

STOCKERTOWN NEWS

THINK SPRING !



A YEAR IN REVIEW

**KUDOS.....
to Charlie Davis,
Royce Getz, Paul
Zaboy Jr. and Jeff
Forrer, our Public
Works Department,
for the great job
they do at keeping
the roads and side-
walks plowed and
treated.**

THANK YOU!

**Winter is a time for
comfort, for good food
and warmth, for the
touch of a friendly
hand and for quiet
talks: it is a time for
home. ~ Edith Sitwell**

**Reach out your hand
to your elderly
neighbor. Walk their
dog, pick up some
groceries, shovel their
walks, make them a
hot meal.**

**Remember your pets
and the other crea-
tures outside.**



We are pleased to provide by unanimous vote, the approved Stockertown Borough Budget for 2011, displayed on page four. This budget represents **no tax increase** and no increase in the sewer usage fees for the upcoming year. It also reflects the continuing effort of Borough Council to provide quality services to our residents and maintain a fiscally prudent approach to managing the Borough.

We have made many improvements in 2010, including those to the Waste Water Treatment facility, several Borough buildings, and Borough policies. We have a number of significant projects to be accomplished in 2011.

After several public hearings, Council has decided by unanimous vote to raze Memorial Hall. Demolition specifications are being prepared for an anticipated early summer completion. The concrete date block on the front wall will be preserved for use in a memorial or possible new structure in the future. The estimated cost to remove the structure and return the site to a gravel lot is \$45,000.

Council is pursuing the creation of a Borough website. The domain name of stockertown.org has been secured for under \$100 per year. The proposals to create the site range from \$500 up, depending on the complexity of the site. Our hope is to keep it below \$1,000 while displaying general information and announcements, as well as member contacts, meeting agendas, minutes, newsletters, borough forms, a full listing of ordinances, taxing information and FAQs from each department. We are a small borough but we share the same issues as any larger municipality, and the ability to make information available to the residents 24/7 is essential.

A Borough Employee Policy has been adopted by unanimous vote, clarifying all areas of employer/employee expectations and responsibilities. The Borough Fee Schedule has been updated in several areas. One fee change pertaining directly to the residents, concerns park rentals. In the past, residents were able to rent the park pavilion with only a \$50 refundable deposit, and non-residents paid \$50 and a \$50 refundable deposit. Residents will now have to pay \$25 and a \$50 refundable deposit. Non-residents will be charged \$50 and a \$50 refundable deposit. Ball field reservations now apply to all adult leagues or teams and all Borough game fields. Practice or game use is \$50 per day, \$25 partial day, \$150 for multiple game and/or tournament use. The added fees cover the cost of opening/closing and clean up of the park by PW. Additional changes were made to the Junkyard and Recycling Facility permit and Water Termination processing fees.

For the fiscal year 2011, the Borough's cost for Sanitation Services (trash removal and recycling) is \$74,159, remaining the same as in 2010, representing 2.53 mils of your municipal tax. This contract should keep Sanitation Service costs constant until the beginning of 2013.

In the fiscal year 2010, the Fire Services contract with Forks Township Fire Company was 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 is over 400% less than 2006, the last year in which Liberty Hose Fire Company provided services. Forks Township Fire Company has successfully held their coverage costs at \$15,000 per year

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DIRECTORY

BOROUGH MAYOR
Sherman Metzger

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

BOROUGH SECRETARY
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
Vacancy

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD As Needed**
Morgan Schafer
Kim Malavolta
Lucienne Dooley

TAX COLLECTOR
Connie Marakovits
610 759-3015

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 since the original contract period in 2007.

The interest earned on our General Fund and Reserve deposits anticipated for 2011 is approximately \$4,850 or about 0.17 mils. Due to the on-going decline in the economy and financial markets, we anticipate that these interest earnings will be as projected and possibly even lower, which equates to one-third the interest earnings received in 2010. There will be a similar effect in the Sewer Fund for 2011. **We have realized a decline in General Fund interest revenues of more than \$20,000 from the 2010 budget and an overall decline of more than \$60,000 from 2008**, which was the Borough's largest budget year and a year where interest was at a much higher rate. The budget has been trimmed and adjusted to absorb these revenue shortfalls.

As you may be aware, the electric utility company serving most of the Borough (PPL Electric Utilities) was fully deregulated in 2010. In 2011 we anticipate holding the line in electricity costs over 2010. We are investigating under a joint effort with NAZCOG, and on our own, to contract with a separate electricity generation provider to help keep these costs as low as possible.

