

Stroudsburg in the Wintertime

Winter Brings a Myriad of Events to the Borough

Everyone is familiar with the holiday classic which proclaims, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” Stroudsburg can truly say that the “most wonderful time of the year” doesn’t end with New Year’s, but lasts all winter long. Thanks to our friends at GO Collaborative, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau and the Downtown Stroudsburg Business Association, residents and visitors alike can enjoy numerous events and activities throughout the winter months.

The winter - and holiday - seasons kicked off in 2021 on November 26th with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Courthouse Square. A large crowd turned out to enjoy this Stroudsburg tradition. This year, Public Works Director Brian Ace and the Public Works staff truly outdid themselves, with a beautiful tree a full 15’ taller than last year! November 26th also was “Small Business Saturday,” and the shops were full of customers looking for that perfect Christmas gift... and to support the many wonderful businesses and restaurants in Stroudsburg.

The festive, holiday spirit was buoyed by Christmas carolers serenading downtown visitors two Saturdays in December. And when the sun went down, Main Street was ablaze with new, beautiful lighting that truly turned Stroudsburg into a “Winter Wonderland.” Our heartfelt thanks to the Mattioli Foundation for their generous support for purchasing the lights that will adorn Main Street for many years to come.

November 26th also kicked off a new tradition for Stroudsburg, and one that is bringing nationwide attention to the Borough as well as becoming a significant economic driver for our Community: the Snowmen of Stroudsburg! The brainchild of GO Collaborative, in 2021-22, 39 Snowmen are placed throughout the Stroudsburg area. *(Continued on Page 2)*



Inflow & Infiltration

What it is... and why it is a Problem

Municipal governments are responsible for maintaining and running many of the amenities that we all take for granted. One of these essential services is sewer and wastewater. Exciting and sexy it certainly is not, but it is critical for the smooth functioning of any community.

So, when a problem was discovered in our wastewater system, it has the potential to be a major issue for our community. We are asking the help of all residents as we work to fix a problem that could have significant financial and environmental impacts on our Borough and its residents.

Stroudsburg Borough is responsible for maintaining the wastewater collection system in our community. Every time you flush the toilet or drain a sink, that water leaves your home and enters the wastewater collection system, eventually ending up at BCRA’s Wastewater Treatment Plant. The system is designed to accommodate this wastewater flow; no other water is supposed to enter this system.

However, the two hurricanes that affected Stroudsburg this summer revealed that significant amounts of stormwater are entering the wastewater system. BCRA’s Wastewater Treatment Plant was nearly overwhelmed by the enormous increases in water flow during the hurricanes. This is dangerous to the environment; if the plant is overwhelmed, raw sewage may have to be released into Brodhead Creek. And financially, the Borough is charged annually according to the amount of water used. So, the more water that flows into the plant, the more we all ultimately pay for sewer service.

Where does problem come from? Water not involved in the wastewater process enters the system through what is called Inflow and Infiltration. **Infiltration** is when groundwater seeps *(Continued on Page 3)*

Wintertime in Stroudsburg

Snowmen of Stroudsburg and Winterfest Highlight Activities



(Continued from Page 1) The snowmen will be displayed through the end of February; each month, the Snowmen will be moved to new locations. All of us have seen happy families taking “selfies” with the snowmen throughout the Borough. When you realize that every one of those families also eats in our restaurants and frequents businesses throughout the Borough, you can begin to understand the significant economic impact that the snowmen have had on our community. We have literally had visitors from across the U.S. come to Stroudsburg to see our Snowmen!

A special thank you to GO Collaborative for their vision and drive to make this project a success and the fourth year of Snowmen best and biggest yet; to the 27 artists who donated their time, talent, inspiration and hard work in bringing the Snowmen to life; and to the sponsors whose support made it all possible.

Finally, the winter season ends with another significant event: Winterfest! This year, **Winterfest will occur on Saturday, February 19th, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, during the President’s Day Holiday weekend.** The main attractions at Winterfest are the sculptures handcrafted out of ice; the downtown will be adorned with more than 50 of these incredible ice sculptures. This year’s theme for sculptures is “On and Under the Sea.” There also will be a large display and live ice sculpting demonstration in Courthouse Square. To complete the festivities, the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission is putting together one of their renowned scavenger hunts that can be enjoyed by all ages. And of course, local businesses will be offering discounts and specials throughout the holiday weekend.

Stroudsburg is a wonderful community, and winter is a wonderful season in the beautiful Pocono Mountains. Borough residents enjoy a quality of life second to none, and we invite all of you to partake of these events that help make us a vibrant community and make living here something unique and very special indeed!

Stroudsburg Borough Finances 2022 | A Very Good Year

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, municipalities included, due to the COVID pandemic. Financially, Stroudsburg, along with many other municipalities, saw a significant reduction in revenues from parking, taxes, permits and fees, while fixed costs remained the same.

It is amazing what difference a year can make. 2021 was a very good year for the Borough of Stroudsburg, financially speaking (and in just about every other way as well)!

Our general fund ended the year with a significant (\$600,000+) surplus; last year, it ended with a -\$100,000 shortfall, a \$700,000 turnaround. The Sewer Fund ended 2021 with a surplus of \$241,000; in 2020 the deficit was \$-181,000. This is the first time in at least five years that the Sewer Fund ended the year in the black.

Overall, of the ten funds, nine ended the year with surpluses, with the total surplus for these funds over \$1.5 Million. Cash on hand for emergencies increased by slightly over \$1 Million, a 15% increase from 2020. The financial position of the Borough has improved, and we are entering 2022 in a very good position to serve the residents of the Borough!

