



Borough Newsletter

Winter – 2017

WINTER WEATHER INFORMATION



Winter has arrived in the Borough and the Greater Valley Community and it is once again time to remind residents of a variety of regulations that go into effect each winter. The most important regulation is Snow Emergency Routes. The Borough established Snow Emergency Routes to ensure that primary routes to and from the medical center, fire, EMS, and police facilities are clear and passable during a storm.

A SNOW EMERGENCY automatically goes into effect when the National Weather Service issues a WINTER STORM WARNING for our area and remains in effect until the Winter Storm Warning is terminated by the Weather Service. When the Borough is under a Snow Emergency, parking on streets posted as Snow Emergency Routes is prohibited for the duration of the Snow Emergency. It may also be necessary to limit traffic on Snow Emergency Routes to snow plow and emergency vehicles only. Residents are also required to remove snow from sidewalks within 12 hours after the storm has ended and reminded to not shovel snow into the streets.

Delinquent Sewer Collection Process To Begin In February

The Borough's annual delinquent sewer collection process is set to begin in February when notifications are sent advising property owners who have an account(s) that is past due that full payment is due by February 28, 2017 to prevent termination of service. Approximately eight (8%) percent of the properties in the Borough are delinquent each year and the majority of those delinquent accounts are satisfied after receiving the initial notification. Property owners who need additional time to satisfy their account(s) can enter into a payment agreement with the Borough and pay all applicable fees to continue service until the account(s) is paid in full. The Borough collected \$190,000 in delinquent fees in 2016.

110 West Packer Avenue
Telephone: 570-888-7739

Sayre, Pennsylvania 18840
Fax: 570-888-6598

www.sayreborough.org
email: events@sayreborough.org



Recognized for 40 Years of Service



(Photo Provided by Morning Times)

Longtime Borough Solicitor Jonathan Foster Sr. was recognized by the Borough Council for 40 years of service. Foster was first hired as the Borough's Zoning Hearing Board solicitor in 1976 and was later hired as the Borough's Solicitor a position he has held for the past 30 years. Attorney Foster and his son Jonathan Jr. own the Foster Law Office located on South Keystone Avenue

HOMETOWN HEROES BANNER PROGRAM SURPASSES 225 BANNERS



A total of 225 patriotic banners are on display throughout the Borough and a new round of orders has been authorized to begin in 2017. The Sayre Borough Hometown Heroes Banner Program was started a year ago and the program's success exceeded the Borough's expectations. The next order will be submitted for production on March 31st and those banners will be installed before Memorial Day. Individuals interested in purchasing a banner can obtain an application from the Borough Hall or WWW.SAYREBOROUGH.ORG and provide an 8x10 photo that will be scanned and returned to you, along with Military Verification Form. Additional information about the banner programs can be obtained from the Borough Hall or on the Borough's website. The cost of the banner will be \$125.00 and due with submission of the application.

Borough Dedicates New Town Clock



The Borough Council and Mayor Denny Thomas were joined by State Senator Gene Yaw and Bradford County Commissioners Doug McLinko and Daryl Miller and more than 500 spectators for the unveiling of the Borough's new downtown clock on Desmond Street on Friday, November 25th prior to the start of this year's Christmas Parade.

The original Desmond Street Clock, which became known as Sayre's "Town Clock," was a Sayre landmark for nearly half a century. Its bold faces were visible up and down the business blocks and over to the passenger station of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. It was used by nearly everyone to keep accurate time on his or her own timepieces. Located across the street from Sayre's Desmond Street Park, it was the official clock for decades of events held in that park.

The two-story high clock with four faces was installed in front of the I. A. Samuels and Son Jewelry Store at 138 Desmond Street in 1919. In 1941, that business was sold to Bond Jewelers and in 1958, the offices of Beneficial Finance moved there. Ownership of the clock remained with the Samuels family. In early July of 1966 Adrian Samuels, the son of I. A. Samuels, sold the clock to Joseph Ciaschi of Ithaca to use outside his restaurant in the former Lehigh Passenger Station. Eventually that passenger station became a branch bank of Chemung Canal Trust Company. Sayre's landmark town clock, still remembered by many in Sayre and around the country, is now at that site in Ithaca.

