



# Stroudsburg News

Winter 2024 | Volume 11, Issue 4

## Stroudsburg Borough 2024 in Review

It was a Very Good Year for our Community!

"It was a Very Good Year" is the title of a song made famous by Frank Sinatra. It also could be used to describe 2024 in Stroudsburg Borough! With multiple infrastructure projects completed and myriad successes, financial and otherwise, 2024 was definitely a very good year for Stroudsburg!

As a Borough that is over 200-years old, we have much municipal infrastructure that is in constant need of attention and upgrade. This year, we completed multiple projects that addressed urgent infrastructure challenges. The replacement of a portion of the sewer main line on Ann Street between 5th and 7th Streets was our biggest project this year. Not only was it completed considerably under budget, but not one dollar of taxpayer funds was used, only federal grant funds and contributions from local waste and water authorities! We also began a multi-year project of upgrading our storm sewer system; this project also was completed under budget and in a timely manner!

Perhaps the most basic infrastructure need in the 21st Century are streets freshly paved and in good condition. In 2024, we spent a considerable amount of effort to repave, and upgrade, streets throughout the Borough. As part of the Ann Street Project, Ann Street from 5th to 7th Streets was repaved and a number of sidewalks replaced. Using CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Funds, we repaved South 8th Street. Our own, "in house," paving efforts upgraded a number of streets: South 6th, Collins, Thomas (7th to 8th), Foundry and North 7th Streets; and Dewberry Lane and Snyder Drive.

But life is more than just streets and sewers. Everyone needs parks and recreation, and in 2024, we made a major addition to a Borough Park. A new dog park in *(Continued on Page 2)*



## A New Position in Stroudsburg

Borough Council Approved Hiring a Downtown Manager

Over the past several years, the growth in our downtown has been remarkable. More and more businesses are coming to the downtown, and every year events are growing larger and more numerous, with more things happening every year!

The growth is exciting, and at the same time, daunting. Stroudsburg Borough does not have a staff member dedicated to the development of our downtown, and we have reached the point where something needed to be done to support and facilitate further growth.

After meetings with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau and the Downtown Stroudsburg Business Association, in the 2025 Borough Budget, Council has authorized funding for a Downtown Manager to facilitate and support the continued development of our Main Street corridor.

What that position will entail, and the exact form of a potential organization to support downtown growth is yet to be determined. 2025 will bring with it a visioning and strategic planning process to put together a plan on the best path forward for our community.

We are all excited by Stroudsburg's continued growth and the enormous potential for the future! We are looking forward to working with our friends and neighbors in putting together a plan for continued downtown development.





# Borough of Stroudsburg in 2024

## Numerous Infrastructure Upgrades are Highlights of the New Year

*(Continued from Page 1)* Glen Park has breathed new life into this underused facility. This new park has been a huge hit with residents and dogs alike, and we are considering additional upgrades to the park in 2025. And with the number of major events in the downtown continuing to grow, in 2024 we finished the installation of removable safety bollards on North 7th and Monroe Streets, allowing Court-house Square to be completely closed off from vehicular traffic for safety reasons. This project was funded through an allocation from Monroe County's Hotel Tax. Finally, we made much-needed repairs to our Borough Building, including the South and East porches.

Financially, 2024 was a great year for Stroudsburg. This year saw the Borough completely recover from the losses incurred during COVID, capping a multi-year effort to rebuild cash reserves lost due to the global pandemic. As of November 30th, the Borough's 13 Financial Funds had a value of \$14.9 Million, up 46% from 2022's \$10.2 Million. With newly rebuilt reserves of cash, Stroudsburg is now much better equipped to handle any potential future financial crisis as well as enhancing our ability to borrow funds, if ever needed.

Thanks to tireless efforts by elected officials, staff and volunteers, at the end of 2024, Stroudsburg is arguably in the best overall condition it has ever enjoyed. Our thanks to all involved who are dedicated to our beautiful community and work so hard to make Stroudsburg the best community it can possibly be!

## The Snowmen of Stroudsburg Make A Triumphant Return in 2024

They're back! Those whimsical harbingers of winter, the Snowmen of Stroudsburg, returned again to our community in late November for the seventh year.

58 Snowmen, the largest number ever, will be on display throughout the Stroudsburg area from November 29th, 2024, through February 21st, 2025. This year, ten new Snowmen joined those returning from last winter. A major tourist attraction, our jaunty, friendly Snowmen bring thousands of visitors to the Borough, providing a major economic boost to local businesses.

Maps of all the Snowmen's locations are available at the Stroudsburg Borough Building and stores throughout the Borough. And be sure to visit the Snowmen's webpage online, [gocollaborativestbg.com/snowmenofstroudsburg](http://gocollaborativestbg.com/snowmenofstroudsburg), for more information and to vote for your favorite Snowman! Our thanks to our friends at Go Collaborative for all of their hard work in making the Snowmen of Stroudsburg possible every year!



