



Busy Borough in 2013; transitions top story

Many notable changes took place in Borough government last year. Sadly, Mayor Charlie Baughman resigned his post during the year due to health reasons and passed away later in the year. Mayor Baughman was a dedicated public servant, devoted to the entire Stroudsburg community.



Photo from *Pocono Record*
Mayor Charles Baughman served with distinction for nearly eight years.

Mr. John Baujan was appointed to fill the Mayor's position through the end of the year. Mayor Baujan had previ-

ously served, and was retired, as the Chief of the Stroud Area Regional Police Department. Although his term was brief, he took the assignment seriously and served with enthusiasm.

In the November election, voters selected Mr. David Deihl as the new Mayor for the next four year term, beginning on January 1, 2014.

Also in the election, voters returned to office Borough Council members Mr. Matt Abell and Mr. Boyd Weiss. Newly elected was Mr. Ken Lang, filling the open seat created when Council member Ms. Kathy Lockwood was unsuccessful in her bid for the Mayor's post. We gratefully thank Ms. Lockwood for her service on Council.

May 31st was the official retirement date of Borough Manager Barbara Quarantello. Ms. Quarantello



Borough Manager Barbara Quarantello retired just shy of one-quarter century of service.

began working for the Borough of Stroudsburg in 1989 and worked her way up in the ranks to finish her last six years in the top administrative slot.

Earlier in 2013, the Borough Council hired Ms. Cathryn Thomas as the new Manager to succeed Ms. Quarantello. Ms. Thomas started at the end of March and the Borough benefitted from several weeks of overlap and training involving the two managers.

No tax increase for 2014

In December, the Borough Council approved the 2014 budget. The adopted plan has no tax increase. This is the

fifth year in a row that millage rate has remained steady at 39.

Other notable events in 2013 included work performed by PennDOT related to pedestrian safety and improved traffic flow with a new, computerized signal system with advanced telemetry.

The Borough took delivery of a new 100-foot ladder truck, recently placed



The cab of the ladder truck during the manufacturing process.

in service by the Fire Department. The current configuration of the Fire Hall will not accommodate the weight and height of the new truck, so renovations are planned to meet these needs.

Meanwhile, the Borough built a new pole building on the property commonly known as the "shed" – that is the headquarters for the Borough Department of Public Works, located on Borough Street. The new ladder truck is housed there and the building will also accommodate other fire equipment displaced when renovations are being constructed.

Another major milestone in 2013 was the Borough entering into an agreement with PPL to purchase the street lighting system. Many may recall that this idea had been in the works over the past few years. Ultimately,

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Welcome! To the new Borough newsletter

With the new year the Borough is launching our new newsletter. The goal is to keep everyone informed on happenings in and around the Borough, especially items specific to local government. Plans are to publish three or four times per year with delivery by direct mail to all our residents and business owners.

The newsletter will refer to our Borough Web site, where often more detailed information can be found than can be included within the limitations of our printed publication. Our Web site also includes up-to-date information in between printed issues, so be sure to check there often for the latest news:

www.borough.stroudsburg.pa.us.

Exterior work on buildings in Historic area requires approval

The Stroudsburg Borough Council passed the Stroudsburg Historic Preservation District Ordinance in July, 2006 to protect and preserve historical buildings and streetscapes. Guidelines adopted set specific standards for exterior renovations and new construction.

The Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) is the public body charged with ensuring property owners within the designated historical area comply with the Ordinance. All HARB members are volunteers appointed by the Borough Council.

The HARB reviews proposed new construction, demolitions and exterior alterations to structures within the Historic District. After review, the HARB makes recommendations to Borough Council based on the Ordinance. Borough Council has the final say on issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, required before work begins.

The Historic Preservation District Map delineates properties included in the district. The Map can be found on the Borough Web site by selecting the "Historic District Guide" link on the front page and then following the link to the Map.

Assistance on all things related to the HARB and Historic District is available

The SFD wants you!

Volunteers needed, training provided, rewards unlimited

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 of the department. 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 service.
- Please 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.

Listen carefully to Snow Emergency declarations

A Snow Emergency is declared in the Borough anytime there is an accumulation of three-inches or more of snow or when, in the opinion of an authorized Borough official, street conditions are hazardous and dangerous. Snow Emergency Routes are signed throughout the Borough. Vehicles parked on snow emergency routes during a declared snow emergency are subject to ticketing and/or towing.

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

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.

