

STOCKERTOWN NEWS



NOTICE

The Borough is temporarily without a Secretary/Treasurer. If you have concerns call 610 759-8393 and leave a message.

Messages are attended to daily.

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

Mohammed Ali

Adopt an elderly neighbor for the winter. Offer to walk their dog, pick up some groceries, shovel their walks, make them a hot meal. You too will get old.

Protect your pets from the cold.

May 2010 be blessed with fortune and good health!

A YEAR IN REVIEW

We are pleased to provide the 6-1 approved Stockertown Borough Budget for 2010, displayed on page four. This budget represents no tax increase for the year 2010. It also represents the continuing effort of Borough Council to provide quality services to our residents and maintain a fiscally prudent approach to managing the Borough.

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 2010 and subsequent years.

For the fiscal year 2010, the Borough's cost for Sanitation Services (trash removal and recycling) is \$74,159, up from \$73,000 in 2009, now representing 2.53 mills. We were very fortunate when negotiating the new three year contract in 2009, as the overall state of the economy very decidedly helped in keeping the new contract prices significantly lower than we had anticipated.

For the fiscal year 2010, the Fire Services Contract with Forks Township Fire Company has been renewed for a minimum of three years and maximum of five years at no increase in cost over the previous contract. It is remarkable to note that the costs for our fire coverage services have declined by 25% from 2009 and more than 50% from 2006, the last year in which Liberty Hose Fire Company provided services. Forks Township Fire Company has successfully held their coverage costs of \$15,000 per year to remain static for up to eight years.

The interest earned on our General Fund and Reserve deposits anticipated for 2010 is approximately \$14,900 or approximately 0.5 mills. Due to the de-

cline in the economy and the financial market problems, we anticipate that these interest earnings will be as projected and possibly even lower, and effectively halved the interest earnings received in the past years of 2008 and part of 2009. We have realized a decline in General Fund revenues of over \$10,000 from the 2009 budget, with an equal decline in the Sewer Fund. The budget has been adjusted to absorb these revenue shortfalls.

As you may be aware, the electric utility company serving most of the Borough (PPL Electric Utilities) will be fully de-regulated in 2010. We anticipate an additional increase of up to 38% over 2009. There will be a similar effect in the Sewer Fund for 2010, but at approximately half the dollar amounts. We are working in a joint effort with NAZCOG, to contract with a separate electricity generation provider in an effort keep these cost increases as low as possible.

We have been awarded the \$100,000 grant from DCNR to assist in the construction and development of one mile of the Stockertown Rails-to-Trails project. We have been working on this grant for well over two years. The grant must be matched by the Borough with an amount of money and/or in-kind services and materials equal to or greater than the grant award. This will allow us to complete the major linear portion of the trail from Bushkill and Center Streets to the north limit of the Borough during 2010 and 2011. The north limit of the trail will connect to the Plainfield Township trail across Route 191. We are also working with Tatamy Borough, Palmer Township, and Forks Township to determine the point at which the trail will cross the Bushkill Stream. This crossing will allow linkage to the Tatamy trail and trail points south and southwest within the county. The development of the stream crossing is not included in the current grant proposal. page 2



DIRECTORY

BOROUGH MAYOR
Sherman Metzgar

BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meets 1st & 3rd
Mondays at 7:30 PM
209 Main Street
Amy Richard, President
Paul Zaboy, Vice Pres.
Cindy Hower
Jack Fatzinger
A. Joseph Gosnell
Carl Zito
R. Wenzelberger

BOROUGH SECRETARY
To be Announced
610 759-8393

BOROUGH SOLICITOR
Gary N. Asteak

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
Charles Davis
Royce Getz
Jeff Forrer
Paul Zaboy Jr.

**ZONING OFFICER/
BUILDING INSPECTOR**
John Soloe

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

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD**
Meets As Needed
Morgan Schafer
Kim Malavolta

TAX COLLECTOR
Connie Marakovits
610 759-3015

The completion of the Stockertown trail, in its entirety, is considered to be a high priority project within the overall Northampton County trail system.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant is also being improved upon. The new storage garage is up and awaiting it's doors and lighting. We are conducting an ammonia control pilot project to address the typical winter-time ammonia violations our type of plant incurs. This pilot project is a DEP approved expansion of the pilot we did in 2009, and we hope will resolve the ammonia issue

In a 7-0 motion, Council choose to remove from the budget, the line items of Rod and Gun Club Donation and Stockertown Youth Association Donation. In a subsequent 7-0 motion, Council agreed to turn over the "Borough Picnic" and "Borough Tree Lighting/Christmas Party" completely to the Stockertown Youth Association. For many years they (the SYA) have done the bulk of the organizing of both events including soliciting donations from businesses, soliciting donations of items for the raffles, purchasing the hot dogs, barbeque, and drinks, purchasing prizes for the bingo and assorted other activities associated with the events. It is more accurate and fitting from a legal and financial aspect, for the SYA to have full control of these events as well as taking full credit for their efforts. In the past, the contribution from the Borough was comprised of man hours from Public Works to set up and tear down, the use of Borough Park Facilities, and a Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) cash donation for the picnic and a Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) cash donation for the Christmas Party. The Rod and Gun Club received an annual cash donation of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400). The Borough will still have the option to donate to either of these Non-profit organizations as it sees fit.