## Borough Increasing Select Fees in 2025

Local governments exist to serve their communities. However, that service comes at a financial price. While it is a violation of commonwealth law for municipalities to earn a "profit" on fees, it is a common sense practice for local governments to charge fees for services that cover the costs involved. To be clear, "fees" are charged to residents for a service performed or to pay for a required license; taxes are levied on residents as a contribution to government revenues.

As part of the 2025 Budget process, Borough staff looked at the fees we charge residents for services and licenses, looking at the staff time, and the number of staff involved, ensuring that we are covering our costs. By doing this, we can help keep property taxes lower by bringing in additional revenue through different income streams.

As a result of this detailed study, the Borough is raising fees in a number of areas for 2025. Costs for Health Licenses are increasing, as are fees to reimburse legal and engineering costs, especially in conjunction with the Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission. Licenses for signs, alarms, outdoor dining licenses and short-term rental properties are increasing in cost as well. Fees for the Borough's mandatory residential trash service are going up, from \$39/Monthly to \$42.50/Monthly, an increase of \$3.50/Monthly, to cover increased costs from our trash hauler. What fees are not increasing in 2025? Everything else, including sewer fees, which remain the same as in 2024.

We at the Borough are proud of the services we provide to our community. The increases in costs for services were kept as low as possible; we always keep in mind the balance between providing top-quality services and the costs to residents. Stroudsburg strives to offer the absolute finest customer service possible at the lowest cost possible, and we believe we have achieved that elusive goal.

### Solid Waste Fees (As of 1/1/25)

Monthly	\$42.50
Quarterly	\$127.00
Annual	\$500.00



## Dog Dialogues with Nicholas, the Borough's Canine Representative



As the canine officially tasked with human and pet relations in the Borough of Stroudsburg, Nicholas takes his job very seriously! He is at work every day with his best friend, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, listening to constituents and "sniffing out" any potential problems during his daily walks in the Borough.

Nicholas wants to remind everyone that Stroudsburg has a leash law, and that it is a violation of the Borough Code for owners to allow their furry friends to, *"...to run at large at any time, either upon any of the streets, alleys or public grounds in the Borough of Stroudsburg."* Thanks to Nicholas' advocacy, Stroudsburg now has a dog park, where canines can cavort without a leash to their heart's content! The Dog Park was established to allow all dogs a place to run free in the Borough without violating the law.

