

**Shrewsbury Borough**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**Winter, 2011-12**

**A FEW WORDS FROM MICHAEL RIDGELY, COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT**

I have two subjects I wish to discuss with you this quarter – **Police Negotiations and Recycling**. Both are important to every resident of our Borough.

In last quarter's letter, I indicated to you that the inter-government deliberations on ownership and management of our police department had been successfully completed, and that Shrewsbury and Glen Rock had signed the joint committee agreement document. I also reported to you that New Freedom had indicated that it was in agreement and was ready to sign the document as well.

I need to report to you at this time that New Freedom seems to have rescinded its agreement and has not yet signed the joint committee document. I have made inquiries, but have not yet received any assurances that the previous agreement will be honored, and that the document will be signed. I hope this will change soon, but for now, I must report the facts to you as I know them to be.

Now, on to recycling! Environmental issues are in the news everyday, and opinions and feelings on the various subjects vary as much as the subjects themselves do. However, recycling is one environmental solution that has proven its worth over and over. There are many good reasons to recycle. In fact, I can think of at least **eight** of them.

1 – Recycling stops millions of pounds of material from going into landfills and incinerators each year.

2 – It goes on to make use of the recycled materials to make new products, thus saving the natural resources that would have been consumed in order to produce those products.

3 – The recycling industry provides many needed jobs for the collection, sorting and processing of the recycled materials.

On a more personal note:

4 – Recycling allows you to put out more trash. The four container rule does not apply to the materials that you recycle, so every item that you move from trash to recycle is freeing up space for you.

5 – It's really easy to do. Early recycling programs used to require people to sort items into categories and place them into different containers. Often you had to drive somewhere to turn in the recycling. Our program here in the Borough requires none of that. Everything goes into the bin – paper, cans bottles, plastic, etc. The bin goes out to the curb on Friday and is picked up. It's as easy as that! Some

common sense needs to apply, such as removing lids and rinsing out the cans and bottles. All items can be placed in the tub without the need to sort. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the guidelines.

Even some more subjective reasons apply:

6 – It's simply the right thing to do. It's a well worn cliché, but we all do share this same planet, and it's a good idea to limit how much we continue to bury large parts of it under piles of trash.

7 – It makes you feel good when you can pitch in and do your part to make a good program work even better.

Years ago, I heard a national politician make the statement that we should “all strive to keep the ratio of trash and recycling we put out to a 50/50 split”. I thought that sounded silly at the time, but I must admit that, on a typical Friday, my ratio is pretty close to that. It gives me pause to think that, only 20 years ago, all of that material was going into the trash.

I know I promised eight reasons, and I saved the best for last.

8 – We get paid to recycle! Because the materials that are recycled have value, the trash collection contract we put out to bid every five years has more favorable pricing if it includes recycling. In addition, based on how much material is actually recycled, the Borough receives a grant. Last year that grant was about \$8,000. That is money that can be spent on important Borough projects as well as helping to keep expenses down. And that amount can grow if we recycle more!

Well, there you are. There are many good reasons to do it, it's easy to do, and we get paid to do it. Not a bad deal.

Here's a challenge to all of you. If you aren't already recycling, please get started. Call the office for a collection bin. If you are already recycling, congratulations and thanks! Now, how about finding ways to increase what you recycle by another 20%. It's not as hard as you might think.

JOIN IN!

WE ALL WIN!

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Michael W. Ridgely, Council President

## **ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

The annual Tree Lighting ceremony will be on **Sunday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m.** Santa will arrive in a horse-drawn wagon, thanks to Senator Mike Waugh, and there will be music by the Susquehannock High School Jazz Band. Boy Scout Troop 90 and area Girl Scouts and Brownies will serve complimentary snacks and hot chocolate. Ship to Shore Coffee will serve complimentary coffee. Everyone is welcome!

## **HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE**

The Friday, November 25, trash collection will be on Saturday because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

## **LEAF COLLECTION CONTINUES**

You may continue to place two extra bags of trash out until January 31. The two extra bags are for leaves only.

## **DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

Place in your regular garbage: take the medication out of its original container, crush it or dissolve it in water and mix it with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. Put it in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the medication from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag; or

Deliver to the York County Solid Waste Authority by making an appointment to deliver your unused prescription medications for free. Residents must call 717 845-1066 to make an appointment to deliver the prescription medications. The medications must come from a single household and disposal time will take about 20 minutes as you must complete a brief registration form.

Do not flush your unused prescription medications down the toilet or wash them down the drain in order to protect the sewer treatment plant and local waterways.

## **LOCK CAR DOORS**

Police Chief, James Boddington, urges residents to keep ungaraged vehicles locked and to not leave valuables in the vehicles. There have been numerous reports of thefts from vehicles and two vehicles were stolen.

