

STOCKERTOWN NEWS



No tax increase in 2009!

Adopt an elderly neighbor for the winter. Offer to walk their dog, pick up some groceries, shovel their walks, make them a meal. You'll be old too someday.

Protect your pets from the cold.

"The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor."

Hubert H. Humphrey

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

Mohammed Ali

May your New Year be blessed with fortune and good health!

A YEAR IN REVIEW, BUT FIRST...

Let's look at the budget.....

The Borough Budget for 2009 represents **no tax increase for the upcoming year.** It also represents the continuing effort of Borough Council to provide quality services to our residents while maintaining a fiscally prudent approach to management.

We have made many improvements over the last year improving and expanding our infrastructure and equipment resources. A number of improvements have been made to the Waste Water Treatment Facility, several Borough buildings, and Borough real estate. We intend to continue improving and expanding those areas deemed necessary and appropriate to a viable and functional municipality. We have a number of significant projects yet to be done, and will be addressing them in subsequent years.

There are several issues which we would like to bring to your attention, as they will affect the 2010 budget and tax rates.

For the fiscal year 2009, the Borough's cost for Sanitation Services (trash removal and recycling) is \$73,000, as it was in 2008. This represents 2.5 mils of the Real Estate Tax collected. We must negotiate a new contract in 2009 to become effective in 2010. Based on the experience of municipalities around us, we can expect an increase in costs of 50% to 100%. This will mean an additional 1.25 to 2.5 mils of Real Estate Tax will be needed to cover these new costs in 2010. The reasons for the increased Sanitation Services costs are numerous: reduced availability of and transport to land-fills, increased environmental fees, tipping (drop-off) fees, and transportation costs, and additional Federal and State regulations, among others. These fees for Sanitation Services are included in your Real Estate Tax bill.

The interest earned on our fund

and reserve deposits anticipated for 2008 was approximately \$40,000 or 1.4 mils. Due to the decline in the economy and the financial market problems, we earned about half the anticipated amount or 0.7 to 0.8 mils. This resulted in a short-fall of 2008 budget monies, and we anticipate that interest earnings for 2009 will not be any better. We have so far assimilated this short-fall by budget adjustments and tightening. Depending on the state of the overall economy through 2009, we may be forced to look for additional revenue in 2010 to replace lost interest revenue. There will be a similar effect in the Sewer Budget for 2010, but at slightly more than half the dollar amounts.

The electric utility company serving most of the Borough (PPL Electric Utilities) will be fully de-regulated in 2010. For 2009 we expect a 10% increase in electricity costs over 2008, and this increase is in the 2009 budget. For 2010 we anticipate an additional increase of up to 30% over 2009. Our budget for 2009 electricity is approximately \$21,800. If we realize a 30% increase in electricity costs in 2010, this will represent an additional \$6,500 or 0.3 mils. There will be a similar effect in the Sewer Budget for 2010, but at approximately half the dollar amounts.

We will be negotiating a new multi-year contract for Fire Service Protection to become effective in 2010, though we do not expect a significant increase. The current contract for Fire Protection is \$15,000 per year plus our portion of Fireman's Relief which comes from a fund provided by the State. We also anticipate some significant road repair/replacement activities in 2009 and/or 2010. We hope to pay for these issues by using a combination of our fund and reserve monies, possible grant monies, and possible longer term financing. The precise combination of these will be determined by the projects

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DIRECTORY

BOROUGH MAYOR
Sherman Metzgar

BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meets 1st & 3rd
Mondays at 7:30 PM
209 Main Street
Robin Davis, President
Amy Richard, Vice Pres.
Jack Fatzinger
Cindy Hower
Susan Sklodowsky
Rosemarie Wenzelbeger
Paul Zaboy

BOROUGH SECRETARY
Donna Frey
610 759-8393

BOROUGH SOLICITOR
Gary N. Asteak

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
Charles Davis
Jeff Forrer
Royce Getz