The Borough was awarded a \$100,000 grant from DCNR to assist in the construction and development of one mile of the Stockertown Rails-to-Trails project. The grant must be matched by the Borough with money and/or in-kind services and materials equal to 20% of the grant award. The Borough was also successful in 2010, with the approval of Northampton County Council, to allocate our portion of the 2001 Bond Issue to the Rails-to-Trails project. This provides an additional \$26,000 of funding for the project. This will allow us to complete the major portion of the trail from Bushkill and Center Streets to the northern limit of the Borough during 2011 which will connect to the Plainfield Township trail across Route 191. Work continues with Tatamy Borough, Palmer Township, and Forks Township to determine a crossing point over the Bushkill Stream on the southern border. This crossing will allow linkage to the Tatamy trail and points south within the county. The development of

the stream crossing is not included in the current grant proposal. The completion of the Stockertown trail, in its entirety, is still considered to be a high priority project within the overall Northampton County trail system.

The Borough is conducting an ammonia control pilot project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant to address the winter-time ammonia violations the plant incurs. This pilot project is a DEP approved expansion of the pilot done in 2009 and 2010, with plans to process one-third of the plant's daily flow through the approved chlorination/de-chlorination process. **If the pilot is successful, it will resolve the ammonia issue.**

The Borough has a mandate to provide specific services within its boundaries. It also has a mandate to remain solvent. That is, to maintain a certain amount of funds in reserve beyond projected expenditures and for unforeseen emergencies. We on Borough Council take these mandates very seriously. Not without intense deliberation, **Council has made significant cuts in the 2011 budget to assure that the tax rate did not increase in this stressful economy.**

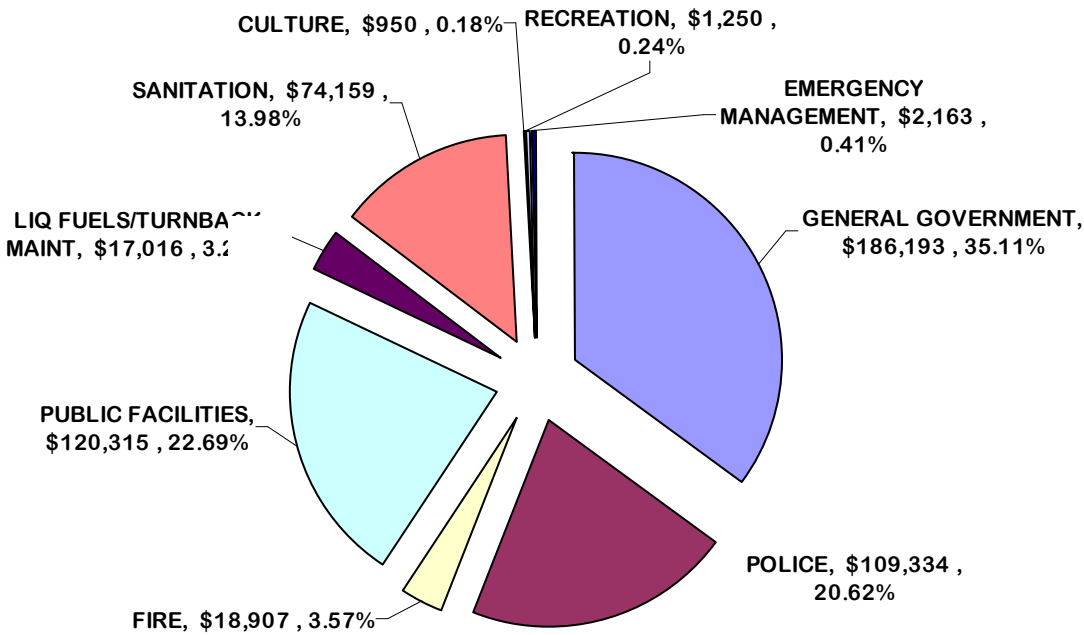
"A point to note is that the Borough of Stockertown, unlike so many other municipalities, is not in a crisis situation. We have maintained appropriate reserves to cover current and future needs. Barring a major disaster, we are in a position to continue providing essential services in spite of the current economy."

