

STOCKERTOWN NEWS

Sing like you know the words, dance like no one's watching, and love like there's no tomorrow.

NOTICE

No tax increase in 2008

Effective 1/01/2008, cash will not be accepted at the Borough Office. When making payments for sewer bills, permits, or any other payment to the Borough, you must use check or money order.

The Borough will begin Rails-to-Trails boundary setting, as weather permits, in preparation for development.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

"It's a sad thing to witness the bystander turnout at a fire scene. It's a sadder thing to witness the lack of resident participation at Council Meetings. The comparison speaks volumes. "

AJR

Since you haven't come to us, we'll bring it to you! Here's what you missed in 2007.....

January 2007 started with a new Council President .

Liberty Hose was replaced by Forks Fire Company and a contract through December 2009 for a yearly fee of \$15,000 and our Fireman's Relief monies. Forks responded to more than 52 incidents in 2007, including vehicle accident assists, alarm activations, dumpster fires and 2 dwelling fires; all without personal injury. The fire gear, hose and equipment turned over to the Borough was sold to a fire Company in Ohio, and a non-profit Fire Training organization in New York. The Hahn pumper was sold to the highest offer and will go to Ecuador, with much of the bunker gear, hoses, and equipment. The FWD snorkel, after it was deemed non-repairable, was used for training exercises by Forks Fire, and then scrapped at Einfalt's Salvage. The Chevy utility truck, bought in 2006 and incorrectly modified by Liberty Hose

(rendering it unsafe and non-functional), will be sold for parts. The Salisbury pumper was repaired and is primarily housed here in Stockertown to be used by Forks Fire.

The former fire house has been cleaned, repaired, partially painted, and re-named Stockertown Emergency Services Building. A new boiler was installed, and a new asphalt shingle roof replaced the rotted and leaking existing roof with much of the substructure also being replaced. Phone service was restored, and cable internet service was installed by RCN (with no cost to the Borough). This building will serve as the sub-station for Forks Fire, as well as the Emergency Management office and eventually the Borough Police Department in the spring.

2007 brought us an additional part time police officer. The department was awarded a \$10,000 grant for new radios and related equipment. There were 223 Vehicle Stops, (172 Citations and 51 Warnings), 21 Truck Inspections, 14 Ordinance Violations and 9 Vehicle Accidents.

Council voted to allow Forks Emergency Squad to provide Basic Life Support to the Borough and Suburban Rescue Squad as the Advanced Life Support provider, assuring complete

DIRECTORY

BOROUGH MAYOR
Sherman Metzgar

BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meets 1st & 3rd
Mondays
7:30 PM 610 759-8393
Robin Davis, President
Amy Richard, Vice Pres.
Cindy Hower
Jack Fatzinger
Jason Martin
Susan Sklodowsky
Suzy Wentzelbeger

BOROUGH SECRETARY
Donna Frey
610 759-8393

BOROUGH SOLICITOR
Gary N. Asteak

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
Charles Davis
Royce Getz

**ZONING OFFICER/
BUILDING INSPECTOR**
John Soloe

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**
Meets Monthly
2nd Monday 7:30 PM
Jason Martin, Chairman
Robert Danner,
Secretary
Jack Fatzinger
Charles Davis

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

TAX COLLECTOR
Connie Marakovits
610 759-3015

Memorial Hall

White Elephant or Diamond in the Rough?

Years ago, around 1947, the Memorial Hall was built as a social hall honoring the veterans of World War II. In time the second floor was added to serve as a youth center, and eventually the kitchen was added to facilitate banquets and social events. Many Stockertown families were veterans and were associated with the Hall in one way or another. Some folks tended bar, some worked in the kitchen. The best filling ever made came from the kitchen of Memorial Hall. Four decades of merry patrons passed through those doors after a night of dancing, food and spirits.

The former fire house was built next door and over time, the usage of the Hall shifted more toward the local volunteer fire company. Somewhere early in this period, the property ownership of the Hall transferred to the fire company. Eventually, it declined to a bingo hall, laden with debt. Through delicate negotiations in 2003, Borough Council reached an agreement with the fire company to pay the existing mortgage debt in exchange for the deeds to Memorial Hall and the Fire House.

Many of our veterans have since passed away, and recollections of the war have vanished with them.

That was then.....

Today, after years of abuse and no reinvestment in maintenance and improvements, there it sits. A once proud landmark, is now diminished to an eyesore.

Most of the population in Stockertown today, cannot relate to Memorial Hall and its intended purpose.