**ZONING OFFICER/
CODE INSPECTOR**
John Soloe

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**
Meets Monthly
2nd Monday 7:30 PM
Sean Dooley, Chairman
Joseph Gold, Secretary
Dave Danner
A. Joseph Gosnell
Vacancy

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD As Needed**
Eric Wenzelberger,
Chairman
Kim Malavolta
Morgan Schafer

TAX COLLECTOR
Connie Marakovits
610 759-3015

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and will be influenced by overall project costs, our funds availability, and the state of the economy. Other issues will probably occur in 2009 and 2010 and we will have to make adjustments accordingly. The cost for performing capital improvements continually increases, as does the cost for materials and maintenance. The only method the Borough has to ensure funding for these projects is through its real estate tax collection, as **the Borough has no Business Privilege Tax.**

The Borough has a mandate to provide specific services and to maintain and improve the infrastructure within its boundaries. It also has a mandate to remain solvent. That is, to maintain funds in reserve beyond the projected projects and for the unforeseen emergency. We on Borough Council take these mandates very seriously, as you can see from the above.

We will be happy to address any questions or concerns you, as residents, may have regarding these, and any other Borough issues. We also welcome your participation at Borough Council sessions, as we believe the residents have a right to know the issues Council must face, and to participate in the discussions of and the solutions to those issues. Now, the Year in Review.

For those who have missed our monthly meetings, 2008 has been a very busy year with many goals and plans coming to fruition.

Repairs and renovations for 2008 include the former Fire House which is now the Emergency Services Facility. It is a substation for Forks Fire Company and houses our fire truck #2514 as well as the police vehicles. The Borough Police Department has moved from Borough Hall to the new facility. Sidewalks and railings are installed at the Police Department entrance as well as a yellow "call box" which provides a method for residents to contact an on duty officer for situations of non-emergency. The call box is linked directly to the duty officer and Borough Secretary. The Police Department was awarded a \$10,000 grant for security equipment which helped the acquisition of new radios, a new computer and a security system complete with CCTV. An Open House was held in June and attended by many of our emergency service providers and town's folks.

With the demise of Forks Emer-

gency Squad, Nazareth Ambulance Corp has been designated by Council as Stockertown's ALS and BLS provider.

Major expenditures in 2008 (all by unanimous vote) include the purchase a new Ford 4x4 crew-cab utility truck, a skid loader and the lease of a 2 1/2 ton dump truck for use by the Public Works Department and sewer operations. The Borough has also ordered a pre-engineered storage building to be erected at the sewer plant to house some of the new vehicles and other equipment which currently remain outside in the elements.

New Ordinances adopted in 2008 include the Fire Burn Ordinance, the Knox Box Ordinance, and the No Parking Ordinance (400 block of Main Street) which completes the gap prohibiting parking anywhere on Main Street. Other decisions include a Resolution on Records Security and Access. General Code Company continues the process of codifying all of the Borough's ordinances. Upon completion, they will be available in an indexed catalogue, on disk and on line.

In other financial matters, Council has voted for a weeks paid vacation for the Borough Secretary, the Road Supervisor, and Assistant Road Supervisor. Note: While our injured road supervisor remains out on leave Council has provided temporary coverage for his position.

The quarterly sewer billing that had fallen behind has been made up with the addition of \$50.00 added to the past three billings. This enclosed current statement will again reflect the normal quarterly fee of \$150.00. Thank you for your cooperation and apologies for any hardship this may have caused. The traffic issue on Old Easton Road has been abandoned after exhausting various options in an attempt to rectify the situation.

Memorial Hall will be among the larger issues addressed this spring. A questionnaire was distributed and garnered a disappointing response of less than 25 returns. However, it remains Borough property and its condition will be professionally evaluated to determine the next course of action to be taken. A suggestion box has been placed in the vestibule for your comments and suggestions on this and any other topics of interest or concern.

