

## Borough Books Bicentennial Bash

Instead of travelling for this year's Labor Day holiday, Borough officials hope Stroudsburg residents will stay local and join in celebrating the Borough's 200th Birthday on Saturday, September 5th. Plans for this once-in-a-lifetime event have been in the works for more than a year, with a committee of volunteers leading the effort. A variety of activities are planned, including:

- an ice cream social;
- a variety of musical presentations from area groups;
- burying a new time capsule, marked for opening in 2065;
- creation and distribution of a commemorative publication; and
- a fireworks display finale.

The Bicentennial Celebration will be made part of the StroudFest event which draws thousands of visitors to the Borough every year. The Sherman Theater sponsors StroudFest and has also agreed to donate its theater space for a Bicentennial kick-off event on Friday evening, September 4th, featuring a concert performed by the Trinity Centennial Band.

Near the Borough's exact 200th birthday date of February 6th, a time capsule buried in 1965 during the Borough's Sesquicentennial celebration was opened and the contents were removed. Inside were letters written by dignitaries from that time, some of which were addressed to their descendants and some of those persons were in attendance at the opening. There were also many newspaper articles, photos and other memorabilia.

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# SAVE THE DATE!



## Stroudsburg's 200th Celebration with StroudFest

## *SFD volunteer Bob Philips honored for 70 years of service*

Minimum wage was \$.40 per hour and the average American worker earned an annual salary of \$2,900. Those wages helped pay for milk (\$.62 per gallon), bread (\$.09 per loaf) and gasoline (\$.21 per gallon).

It was 1945 and in the heart of the Poconos, on March 1st, a young man, Robert Philips, decided to volunteer and joined Phoenix Fire Engine and Hose Company No. 2. That company today partners with Chemical Co. No. 1 and together they are the Stroudsburg Fire Department.

On March 22, 2015, Mr. Philips was honored for seven decades of service and notably for being the longest serving member of the Fire Department. Fire volunteers, from rank-and-file members up through the command staff, turned out for this special occasion and were joined by several dignitaries, many of whom made presentations to Mr. Philips commemorating this milestone.



Borough Councilperson Joanne Kochanski congratulates and expresses gratitude to Robert Philips for 70 years of service to the Stroudsburg Fire Department, joined by (l. to r.) Asst. Chief Charles Frantz, Chief Michael Seip and Asst. Chief John Stevens.



**Municipal Primary:  
Tuesday, May 19**

**Municipal Election:  
Tuesday, Nov. 3**

**Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

## Bicentennial

*continued from page 1*

All the items from the capsule have been logged and that list can be viewed on the Borough web site. Scanned images of the items may also be accessed via the web site.

It's not too late to volunteer to help with planning efforts and on the day of the event. The Committee meets at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Borough offices at 700 Sarah Street.

*Looking for a great gift  
idea for Graduation,  
Mother's or Father's Day?  
One-of-a-Kind, Limited Edition  
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, M-F 9-5, Cash or Check

## Swimming pool regulations

As the days get warmer and the end of the school year approaches, many of us are thinking of ways to have fun and cool off with our family and friends. One of the options is to install a swimming pool at your home.

If you already have a swimming pool, or if you are considering installing a pool, please be aware that the Borough has the following requirements for the safe installation and maintenance of all private swimming pools with a water depth of 24 inches or greater.

- A Zoning Permit is required prior to the installation of a pool/hot tub with a depth greater than 24 inches.
- A Zoning Permit is required for the erection of all fences.
- All pools/hot tubs with a water depth greater than 24 inches are required to be completely surrounded and enclosed by a four-foot high fence structurally suitable to deter direct access to the body of water in the pool. The fence shall not have openings, holes or gaps larger than



four inches. All gates or doors opening through such enclosures shall be equipped

with a self-closing and self-latching device designed to keep, and capable of keeping, such door or gate securely closed at all times.

- Any pool whose body of water is closer than six feet to a property line shall be shielded by a six-foot high privacy fence, hedge or other suitable visual obstruction, which shall serve to screen the pool from the adjoining property.
- An Electrical Permit is required for all electrical installations (pumps, lighting, outlets and similar devices) around or in the pool/hot tub.

In addition to the requirements listed above, the Borough also has regulations that prohibit the accumulation of stagnant water on properties.

For more information, or for permit applications, contact the Zoning and Codes Office at 570-421-5444.

## Cleaning up our water starts with you!

The most seemingly innocent activity can have surprisingly bad results. Walking your dogs and not cleaning up after them, for instance, is a much bigger deal than you think.

All warm-blooded animals — from dogs and ducks to humans — have fecal coliform bacteria living in our digestive tracts. And fecal coliform are the most common microscopic critters that contaminate natural waters. Excrement that finds its way into creeks and streams is loaded with them. Most of these bacteria are not harmful — but some can cause truly nasty diseases such as stomach flu, ear infections, typhoid, dysentery, hepatitis A and cholera.

Testing by the Brodhead Watershed Association shows that the lower Brodhead Creek, the lower McMichael Creek and Pocono Creek are all polluted by fecal coliform.