We are 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 the regular Borough Council sessions, held on the first and third Mondays at 7:30 PM in the Borough Chambers, 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. Amy Richard, Council President

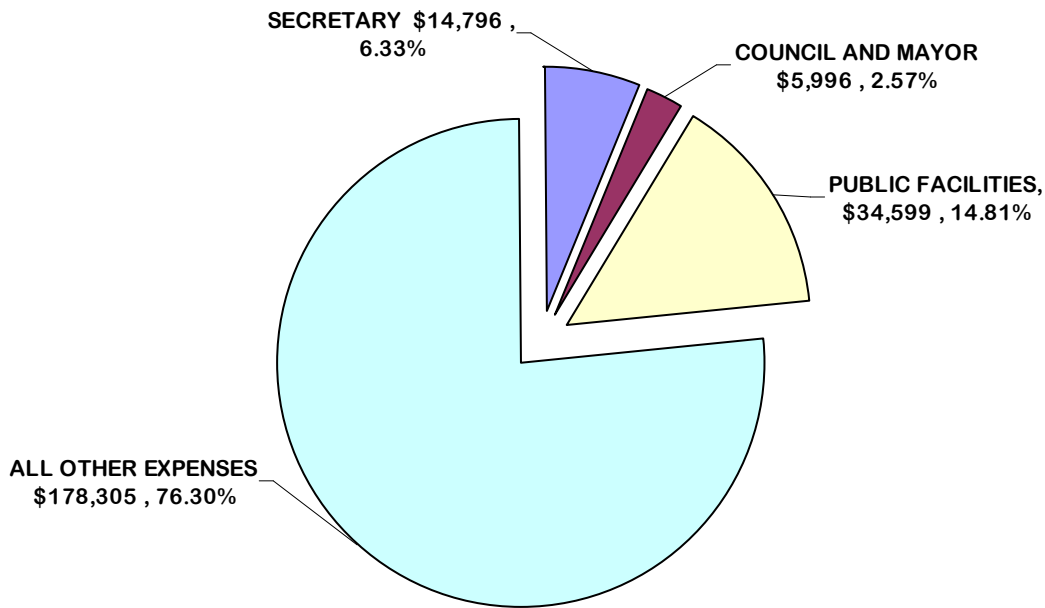
**LOCAL BLOOD BANKS ARE VERY LOW!
PLEASE GIVE BLOOD IF YOU CAN.
Miller Keystone Blood Center
800 223-6667**

“WE DON’T HAVE A TRILLION DOLLAR DEBT BECAUSE WE HAVEN’T TAXED ENOUGH; WE HAVE A TRILLION DOLLAR DEBT BECAUSE WE SPEND TOO MUCH.” ~ RONALD REAGAN

General Budget Department Chart



Sewer Budget Chart



YOU HAVE NOT LIVED A PERFECT DAY, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE EARNED MONEY, UNLESS YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE WHO WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPAY YOU. ~ UNKNOWN

BUDGETED EXPENSE SUMMARY

| DEPARTMENT/ ACCOUNT | 2011 DOLLARS | 2011 MILLAGE | 2010 DOLLARS | 2009 DOLLARS | 2008 DOLLARS | 2007 DOLLARS |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT | \$ 186,193 | 6.3410 | \$ 184,715 | \$ 182,083 | \$ 206,079 | \$ 213,274 |
| POLICE | \$ 109,334 | 3.7235 | \$ 92,735 | \$ 93,065 | \$ 86,000 | \$ 82,000 |
| FIRE | \$ 18,907 | 0.6439 | \$ 30,841 | \$ 41,660 | \$ 46,000 | \$ 30,000 |
| PUBLIC FACILITIES | \$ 120,315 | 4.0974 | \$ 159,892 | \$ 161,942 | \$ 165,938 | \$ 158,590 |
| LIQ FEULS/ TURNBACK MAINT | \$ 17,016 | 0.5795 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| SANITATION | \$ 74,159 | 2.5256 | \$ 74,159 | \$ 73,000 | \$ 73,000 | \$ 74,000 |
| CULTURE | \$ 950 | 0.0324 | \$ 899 | \$ 2,025 | \$ 4,700 | \$ 4,750 |
| RECREATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | \$ 1,250 | 0.0426 | \$ 1,100 | \$ 1,600 | \$ 600 | \$ 500 |
| TOTAL | \$ 530,287 | 18.0594 | \$ 550,291 | \$ 560,075 | \$ 591,317 | \$ 565,114 |
| SEWER | \$ 233,696 | | \$ 241,925 | \$ 251,850 | \$ 254,592 | \$ 242,807 |
| COMBINED TOTAL | \$ 763,983 | | \$ 792,216 | \$ 811,925 | \$ 845,909 | \$ 807,921 |