We anticipate the completion of the Codification project in the next few months. This project in short has taken all of the existing ordinances from the beginning of time, archived the older non-applicable ordinances, tested the current ordinances for substance and legality, and indexed and cross referenced them in a publication, as well as an online site for the general public to reference.

We will be seeking quotes for the creation of a website, that will host Borough announcements, meeting agendas

and minutes, the newsletter, and a wealth of other information.

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 a certain amount of funds in reserve beyond the projected projects and for the unforeseen emergency, just as within the normal household budget. We on Borough Council take these mandates seriously. An important point to note is that the Borough of Stockertown, unlike so many other municipalities, is not in a crisis situation. We have tried to maintain appropriate reserves to cover current and future needs. Barring a major disaster situation, we are in a position to continue forward in spite of the current economy.

We will be happy to address any questions or concerns you, as residents, may have regarding these, and any other Borough issues. We also would welcome your participation at the regular 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. Council has adopted a new meeting format which should make everyone comfortable in their participation.

Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays at Borough Hall at 7:30 PM.

Dark Chocolate Valentine's Cake

1 3/4 sticks of butter
7 ounces dark chocolate chopped
2/3 cup brown sugar
5 large eggs
3 Tbsp all-purpose flour
Pinch of salt
Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Generously butter a 9 inch round 2 inch deep pan. Dust with flour.
Melt butter and chocolate in pan over very low heat. Remove from heat and whisk in sugar and eggs one by one. Stir vigorously 3 to 4 times, than gently whisk in flour and salt.
Pour batter into pan and rap pan on counter once. Bake about 20 minutes or until knife comes out clean. Run knife around pan and cool 10 minutes, then unmold and cool further. Dust with 10X sugar if desired. Happy Valentine's Day!

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. -Winston Churchill



Footnotes from the Borough

- 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.
- During a **SNOW EMERGENCY** all vehicles must be removed from the street to facilitate plowing. The snow emergency will be announced on your local radio and TV stations, WFMZ, WEEX, WZZO, WAEB, B104, and 69 NEWS. Vehicles will be towed.
- Dusk to dawn lighting will be installed in Newhart Park to assist in abating the vandalism and inappropriate behavior sited in the park.
- Borough residents with special needs, please contact us at 610 759-2995 with your name and address so we can add you to our Emergency Response List.
- Thanks to all who continue to heed the pleas to treat our Wastewater Treatment Plant with care. Please remember, the Treatment 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 the awarding of the \$100,000 grant for the Rail-to-Trails project, Council would remind all property owners along the Rails-to-Trails corridor to check their deeds, as some owners may incorrectly assume that they own more land adjacent to the trail than they actually do. Additionally, please don't dump branches, grass, mulch and debris in the railroad bed/Rails-to-Trails corridor, or you will be cited. The project is scheduled to begin sometime in 2010.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

STOCKERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NON-EMERGENCY
 610 330-2200, 911
 610 759-3232, Office
 John Soloe, Chief
 Steven Horvath
 Joseph Straka
 Joseph Vrable
 Molly Brown

911

FORKS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

NON-EMERGENCY
 610 330-2200, 911
 Chuck Chapman,
 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

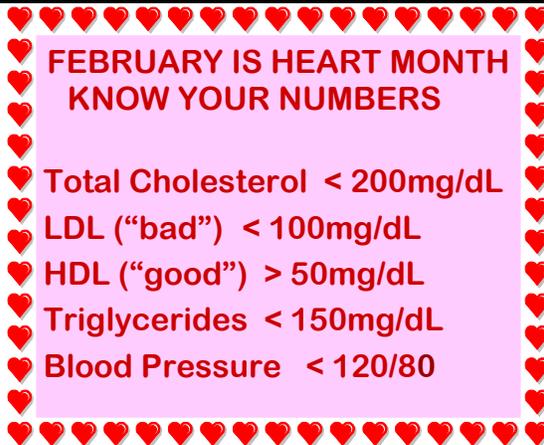
STOCKERTOWN YOUTH ASSOCIATION
 Info 610 759-4067