Items being considered on the 2009 agenda will include the following:
1, Marking, fencing and completion of the Rails to Trails Corridor,



Footnotes from the Borough

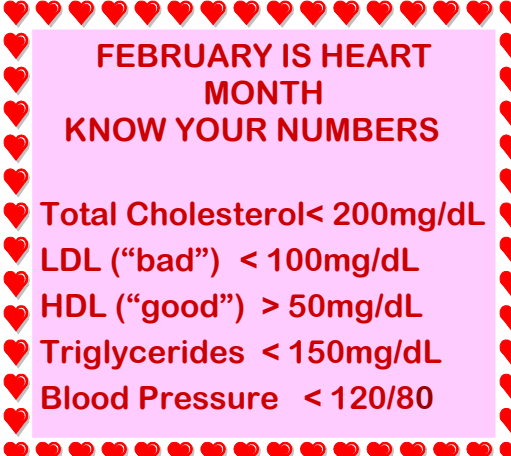
- If you are one of the people who has considered asking for home delivery of your mail, you might check first with your automobile insurance carrier. Insurance rates are frequently based on location and population as well as incident rates in that area. Your insurance rates may be higher if you assume the Easton address that will follow with the delivery status change.
- Some tips and requests from the Public Works Department:
 - It would be helpful for snowplowing if you would place reflectors along your property edge for those along Dogwood Lane, Old Easton Road, Lincoln Avenue and other streets without curbing.
 - It is unlawful to push or shovel snow from your property onto a public street in the Borough. Please refrain.
 - If you live in Long's Development or park your cars on other public roadways, please remove your cars from the roadway during a snow storm so the plows can clean the whole street and avoid damage to vehicles.
 - Remember, you have 24 hours in which to clear your sidewalks after a snowfall. Adopt a fire hydrant. If you live near a hydrant, please take five minutes and shovel around it. It could save precious minutes for a fireman.
- The Borough is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission. The Commission meets on the second Monday at 7:30PM. The remaining term runs until 2010. For information contact the Borough Secretary.
- Thanks to all who continue to heed the pleas to treat our sewer plant with care. Please remember, the sewer plant is not a garbage disposal. It does not accept clothing, diapers, feminine products and grease without serious consequences. We have garbage collection that accepts all of the above, so please make use of it rather than polluting the sewer service.
- With extreme weather conditions and national security concerns it is wise to be prepared. Enclosed is a "Preparedness List" from Homeland Security to help you be prepared and ready.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for awhile, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.



And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look. unknown

- 2, Evaluation, costs, and future of Memorial Hall,
- 3, Enhancing the bridge and pavilion at Newhart Park,
- 4, Construction of bathrooms at the Sewer Facility and Borough Garage,
- 5, A photocopier for the Police Department, and replacement of a Police car,
- 6, Road repairs and resurfacing throughout the Borough,
- 7, On going maintenance and improvements to the Sewer Facility, and
- 8, Creation of a Borough website.


FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH
KNOW YOUR NUMBERS
 Total Cholesterol < 200mg/dL
 LDL ("bad") < 100mg/dL
 HDL ("good") > 50mg/dL
 Triglycerides < 150mg/dL
 Blood Pressure < 120/80

EMERGENCY SERVICES

STOCKERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NON-EMERGENCY
610 330-2200
610 759-3232, Office
John Soloe, Chief
Molly Brown
Ralph Falcone
Steven Horvath
Joseph Straka
Kerri Tollinger
Joseph Vrable