Tenant registrations will not be mailed this year

In the past, at the beginning of each year, persons owning rental properties have received tenant registration forms in the mail from the Borough. Forms are required to be completed and returned to the Borough.

This year, the Borough will not be mailing these forms. In lieu of that, the Borough is investigating having the form available online for landlords to complete and submit electronically. At press time, however, this process had not been finalized.

Further instructions will be provided on the Borough Web site, through various media outlets and in future issues of this newsletter.

2013 Borough activities recap

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the Borough borrowed funds, at a very favorable interest rate, and entered into an agreement directly with the power company for the system to be turned over.

Before the actual transfer of the system, the Borough and PPL need to perform various levels of “make-ready work.” Once that is completed, then the system will be turned over to the Borough which will then assume maintenance responsibilities.

The advantage of the Borough taking ownership is that this significantly reduces the rate paid for electricity. This means that over time, the Borough will recoup its investment for the purchase and continually pay the lower rate, resulting in significant savings.

The Borough hired a contractor to perform road maintenance in various locations and install handicapped ramps on a number of sidewalks. Funding for this work was provided by a combination of local taxpayer dollars, State liquid fuels funds and Federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.



Installation of a flow meter as part of the Plant improvements, with the levee shown in the background.

The Borough partnered with neighboring municipalities on two important projects serving citizens in Stroudsburg and beyond. The “twin boroughs” – Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg – joined together so that each could achieve certification for the levee as a key area flood control project. Certification is required for enrollment in the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (R.I.P.), administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under the program, if a structure incurs storm damage greater than \$15,000, then the Federal Government will pay 80% of the cost to repair the structure.

The two boroughs also joined with Stroud Township in contributing to the cost for major upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant operated by the Brodhead

New in 2013!

Vehicles are subject to being “booted” if there are five or more unsettled parking tickets with the Borough that are unpaid



for more than 30 days from the issue date. Boots will not be removed until all parking fines and a \$50 booting fee are paid in full. Any vehicle left booted for more than 72 hours will be towed at the owner’s expense.

Creek Regional Authority (BCRA). That project has been ongoing and is nearing completion at this time.

The newly-designed facility will meet the needs of the partner municipalities, as well as environmental permit requirements. The costs for the improvements were just over \$34 million and resulted in capacity for the plant to treat 4.5 million gallons per day of municipal wastewater. It also greatly improves the quality of discharge into McMichael’s Creek.

Another goal of the project was to enable the plant accept flow from the Pocono Township collection system. That has been achieved, however Pocono is somewhat behind the original schedule for when it was planned for them to commence participation.

Through the years the Borough Council struggled with issues related to the Skate Park located near the Borough swimming pool near the High School. Problems at the park caused the Council to periodically close it and have the use discontinued. When serious vandalism occurred in 2012, Council members closed the park indefinitely.



Discussions in the spring of 2013 initially were to convert that area to something other than a skate park. Supporters of park users made another plea to Council members to reopen the park. Council agreed and Public Works crews readied the park for its reopening.

Signs and one-to-one contact with frequent users made it clear that this was a last chance for the park to reopen and remain available for skateboard enthusiasts. The fate of the park rested entirely with those who used it the most and had the greatest stake in avoiding problems so the park would remain open for use.

Happily, so far it has been working. It appears as though frequent users have been self-policing and problems have been kept to a minimum. The best result for the Borough will be for the positive use of this space for Stroudsburg youth to continue — it’s on a roll!

Residents required to recycle!

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 2014 is Tuesday, January 7 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 pick-up schedule or items planned to be dropped off.

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 paper.
- 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.** Only No. 1 and No. 2 plastics are collected (i.e., soda bottles, milk and water jugs, detergent bottles, etc.). **No** oil jugs, butter/yogurt containers are accepted. Plastic bottles may be placed in garbage bags.

No windowpane, blue bottles, ceramics or Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs/light bulbs) are accepted.

Note that curbside pick-up of recyclables will be suspended during snow emergencies. 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.



Shade Tree Commission members and Girl Scouts from Brownie Troop 50741 volunteered and teamed up with Public Works personnel to plant trees on Arbor Day. In 2013, about 20 new trees were purchased and planted throughout the Borough.

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

Spring Brush Pickup Dates: April 8, 9 and 10 and May 6, 7 and 8

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.

All other times these items may be dropped off at the Twin Boroughs 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 of Stroudsburg. 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.

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