**Keeping these bacteria out of our water supply is everyone's job.** Clean up after your dog, even when it's not convenient. Don't feed the ducks (human food is bad for them, anyway). Have your septic system properly maintained (you'll save money in the long run). And don't put anything down a storm drain that you don't want to show up in your drinking water.

For information, or to become a water volunteer, go to:  
[brodheadwatershed.org](http://brodheadwatershed.org), or call 570-839-1120.

**Important reminder!**

# Special rules for exterior changes in Historic District

For properties in the Historic District, the Borough 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 Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) and if

issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by Borough Council is needed.

The Stroudsburg Borough Historic Preservation District Ordinance protects and preserves historic buildings and streetscapes. Guidelines adopted set specific standards for exterior renovations and new construction.

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## Tidy lawns make good neighborhoods

The Borough of Stroudsburg actively enforces an ordinance that controls how high people can let their grass and lawns grow. The full text of these rules is in the Borough Code online, Chapter 10, Part 3.



**One unkempt property can negatively impact a neighborhood. Please, keep weeds and grass under control!**

If the height of a lawn reaches 10 inches, that property owner will receive a notice from the Zoning and Codes Office to maintain the lawn. If this notice is ignored, a citation may be filed with the District Magistrate and a fine may be imposed.

Tall grass and weeds are unsightly and can be detrimental to health, safety, cleanliness and comfort of Borough residents and others. It's a good practice for all property owners to trim or mow lawns before they reach the 10-inch height, to avoid triggering contact from the Borough's Zoning Official. Well-maintained lawns enhance neighborhoods and can increase property values.

## There's safety in (house) numbers!

Having a house number prominently displayed can mean the difference between life and death! Emergency responders rely on residents to follow the rules so house numbers can be seen and addresses readily found.



The following is a summary of the Borough Code requirements for numbering on all buildings.

All residences, offices, stores and places of business, whether fronting on public streets or alleys or not, shall be numbered.

House numbers shall be a minimum of four inches in height with a contrasting background showing the address.

Numbers shall be placed in such a position as to be plainly visible from the street adjoining the property.

Buildings located greater than 50 feet from the street, or which are not visible from the street adjoining the property, shall have a sign or other method of display of the numbers which shall be located and visible no further than 50 feet from the street adjoining the property.

## Spring bulk item drop-off Sat., June 6, 8 a.m. to noon

Each Spring, the Borough offers bulk item drop-off at the Public Works Department on Borough Street off 10th Street.

There is a minimum charge of \$10 per pickup load, plus added charges for special materials (detailed below).

### Proof of Borough Residency is Required

Car tires: \$5 each

Car tires still on the rim: \$7 each

Truck tires: \$8 to \$15 each

Truck tires still on the rim: \$10 to \$17 each

Sofas and Mattresses: \$10 each

Batteries: \$2 each

**\*Demolition debris: \$15 per cubic yard**

\*Items such as lumber, drywall/sheetrock, landscapes ties, fencing material, etc.

*For example: A pickup load of yard debris, one mattress and one battery is \$22.*

**NO ROOFING OR CONTRACTOR DEBRIS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

All refrigerators, air conditioners, etc., must have a sticker showing that the refrigerants have been removed. See your local appliance dealer for details.

## Skilled and efficient DPW workers save taxpayer dollars

It's no secret that the Borough has had its share of troubles with our street sweeper, purchased only five years ago. On the first start-up for the 2015 spring season, the motor blew, rendering the unit inoperable. We attempted to work with the manufacturer and dealer to see what could be done—in what time frame and at what cost.

In the final analysis, it was decided that the best option for the Borough was to purchase a new motor from a parts dealer and install it using our in-house personnel.

The result was incredible, with an expert job done in record time and at a minimum savings to Borough taxpayers of \$6,000.

Kudos, to those talented and conscientious Borough DPW workers for an amazing job!



Pictured above, the old motor being removed from the street sweeper. That part was on a platform with many other parts attached, including the radiator (the large black part in the foreground). DPW personnel successfully detached and removed the old motor, attached the new motor and installed it back in the sweeper.

## Historic District

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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 Code. 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, along with added information and a link to the guidelines, can be found on the Borough web site by selecting the "Historic District Guide" link on the front page.

ECRWSS  
Postal Customer

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

*See the full-color newsletter online on the Borough web site!*

## *70 years is amazing, but volunteers for all time spans are appreciated!*

Congratulations to Stroudsburg Fire Department member Bob Philips on his 70-year anniversary serving as a volunteer (see the front page article). The Department is always seeking *new volunteers* to become active members. Training is provided. To find out more, send an email to: [recruit@stroudsburgfire.com](mailto:recruit@stroudsburgfire.com).

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.

### **Borough Holidays**

**Monday, May 25**

**Monday, June 15**

**Friday, July 3**

**Monday, September 7**

**If you have trained your dog to do this, great!  
If not, please pick up after your dog—it's the law!**

