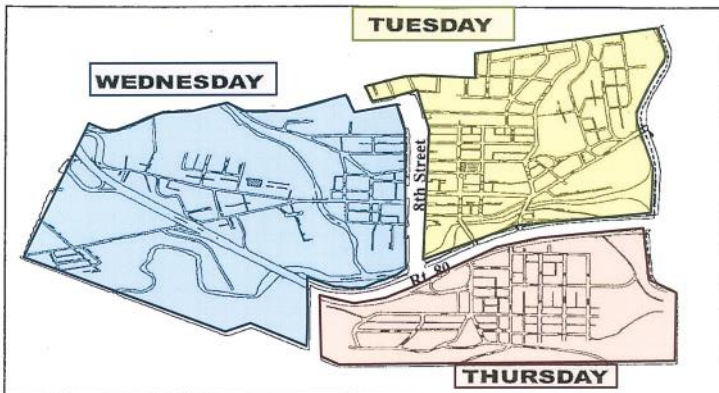
September 7 & 21	October 5 & 19
November 3, 16 & 30	December 14 & 28

Wednesdays

September 8 & 22	October 6 & 20
November 4 & 17	December 1, 15 & 29

Thursdays

September 9 & 23	October 7 & 21
November 5 & 18	December 2, 16 & 30



Recycling Information for Stroudsburg Borough

Curbside Recycling

- Please have your recyclables out along the curb by 5:00 am on the day of pick-up.
- Keep your recycling pail in a visible location.
- Use your pails for glass & aluminum cans.
- Do not break glass before placing it in the pail.
- Do not place light bulbs, mirrors, or items made of clay or laminated glass in with your recyclables.

Items for Curbside Pick-Up

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, CARDBOARD & JUNK MAIL

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 kept separate from paper. Cardboard must be broken down and tied.

GLASS JARS/BOTTLES (BROWN, CLEAR & GREEN)

Sort bottles by color. Rinse out bottles. Labels may be left on. No windowpane, blue bottles or ceramic glass are accepted.

ALUMINUM CANS & FOIL

Rinse and flatten aluminum cans.

PLASTIC BOTTLES

Please rinse bottles and tubs, remove caps & crush to save space. Plastic bottles and tubs with Nos. 1-7 are accepted. NO MOTOR OIL BOTTLES! No black plastic. You may put your plastic bottles in a garbage bag.

Twin Boroughs Recycling Center

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am to 11:30 am
Telephone: (570) 424-5170

And what are those plans for 2022? Firstly, publish requests for proposals for majors expenditures in 2022, including health insurance, to ensure the lowest prices. Work on maximizing income from fines and fees, aligning them with the actual costs incurred. Work on collecting back due sewer fees and liens. And work on developing a long-term financial plan, looking out 10 years. Finally, Borough payments on two major past projects come to an end in 2022, removing \$507,000 in expenses, helping ease the overall financial burden.

What's not going to change in 2022? Great service to residents, including infrastructure upgrades! We are going to pave a portion of Thomas Street as well as replacing a portion of the sewer main on Ann Street, using federal grant funds. And we are going to be automating our permitting systems, greatly increasing efficiency and providing better service to residents.

Elected and appointed officials are working hard every day to make life better for all residents and to make Stroudsburg the best community possible. If you have any questions about the budget or finances, please contact us!





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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 280
Stroudsburg, PA
18360

OCCUPANT

Why is November 2nd Important?



November 2nd is a date of national importance... the date of general elections in 2021! The Federal Government has set "...the Tuesday next after

the first Monday in the month of November" as the annual date for elections of public officials.

In Stroudsburg Borough, we have three seats on Borough Council as well as the position of Mayor up for grabs in this year's election. It seems that oftentimes "off year" elections, when Presidents and major statewide positions are not on the ballot, have light voter turnout. But these elections are the ones that truly affect your life the most, and can do the most to increase the quality of life in your community, as local officials are elected in these "off years."

We strongly encourage all residents to get out and exercise their right—and responsibility—to vote! We are extremely fortunate to live in this great country where we have the ability to choose those who will represent us in our government. Please don't take this incredible opportunity for granted! Get online and research the candidates; ask them questions if you can, find out their positions on the issues that matter to you. And if you aren't yet registered, register to vote. Then, on November 2nd, visit your polling place and vote! Remember, the government we have is in your hands; vote and make sure your voice is heard!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spooky Stroudsburg | October 16th & October 30th

October 16th | Carved Pumpkin Contest

3:30 to 6:00 pm Drop off pumpkins by 5:15 pm to be judged. Prizes for best pumpkin will be awarded.

October 30th | Spooky Stroudsburg

1:00 to 6:00 pm Magic in the Square, Trick or Treat on Main Street & Spooky Fun in the Square.

October 31st | Trick or Treating

5:00 to 8:00 pm (5:00 to 6:00 pm for Smaller Children)

November 26th | Christmas Tree Lighting

5:00 to 8:00 pm

November 26th | Small Business Saturday

All Day Come out and support local businesses!

November 26th to Early 2022 | Snowmen of Stroudsburg

Come see our snowmen decorated by local artists!

President's Day Weekend | Winterfest 2022

Stay tuned for more details!

A "thank you" to The Madcat Freelance Photographer for page one photo. www.facebook.com/madcat.freelance.photographer