Do we fix it or raze it? Do we rent it or sell it? Could it be used for something completely different? The answer is not a simple one.

In its current state, Memorial Hall can't be used at all. The roof leaks; the boiler needs to be replaced; the water pipes need to be replaced throughout most of

the building; the bathrooms need to be upgraded and converted to handicap accessible; the entire kitchen will need to be gutted and redone with new coolers, ovens, vents and cabinets. Most of the ceiling tiles in the lower level need to be replaced, and the tile flooring should be replaced also. The windows are of the old metal casing type, and the exterior is anything but appealing. Depending on its use, an elevator may be required, or a kitchen may not be relevant.

The bigger question is how to fund any intended use.

The options are many, but none will be without significant cost. Estimates for interior renovations conservatively range from \$350,000 to \$500,000 depending on its eventual use. The exterior facade will likely be in excess of \$100,000.

Since Memorial Hall is the property of the Borough of Stockertown, any renovation could be funded from the Borough's Investment account. Another option would be to float a bond for the project.

Its future use must be determined.

Is there a desire to use tax dollars for a project of this magnitude? Will it benefit the majority of the residents? How long will it take to get a return on the investment? Something to think about.....

by Amy Richard



OUR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN 2007

The Waste Water Treatment Plant continues to provide our community with efficient and effective waste treatment. We do have a problem every winter when the outside air and ground temperatures prevent the biological processes from performing their job efficiently. This is an on-going concern, and has been an issue since the plant was built. The Borough is working with our staff, our engineers, specialty engineers, and the DEP to resolve the issue.

In 2007, we experimented with three different methods to control excess winter-time ammonia, two of which proved ineffective without significant investment and engineering, and one which is showing promise. We are awaiting permit approval from DEP to test a fourth method. We have also initiated communication with both Easton Waste Water Treatment personnel and Nazareth Area Waste Water Treatment personnel to pursue connection to their system(s) during the winter months to resolve our non-compliance issues and to process any added capacity that may be needed by additional land development.

During the past year we have made improvements to the WWTP facility's components by installing more efficient pumps and grinders, significantly improving fine-bubble aeration processes, and adding more measurement sensors throughout the plant. The efficiency improvements will save us a considerable amount of electricity over the coming

years, and will help to offset increased utility costs and fund additional improvements. The measurement sensors allow us to gather a wealth of information about the actual processes occurring in the plant and have provided us with valuable data rather than the traditional "gut-feel" and intuition used in the past.

Our objective is to have a fully compliant plant operating efficiently and cost-effectively for our community.

As always, it is important that the community also does its part by not introducing improper materials into the waste water system, such as swimming pool and rain water, plastic items, rags and towels, dead cats, bricks, lumber, grease, and a plethora of other items that boggle the imagination. All these foreign items impact the operations of the plant, as we are using a biological process instead of an active chemical process. We could change to an active chemical process plant, but that would result in significantly higher construction, equipment, and personnel costs, higher daily operating costs, and of course, higher sewer billings to the community to pay for it all. Unless as a last resort, we have no desire to follow the active chemical plant path.

Please be reminded , by Ordinance: "It is unlawful to discharge ground water, pool or sump pump water into the Borough's sewer system." Anyone found in violation will be prosecuted."

SOME PEOPLE LIVE A LIFETIME AND WONDER IF THEY'VE EVER MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD. AMERICA'S SOLDIERS DON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM. THANK YOU! RONALD REAGAN

CHRISTMAS FRUIT BASKETS

Any borough resident age 75 or over is eligible to receive a fruit basket, courtesy of Stockertown Borough. Please notify the Borough Secretary at 610 759-8393 if you are of age and not already on our list.

NOTICE

It is unlawful to dump branches, mulch, litter and debris in the railroad bed/rails to trails corridor. PLEASE REFRAIN!

EMERGENCY NEEDS

Any borough resident with special needs of any type that could be compromised during emergency conditions such as snow or flooding, please contact the Borough Secretary at 610 759-8393 with your name and address so we can add you to our emergency management response list. Help us help you.

IT'S A VERY SHORT TRIP. WHILE ALIVE, LIVE. MALCOLM FORBES

EMERGENCY SERVICES

STOCKERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

911

FORKS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
Charles Davis

DEP (DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION)
610 861-2070

POST OFFICE
Glen Springer, Postmaster
610 759-6278

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

ambulance services.