| WAGE AND BENEFIT SUMMARY | 2011 DOLLARS | 2011 MILLAGE |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| General Budget: | | |
| Secretary | \$ 34,525 | 1.1758 |
| Tax Collector | \$ 14,540 | 0.4952 |
| Council and Mayor | \$ 17,987 | 0.6126 |
| Zoning Officer | \$ 4,857 | 0.1654 |
| Zoning Board | \$ 225 | 0.0077 |
| Public Facilities | \$ 51,898 | 1.7674 |
| Police | \$ 68,224 | 2.3234 |
| UC Payments | \$ 13,000 | 0.4427 |
| All Other Expenses | \$ 325,031 | 11.0692 |
| Sewer Budget: | | |
| Secretary | \$ 14,796 | |
| Council and Mayor | \$ 5,996 | |
| Public Facilities | \$ 34,599 | |
| All Other Expenses | \$ 178,305 | |

| Total Budget | 2011 | 2011 |
|----------------------------|------------|---------|
| General Budget Expenses | \$ 530,287 | 18.0594 |
| Sewer Budget Expenses | \$ 233,696 | |
| General and Sewer Expenses | \$ 763,983 | |

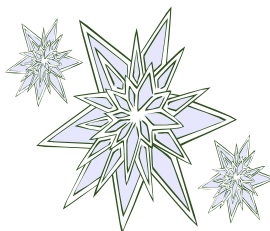
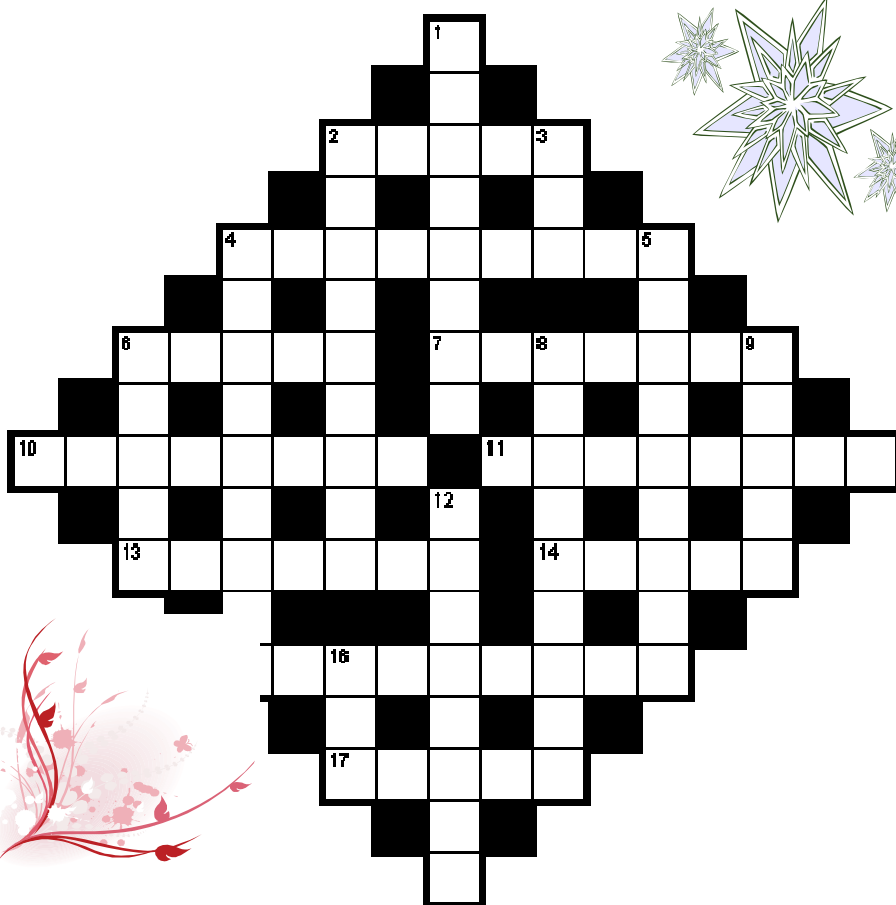
HOPES ARE HIGH FOR GRANT AWARDS

The Borough has applied for four grants offered through the Northampton County Uncommitted Funds Municipal Gaming Grant of 2010. They are as follows:

- In the first application the Police Department has requested \$30,000 under Municipal Emergency Services category, to replace the 2004 Dodge which has high mileage and has been plagued with electrical issues from the time of purchase. The Department has two vehicles; the 2004 and a 2005 Ford.
 - In a second application under the same category, the Police Department has requested \$7,500 for a computer network to interface with other police and governmental entities.
 - A third application was submitted from the Borough for \$45,000 toward the razing of Memorial Hall under the Municipal Infrastructure Improvements category.
 - The fourth application submitted under Municipal Public Works requests \$39,980 toward the purchase of a 2011 Ford 550 chassis and a Switch-and-Go* mechanism which allows the same truck chassis to utilize multiple body types, eliminating the need for multiple trucks. Currently the Borough owns a 1989 Ford 1 ton dump, a 2009 1 ton dump, and a 1998 Ford 800 dump truck which is the main heavy snowplowing vehicle. It is in fair to poor condition and will need to be replaced soon.
- The Borough has committed \$5,000 toward the police car grant, and \$15,530 toward the public works truck grant. The car grant is being considered in the top group of county-wide applications, and we are awaiting word on the others. The total funds available from this round of grants is +/- \$177,000. Obviously we will need some Devine intervention, but our hopes remain high.

Notes:

- Millage calculations are for illustration only. Boro expenses are paid from General Fund revenues received in the fiscal year.
- Sewer expenses are paid from Sewer Fund revenues and are not considered in any millage calculations.
- 18.05 would be the necessary millage rate if all Boro expenses except Sewer (WWTP) were paid from property taxes only.

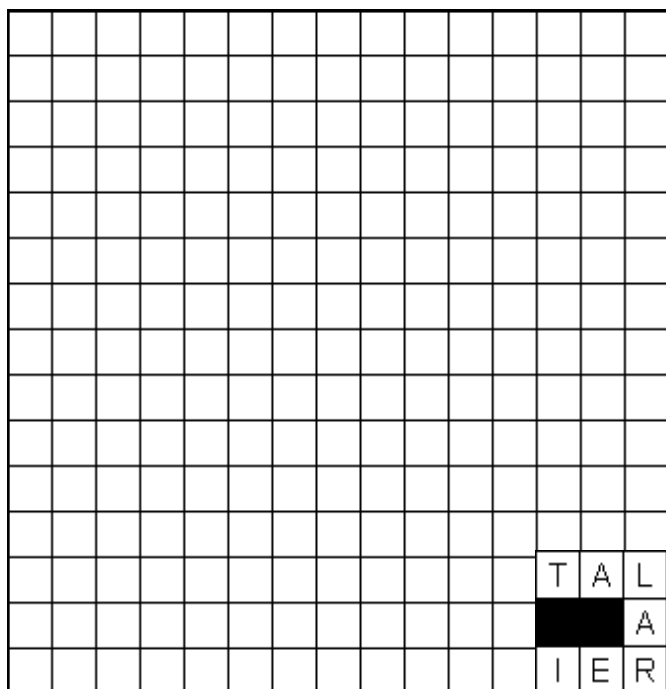


Across

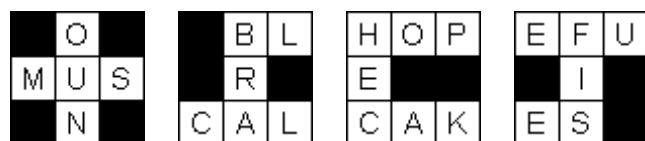
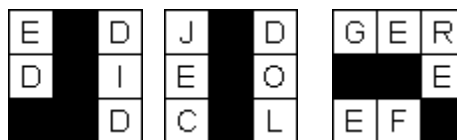
- 2. Avid (5)
- 4. Customers (9)
- 6. Legal excuse (5)
- 7. Moral (7)
- 10. Wizard (8)
- 11. Frantic (8)
- 13. Steering devices (7)
- 14. Mistake (5)
- 15. Numerical indicator (9)
- 17. Cache (5)

Down

- 1. Novice (8)
- 2. Do away with (9)
- 3. Regret (3)
- 4. Happens simultaneously (9)
- 5. Bizarre (9)
- 6. Ire (5)
- 8. Gathered a crop (9)
- 9. More recent (5)
- 12. Guess (8)
- 16. Tree (3)



GRID-JIG PUZZLE



Re-assemble all the pieces filling in the letters and blocks into the correct positions in the grid. One block has been entered for you. ENJOY!

CHOCOLATE, MEN AND COFFEE—SOME THINGS ARE JUST BETTER RICH.