## **PUBLIC WORKS CORNER**

### **Snow Season and Removal around the Corner**

#### **Snow Removal Tips:**

- 1. Roads.** Remove cars from streets and roadways before snow removal crews begin treating the roads. Vehicles parked on the roadways jeopardize the safety of road crew personnel and the public. Also, the snow can not be removed from curb to curb when obstacles obstruct the roadway. The leftover snow around the vehicles is a hazard to the postal service and local traffic. **Snow Emergencies (Ordinance #1987-7)** prohibit parking on Snow Emergency

Routes and local streets. Cooperation is needed to help crews remove snow quickly and efficiently. Snow Emergencies are announced on several radio and television stations including: WSBA-AM 910 and WGAL-TV Channel 8.

2. **Plowing duration.** Please understand the crews are not done plowing until the storm is completely finished and the snow is plowed curb to curb. The Public Works Department plows the roadways for local traffic and emergency vehicles with two lanes of accessibility during the storm. The roads are not plowed curb to curb until the snow storm is completely finished. When the storm is finished, the roads will be plowed all the way back to the curb line.
3. **Driveway or sidewalk.** Do not throw snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the roadway. Keep the snow on your property and not on the roadway.
4. **Property markings.** Delineators or markers can help snow removal crews locate the curb line and prevent property damage. Snow removal crews strive to plow snow curb to curb but sometimes mistakenly get too close to your yard and damage grass. Any marker can help crews find the curb line.
5. **Please keep trash behind the curb line during snow events.** If trash cans are in the roadway, the cans will be knocked over and can disrupt the trash haulers.
6. **Travel at slower speeds and allow greater stopping distances during storms.** Stay off the roads if possible and allow snow removal crews the necessary time and distances to work on the roads.
7. **Fire Hydrants.** Residents are responsible for clearing snow around a fire hydrant. The hydrant should have a three foot clearance radius within 12 hours after a snowfall per **Ordinance 2005-2**. The Ordinance protects the community in case a fire occurs and allows the Fire Department to connect hoses and operate the hydrant safely. If you have a medical condition or are unable to clear your hydrant, please contact the Public Works Department for assistance.
8. **Sidewalks.** Snow must be removed from the sidewalk within 12 hours after snowfall.
9. **Mailboxes.** The area around your mailbox should be cleared adequately for the safety and effectiveness of the Postal Service after the Public Works Department is finished plowing.

\*\*If you have a medical condition that requires you to be at an appointment for a cancer treatment or dialysis, please call Brian Sweitzer at 578-7169 so he can plan the plowing schedule accordingly.

## **Illegal Sewer Connections**

The Public Works Department is concerned that many homes have rainspouts and sump pumps connected to the Borough's sewer system. Sump pumps and rainspouts are illegal connections that increase sanitary sewer flows and cause havoc to the wastewater treatment process during heavy rains and high groundwater levels. In the next few years, all homes will be investigated and monitored by Public Works for connection compliance. The sewer line investigations will occur through televising sewer lines and on-site home inspections for proper sewer system compliance. The only allowable connections to the sanitary sewer system are: sinks (including laundry tubs), showers, bath tubs, dishwashers, washing machines and toilets. All illegal connections will be penalized with regards to the Sewer Discharge Ordinance. Swimming pools should not be drained into the sewer system. We thank you in advance for helping the Borough eliminate unnecessary sewer flows which result in higher treatment costs which ultimately get passed along to the customers through sewer rate increases.

## **Public Works Trims Street Trees**

Many trees are impeding the roadway throughout town. We have notified residents where there are areas of concern. The Public Works Department will trim the identified trees and dispose of the branches without any charge. The trimming protects the snow plow vehicles when plowing the streets curb-to-curb.

## **CHRISTMAS MAGIC COUPON**

## **REGISTERING ALARMS**

Borough Council adopted an ordinance requiring the annual registration/renewal of Automated Dialing Devices or Alarm Devices, including Audible alarms. Each year, the form must be renewed by March 1. If the form is not renewed or filed by that date, the Permit is automatically revoked and a fee of \$25.00 will be charged when the new Permit is issued. It is not required that Medical alarms be registered. Please call the Borough office at 235-4371 if you need a permit application. The deadline to register is March 1, 2012. For those who registered last year, the renewal registration form will be mailed to you in early January.

## **SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

**Please remember to send your annual membership dues in to the fire company at 21 West Forrest Avenue. Questions, call 235-4476.**

**YOUR SUPPORT OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IS CRITICAL AS THERE IS NO SPECIAL TAX THAT IS DESIGNATED FOR THE FIRE COMPANY. NOT ONLY DO THEY NEED YOUR HELP FINANCIALLY, THEY NEED PEOPLE TO HELP BY RESPONDING TO CALLS AND FOR FUNDRAISING. IF THE SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE**

**COMPANY HAS TO GO TO PAID PERSONNEL, THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN TAXES.**

**ROSE AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**This is a reminder to support your local ambulance service. Their costs keep rising also.**