A new computer, and related equipment, was purchased for the Borough office, as well as a postage meter. A new computer backup device was acquired which allows all computers to be backed up individually. The old computer was moved to the Emergency Management office and was setup for use by Emergency Management and Public Works.

Council hired the accounting firm of Campbell, Rappold and Yuristics to assist in setting up a standard chart of accounts and transferring of all financial transactions into one accounting program capable of producing multiple reports, payroll, and computer generated checks from all accounts. The firm will review the Borough accounts quarterly for errors and discrepancies. The new accounting software simplifies the annual budget process, aiding in more realistic and accurate entries.

Council approved the firm General Code to codify all existing Borough ordinances and resolutions over the next year and a half. This process will archive out-dated ordinances, review current legal issues, identify inconsistencies, and index all documents. When completed, the hope is, all current Borough ordinances will be available online as well as in the Borough office.

The Public Works Department has been busy cutting grass, trimming trees, patching roads, and painting curbs, benches, buildings, and mulching the play grounds and parks. A new piece of very popular park equipment and two stainless steel grills were installed in Newhart Park. These maintenance jobs consume a great amount of time and effort on the part of our limited Public Works staff, and Council is very pleased with their accomplishments. Bids are being sought for a pick-up truck to augment the bucket truck for general purpose use. The Borough acquired a new salt spreader for the larger dump truck. Council has started planning for street and road improvements that are anticipated in the coming year. Council is also planning for the purchase of tools and equipment as funds become available and as the current equipment is retired. The Rails-to-Trails corridor through town is a project Council has wanted to develop for

many years, but always seemed to be at the starved-end of any grant money allocations. In 2007 Council agreed to be part of a consortium to finish the Rails-to-Trails corridors throughout Northampton County, hoping this effort would result in grant monies to assist with the Rails-to-Trails completion. Council would advise all property owners along the Rails-to-Trails corridor to check their deeds, as many owners incorrectly assume that they own more land adjacent to the trail than they actually do.

Also in 2007, the Borough finalized an agreement with Penn DOT and Chrin Developments regarding the signalization of the Route 33 entry and exit ramps on Industrial Boulevard. These traffic signals will be installed in the near future. They are expected to improve the overall flow of traffic at the Route 33 interchange, and it is sincerely hoped that improvements will be felt in other areas of the Borough.

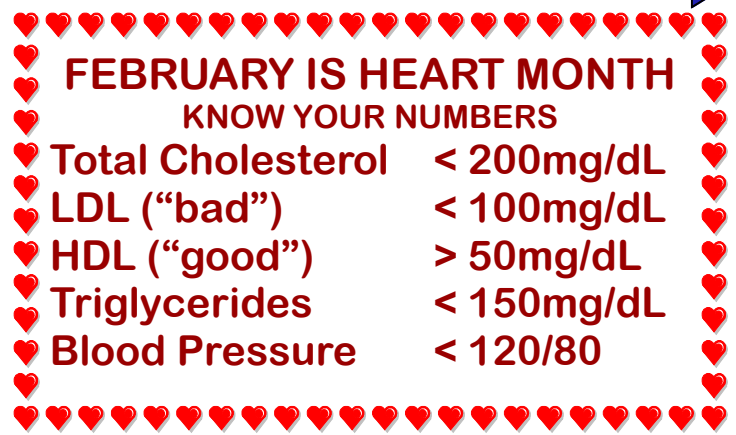
One final note of interest: Mayor Sherman Metzgar, was voted "Mayor of the Year" by the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations Mayor!

Items being considered in 2008: a parking issue on the 400 block of Main Street, the extension of Lincoln Street to the mill parking lot for a gated emergency-only egress, bathroom facilities at the borough garage, and sewer plant, the purchase of a skid loader for the Public Works Department, a replacement car for the Police Department, security for the Emergency Services building, and the revision of the burning ordinance.