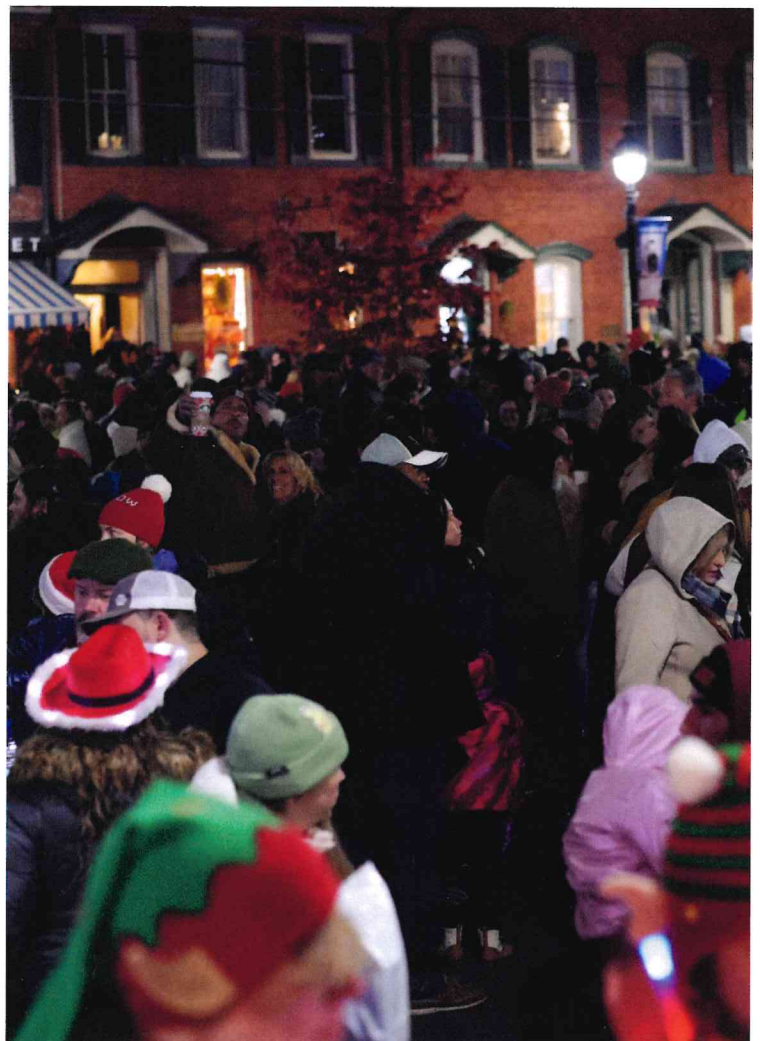
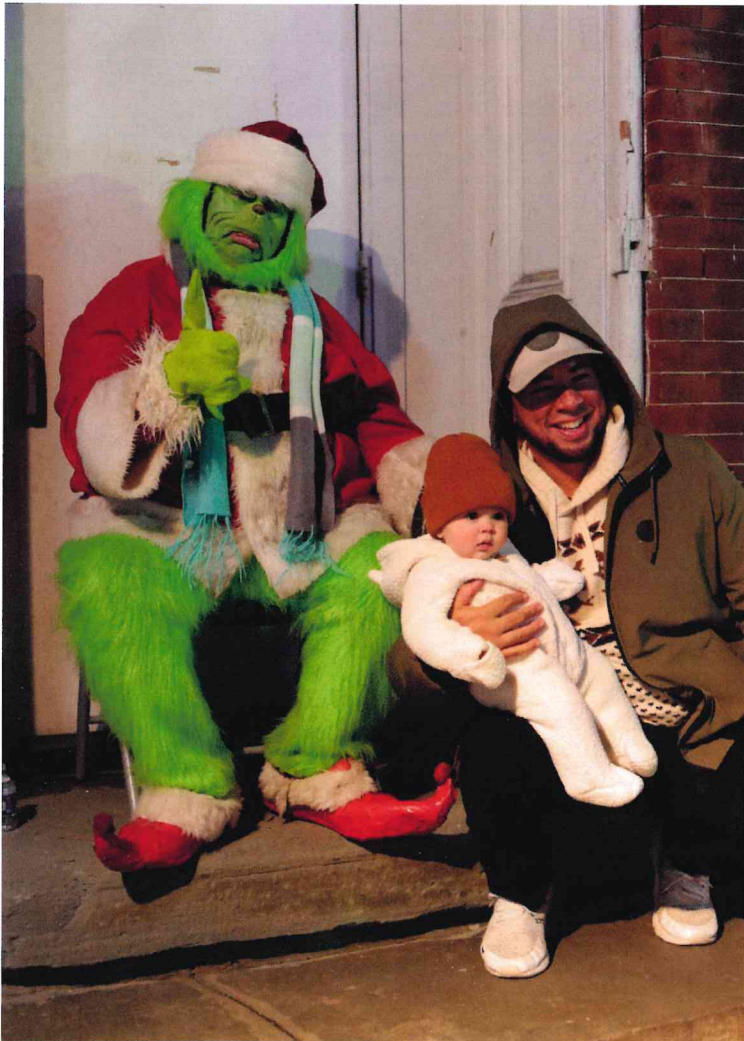
Any questions? Pet concerns? Nicholas is always available during regular business hours at the Borough Building to meet with residents, canine or human!

## Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 2024

One of our favorite Stroudsburg holiday traditions is the Annual Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting. Held the Friday after Thanksgiving, it brings in the season with mirth, merriment and loads of holiday cheer!

The 2024 edition of this event was on Friday, November 29th, in Courthouse Square. Public Works Director Brian Ace and his trusty elves truly outdid themselves this year, finding the largest, and most beautiful, Christmas tree yet. Music was provided by Brad Roccanova & the Big Band and the event was capped off by an appearance by the big guy himself, the one and only Santa Claus!

A very special "thank you" to Erik Diemer, whose hard work made this truly special community event a huge success!







**Borough of Stroudsburg**  
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**Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Great 2025!**



## Stroudsburg Events | Winter 2024-25

<b>Monroe Farmers Market</b>	January - March Saturdays, 10:00 am to Noon
<b>Snowmen of Stroudsburg</b>	November 29 - February 21 All Day
<b>Winterfest</b>	Saturday, February 15 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
<b>St. Patrick's Day Parade</b>	Sunday, March 23 1:15 pm to 4:00 pm

More Information at:

[www.monroefarmersmarket.com](http://www.monroefarmersmarket.com)  
[www.visitdowntownstroudsburg.com](http://www.visitdowntownstroudsburg.com)  
[www.poconomountains.com](http://www.poconomountains.com)  
[www.stroudsburgboro.com](http://www.stroudsburgboro.com)

Or visit the Borough's Facebook Page at:

[www.facebook.com/StroudsburgBoro](https://www.facebook.com/StroudsburgBoro)