Look for a comprehensive Review of 2021 in the first quarter of 2022, including both financial and administrative activities. 2021 was a very good year for Stroudsburg!



Wastewater Inflow & Infiltration | What You Can Do to Help

(Continued from Page 1) into sewer pipes through cracks, leaky pipe joints and/or deteriorated manholes. **Inflow** is stormwater that enters the sewer system **through rain leaders, basement sump pumps or foundation drains** illegally connected to the sewer. While infiltration is a minor problem due to the age of much of our collection system, we determined that the majority of our problem is based upon inflow from illegal connections.

What can you do to help? It's simple, disconnect any illegal connections to the wastewater system from roof downspouts, sump pumps or foundation drains! And illegal is not hyperbole; the **Stroudsburg Borough Code, §18-305, prohibits these connections, with fines of up to \$1,000 per violation.**

Stroudsburg Borough is beginning an aggressive **smoke testing** program during winter 2022. Smoke testing is when safe, non-toxic, smoke is forced into the wastewater collection system. Sources of inflow into the system will be identified through the smoke exiting the system. More information on smoke testing and streets that will be affected are in the sidebar on the right. We also will be utilizing our camera truck in areas of potential high inflow to locate illegal connections to the wastewater collection system.

Inflow & Infiltration poses a potential significant threat to the environment, to the wastewater collection system... and to your pocketbook! We are asking your help in identifying and fixing this problem for the good of our Borough!



Smoke Testing Information

Areas for Initial Smoke Testing

700 & 800 Blocks of Ann St

800 & 900 Blocks of Scott St

700 Block of Monroe St

700 Block of Main St

600 & 700 Blocks of Sarah St

Is the Smoke Harmful

No, the smoke is completely safe for humans & pets.

What if the Smoke gets into my House

Contact a field crew member working in the area. Open windows for ventilation. The smoke will soon dissipate. This probably means there is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Where will the Smoke Appear

Smoke may be seen coming from roof vents, building foundations, manhole covers or yard cleanouts. Smoke coming from roof vents on the roof of homes is a normal occurrence.

Do you have to be Home during Smoke Testing

No, you do not have to be home. If there appears to be an issue with your property, the Borough will notify you.

Who is Conducting the Smoke Testing

Members of Stroudsburg Borough's Streets & Code Enforcement Departments will be conducting the testing.

How will I be Notified of Testing

Letters will be mailed to all residents 1 to 2 weeks prior to testing. Door hangers will go out the day prior to testing.

Any questions or concerns? Contact Borough Manager Larry Kopp at (570) 424-5444, or email lkopp@stroudsburgboro.com.

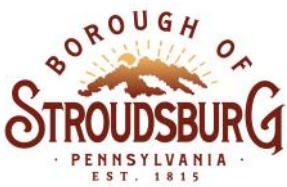
Welcome to our New Council Member

Stroudsburg Borough Council welcomes a new member in 2022, Toby Sabatine! And our congratulations to Mayor Tarah Probst and Council President Matt Abell, who have been reelected to Council. A native of Bangor, Toby moved to Stroudsburg while attending college and has lived here ever since.

In Toby's own words: *"I absolutely love our town. I can't think of a better place to live. I love to spend time in our many parks hiking and swimming with my husband, dog and friends. I also enjoy the arts and have been involved in our arts community for many years. I love and embrace the diversity of our community. I have supported, and continue to support, programs and events that celebrate all of our community members. I have worked in home health care for the past 15 years. This has given me a unique insight into the many challenges our seniors face. Helping our seniors live a dignified life is another passion of mine. I look forward to working hard for our amazing community."* Thank you, Toby, and congratulations!



Stroudsburg Gets a New “Look”



In today’s world, an organization’s brand is extremely important in defining who they are and what they stand for. And an organization’s logo is a huge part of that brand. Today, logos are literally everywhere.

So, when Stroudsburg Borough decided to rebrand and design a new logo, much care was taken to hire the best firm possible and to take time in coming up with a brand that tells the world who we are as a community, what we stand for, and what we believe in.

Borough Council received three proposals from local advertising firms to design a new logo and brand for the Borough. All were top-notch firms and extremely talented, but after much discussion, Council awarded the contract to CreativeWorks from Stroudsburg. The Public Relations Committee worked closely with their graphic design team to come up with several potential logos, going through a number of iterations to better represent who we are as a community. The final two logos were posted on Facebook for public comment; the over 400 comments received overwhelmingly voted for the new logo in use today!

Our special thanks to Konrad Nierwinski and Gaby Lopez from CreativeWorks for their patience, support, and talents in working with us in designing a great new logo that will be representing our Borough for many years to come!



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

Dumpster Ordinance Update



In October 2020, Borough Council passed Ordinance 1097, mandating that dumpsters - as well as trash and recycling containers - in commercial and mixed use districts must be screened to conceal these containers from the public right of way. This Ordinance pertains to any property in the above districts

except single or two family residences as well as to any commercial businesses in a residential district.

Screening dumpsters is a quality of life issue for residents and visitors. And the Ordinance has sanitary and health provisions as well that will inhibit vermin infestation in our neighborhoods.

Stroudsburg Borough has held off on enforcing this Ordinance due to the COVID Pandemic and the economic effect it has had on the business community. However, we are going to begin enforcement of this important Ordinance in 2022.

We ask for your support as we go forward. The full text of the Ordinance is available online at stroudsburgboro.com and contains many provisions that space does not permit us to list here. We will be sending out notices to affected property owners in the coming months. Thanks to our community for your support in implementing this important Ordinance!

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

OCCUPANT

Christmas Tree Pick-Up | Every Tuesday & Thursday in January