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

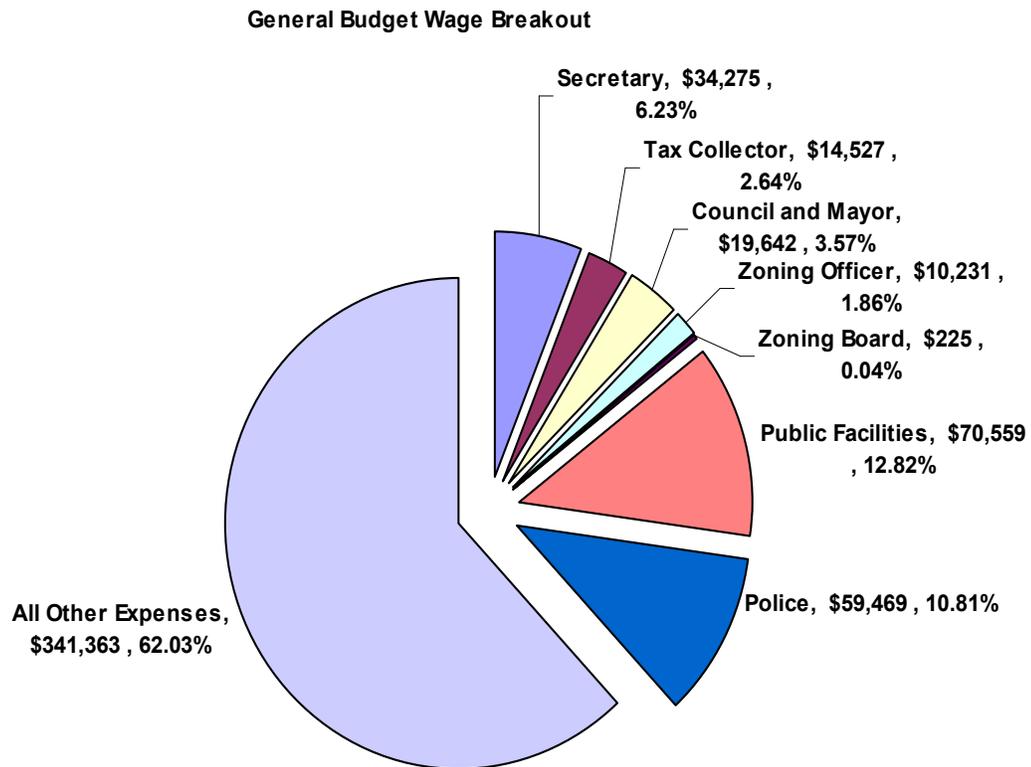
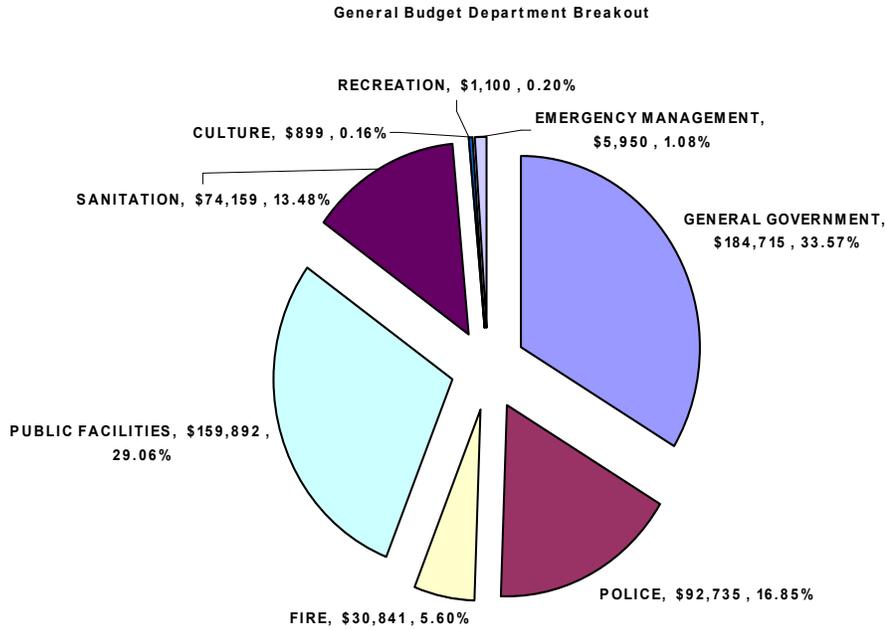
And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look. unknown

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

In light of the present financial crisis, it's interesting to read what Thomas Jefferson said in 1802:
 'I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than a standing army. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.'


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

The 2010 Stockertown Borough Budget Broken Out By Department And Wage



"Hanging onto resentment is like letting someone live rent-free in your head" Ann Landers