

Stockertown News

Volume 2
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June 2007

WHAT IT MEANS NOT TO HAVE MERCANTILE TAX IN STOCKERTOWN

Somewhere back in the year 1987, the State Legislature, in its infinite wisdom, declared that municipalities that did not have a Mercantile Tax provision in place by November 1988, would not be able to put that provision in place at a later date. For reasons unknown to this Editor, Officials of Stockertown in 1988 chose not to establish a mercantile tax, and thereby forfeited that option forever.

What all that means to you as a resident, is quite simple. The Borough derives income for its general operating budget from several sources: franchise fees, permits, licenses, fines, impact fees from new development, rental fees, liquid fuels distribution (Act 655), interest income and taxes. The tax portion is 86% of all revenue, followed by interest income of 8%, liquid fuel distribution of 3%, and rental income of 2%.

Without the additional income from businesses within our boundaries, the residents provide most of the operating capital. No blame or animosity should be placed on the businesses of the Borough, however, as the decision of 1988 was not made by, nor included, them. They are simply benefactors of the decision. We need to embrace our local businesses, as they have, on their own, been quite generous.

A "Five-Year-And-Beyond Plan" for the Borough is being developed, which has never been done before. The goal of planning for the future needs of the Borough within the structure of its revenues is very challenging. Because of the lack of a mercantile tax, the main source of operating revenue unfairly falls directly on the residents.

FORKS EMERGENCY SQUAD

On April 1st of this year, Forks Emergency Squad reorganized after some internal problems, and re-opened their Basic Life Support Service (BLS) to Forks Township and Stockertown. They have one transport van and three emergency vehicles, one of which is dedicated to Forks Township and Stockertown 24/7. They

answered 60 calls in April, 107 in May and as of June 12th, they have responded to 55 calls. It appears that they are on their way to recovery and the BLS/ALS coverage that they used to provide. Borough Council wishes them success. Their success will insure that our residents have the best EMS coverage available.

SUMMERTIME! TIME TO REMEMBER

- WATER AND SHADE FOR YOUR PETS,
- SUNSCREEN FOR THE CHILDREN,
- CHILDREN PLAYING/BIKING
- POOL SAFETY
- THE ELDERLY
- CHECK FOR TICKS

DON'T MISS IT!

PICNIC

Stockertown Borough Picnic, sponsored by The Stockertown Youth Association will be held at Newhart Park on Saturday, August 11, 2007, from 1:00 P.M. In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held at the Stockertown Rod and Gun Club on Lefevre Road. Hot dogs, barbeque, and beverages will be provided. You're invited to bring a covered dish or item for the cake walk. Come enjoy a day of fun and fellowship.

YARD SALE

The Borough-wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 18th & 19th, 2007. No permit is required.

Squad continued:

Forks Emergency Squad Annual Subscriptions will be mailed to all residents in August for the period of September 1st, 2007 through August 31st, 2008. A paid subscription means that Forks Emergency Squad will accept whatever your insurance carrier will allow, as payment in full for an "emergency" call.

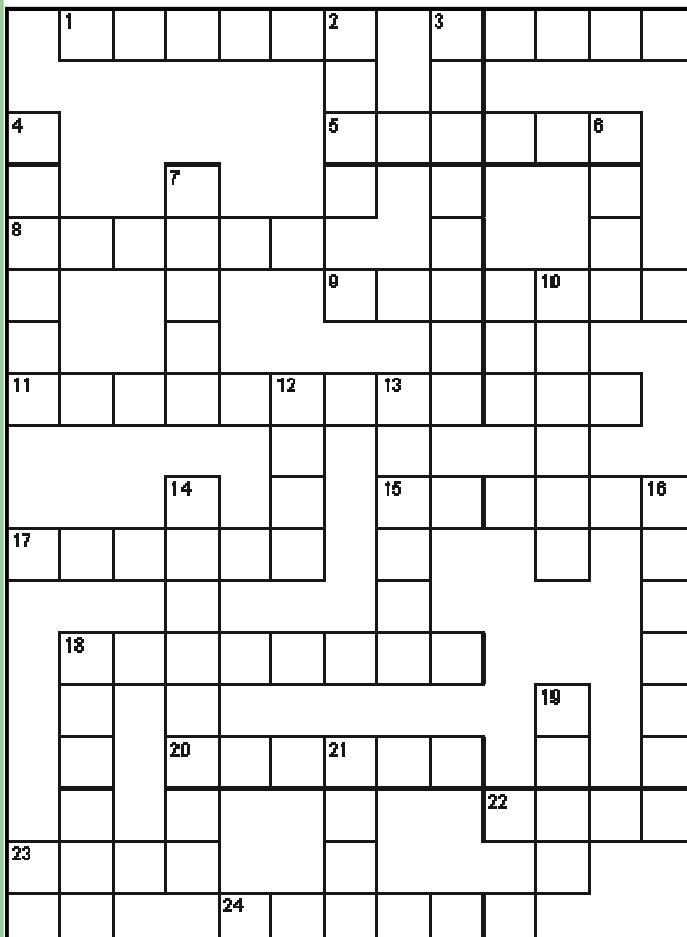
The Squad will be holding a carnival at their station on August 4th and 5th from 10am to 8pm which will include carnival rides, live music, food, games and crafts. For info call, 610 253-7416.

"Life is a drawing, without an eraser." JOHN W. GARDNER

COULD WE GO OVER THIS AGAIN?

- 1, Nothing but toilet waste, kitchen and bath water should enter your sewer line. NOT diapers, feminine products, dead animals, cloth items, or grease. The sewer plant is not a landfill, but a delicate balance of biological processes. Please help keep it that way.
- 2, The recycling center is for Stockertown residents only. Please do not encourage your friends and relatives to dump off their recyclables. We are charged for anything over our limit.
- 3, If you have branches to dispose of, please call the Borough Office to make arrangements. Do not dump them off at the recycling center.
- 4, By ordinance: "It is unlawful to discharge ground water, pool or sump pump water into the Borough sewer system."
- 5, Otherwise life in the Borough is good!

Capital Crossword Puzzle How Many Do You Know?



Across

1. The Gambia (6)
3. Vietnam (5)
5. Equatorial Guinea (6)
8. Zimbabwe (6)
9. Thailand (7)
11. Dominican Republic (5,7)
15. Ireland (6)
17. Zambia (6)
18. Serbia (8)
20. Iran (6)
22. Peru (4)
23. Fiji (4)
24. Austria (6)

Down

2. Togo (4)
3. Finland (8)
4. Greece (6)
6. Norway (4)
7. Morocco (5)
10. Rwanda (6)
12. Qatar (4)
13. Spain (6)
14. Malta (8)
16. Cyprus (7)
18. Lebanon (6)
19. Western Samoa (4)
21. Italy (4)

DIRECTORY

BOROUGH OFFICE
610 759-8393

POLICE DEPARTMENT
DIAL 911

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

FORKS FIRE COMPANY
DIAL 911

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

MAYOR
Sherman Metzger

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

BOROUGH SECRETARY
Donna Frey

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

TAX COLLECTOR
Connie Marakovits
610 759-3015

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COORDINATOR**
Charles Davis

**DEP (DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRON-
MENTAL PROTECTION)**
610 861-2070

POST OFFICE
610 759-6278