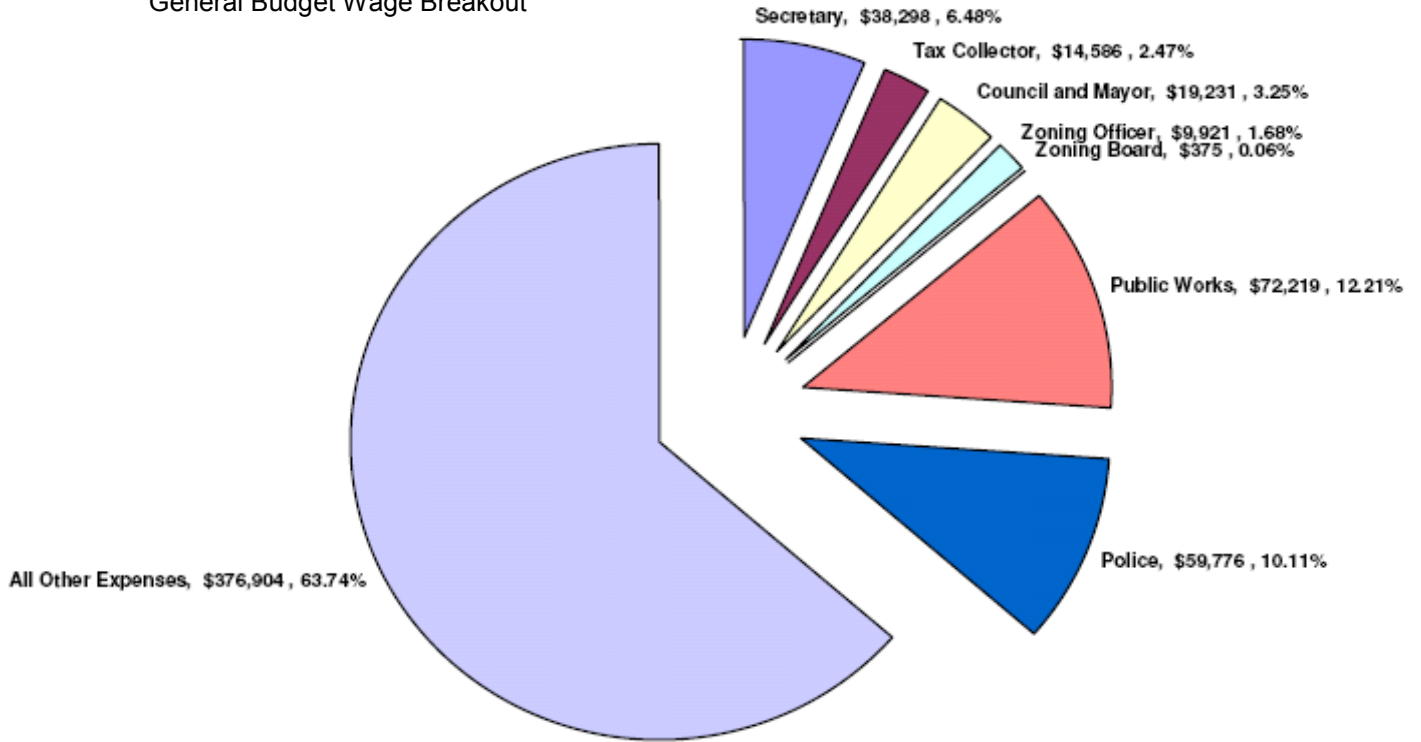
Last and most important, the tax rate will remain the same for the year 2008 at 11.5 mills.

The pie charts on page 5 show budget allocations for the year 2008.