911

FORKS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

NON-EMERGENCY
610 330-2200
Bryan Weis, Fire Chief
Timothy Weis,
Fire Marshall

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Charles Davis

D.E.P. 610 861-2070
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

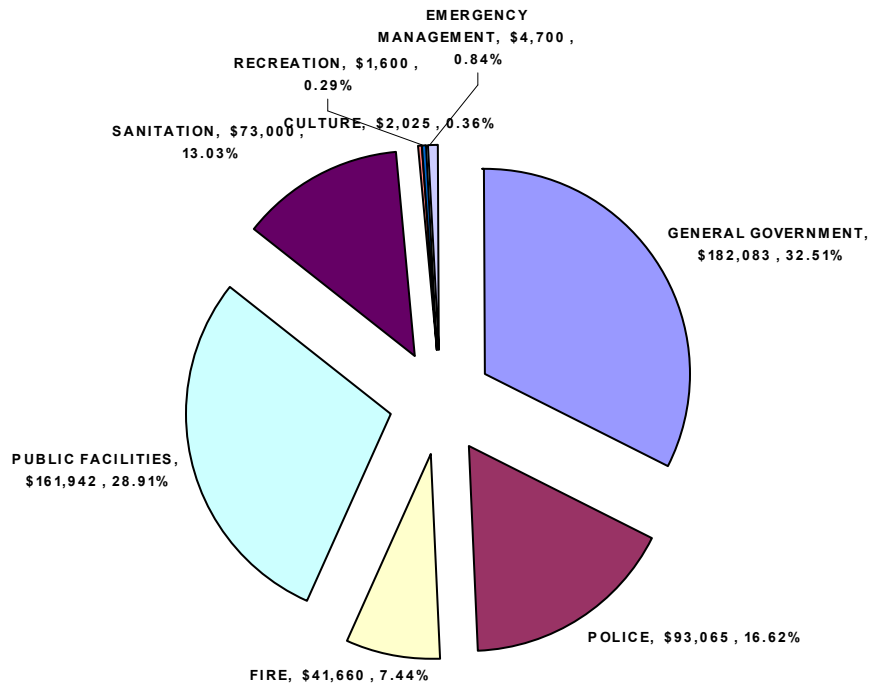
POST OFFICE
Glen Springer,
Postmaster
610 759-6278

STOCKERTOWN YOUTH ASSOCIATION
Info 610 759-4067

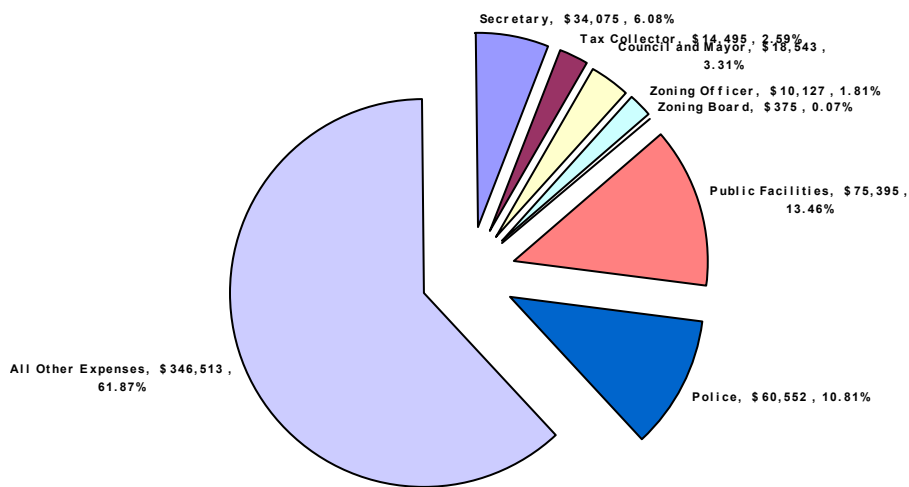
STOCKERTOWN ROD AND GUN CLUB
Info & Memberships
610 759-9255

Seven friends each has a home aquarium and each aquarium contains a different number of tropical fish. Bill has four times as many fish as Angela, who has three times as many fish as Carol, who has ten fewer fish than Colin, who has a third as many fish as Jenny, who has twice as many fish as Jamie who has twice as many fish as Brian. How many fish has each person got if the total number of fish is 107 ?

General Budget Department Breakout



General Budget Wage Breakout



Carla is married to Edward, Tracy is married to Michael, Barbara is married to Robert, Stella is married to Steven. Who is married to Christopher—Rosemary or Stephanie and why?



“Democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work, and give to those who are not.” ~Thomas Jefferson

* Answers to Brainteasers

#1 The 3rd letter of each woman's name is the same as the 5th letter of each man's name, so Rosemary is married to Christopher.
 #2 Jenny 36, Bill 24, Jamie 18, Colin 12, Brian 9, Angela 6, Carol 2.