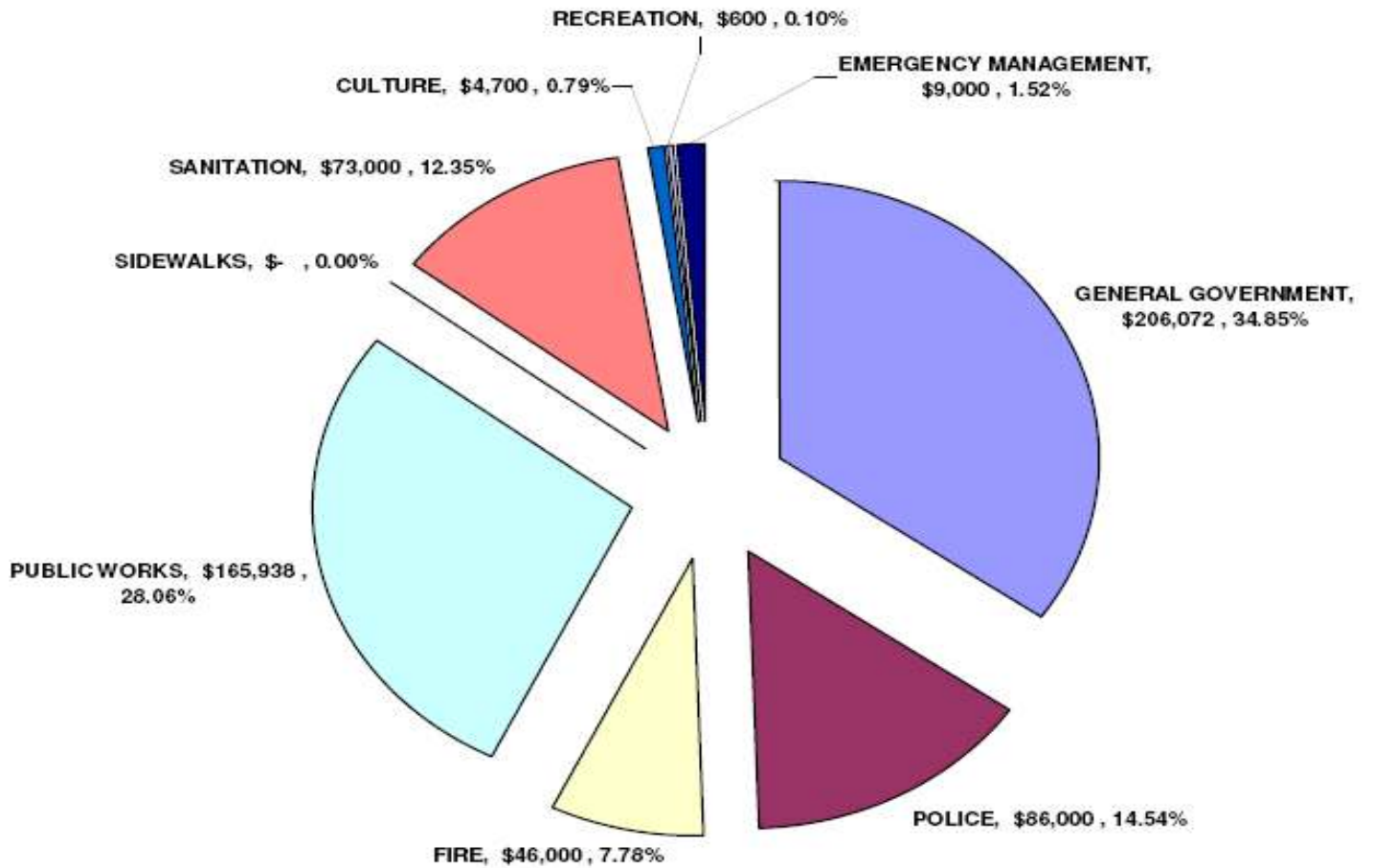



FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH
 KNOW YOUR NUMBERS
 Total Cholesterol < 200mg/dL
 LDL ("bad") < 100mg/dL
 HDL ("good") > 50mg/dL
 Triglycerides < 150mg/dL
 Blood Pressure < 120/80

General Budget Wage Breakout



General Budget Department Breakout



Have A Safe & Healthy New Year

Take a Trip

E	G	A	Y	O	V	Y	R	A	R	E	N	I	T	I
C	R	E	V	I	R	I	A	F	O	R	E	I	G	N
I	A	F	A	R	E	E	V	E	T	U	O	R	A	N
V	T	R	E	P	S	I	G	N	S	H	Y	V	S	O
R	E	F	E	E	E	A	C	A	F	E	E	Y	S	I
E	E	T	D	W	G	T	M	K	G	G	N	A	E	T
S	S	I	R	G	F	V	R	P	Y	G	R	D	V	A
E	C	H	A	L	E	T	V	A	C	L	U	I	I	N
R	R	B	O	A	T	A	H	M	N	C	O	L	T	I
V	E	T	E	K	C	I	T	E	E	S	J	O	A	T
A	I	T	R	A	I	N	C	A	R	L	P	H	L	S
T	R	S	T	O	P	O	V	E	R	E	E	O	E	E
I	U	I	X	A	T	E	D	I	U	G	Y	T	R	D
O	O	I	N	S	U	R	A	N	C	E	A	E	O	T
N	C	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	I	D	V	L	T	M

AIR	DESTINATION	ITINERARY	SERVICE
ARE WE THERE YET	DIRECTION	JOURNEY	SIGNS
BAGGAGE	FARE	LUGGAGE	STOPOVER
BUA I	FERRY	MAP	TAXI
BUS	FOREIGN	MOTEL	TICKET
CAFE	GAS	PETS	TRAIN
CAR	GUIDE	RATE	TRANSPORT
CHALET	HOLIDAY	RELATIVES	VACATION
COURIER	HOTEL	RESERVATION	VAN
CURRENCY	INN	RIVER	VIEW
DATES	INSURANCE	ROUTE	VOYAGE