The new town clock was purchased from the Verdin Clock Company of Cincinnati, Ohio and more than \$10,000 has been donated to date for the project. The Borough is still accepting donations for the clock. Additional information about the clock can be obtained from the Borough's website www.sayreborough.org or by calling the Borough Office.

The Borough appreciates the generosity of the following families, businesses, and organizations for their financial support of the project so far; In Memory of James & Lillian Lathrop; Ambrose Hill & Shilah Fast; Charlie & Delores Hammond; Charles W. Flick, Charles R. Flick, & Art Flick; The Fice / Gillette Families; David & Suzanne Jarrett; Jim & Lisa Osborn; Pete & Sandy Thompson; Joe & John Obuch; Peter, Paul, Steve, & Wesley Hannis; Epiphany Catholic Parish; Ed Shaffer 1934 – 2015; JE Wheelock Ladies Auxiliary; the Bracken Family; the Fessenden Family; Lee Ripley & Eloise Congdon & Family; Eugene T. & Mary K. Cerutti; Mr. & Mrs. William J. Hickey; Mary, John, Patrick, & Brian Janosko; Henry Farley, Council President 2016; Stiffler-McGraw & Associates; In Memory of Martin & Helen Seibel; the Landy Family; Chemung Canal Trust Company; In Memory of Alfred & Alice Haines; John E. Stanchak; in Memory of Norman B. Cook; Howard Elmer Hose Company #4; JE Wheelock Hose Company #5; Engine Company #1; Mayor Denny & Lura Thomas; Jon & Justine Foster & Family.

125th Anniversary Celebration Winding Down



The Borough celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2016 with a wide variety of events scheduled throughout the year in conjunction with the Sayre Historical Society and the Sayre Community Corporation. More than twenty events were held in 2016 which included several events hosted by the Sayre Historical Society at their museum on South Lehigh Avenue that featured activities that promoted the Borough's anniversary, twelve performances in the William S. Pierce – Sayre Summer Concert Series, the 3rd annual End of Summer Celebration & Fireworks Display, and the 18th Annual Sayre Borough Christmas Parade. The final event of the year long celebration will be the official flag raising at the new plaza at Island Pond tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2017.

Santa Claus Arrives In Sayre



The 2016 Sayre Borough Christmas Parade kicked-off the holiday season in the Valley on November 25th and included the arrival of Santa Claus in Howard Elmer Park at the conclusion of the parade. The parade begins on West Lockhart Street between the ponds and continues on Desmond Street and West Packer Avenue where more than 8,000 spectators lined the parade route and enjoyed the various floats and musical performances by the 58 dignitaries, businesses, and organization and 675 individuals who participated in this year's parade presented for the fifth year by First Citizens Community Bank. The parade is coordinated each year by the Sayre Borough Christmas Parade Committee and its 50 volunteers and additional parade sponsors included; Howard Elmer Hose Company, J.E. Wheelock Hose Company, Sayre Engine Company #1, WATS/WAVR – Choice 102, The Morning Times, Univest Municipal Pension Services, Foster Law Office, Gannon Associates, Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Crockett, Mrs. Rosemarie Sharp, Stiffler-McGraw & Associates, Landy & Kilmer Insurance, G. Webster Inc., Henry Farley, Mr. & Mrs. William Hickey, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Howland, Mayor Denny Thomas, Landy & Rossettie, PLLC, Sons of Italy, Sayre Borough, Sayre Police Benevolent Association, Sayre Borough DPW, Sayre Borough Administration Department, Sayre Code Enforcement Agency, Vacri Construction Corporation, St. Francis Gifts, CNK Eatery, Tioga Downs, Legacy Motors, and Guthrie Federal Credit Union. This year's parade will be held on Friday, November 24, 2017. Parade photographs and video are available on the Borough's website www.sayreborough.org and the Borough's Facebook page.

Improvements at Island Pond Completed



Prior to the end of 2016, work was completed on the handicap accessibility improvement project at Island Pond. The project scope of work included the removal of the old dock and replacing it with a concrete plaza and retaining wall at the foot of a handicap accessible ramp that improved access to the area for all Borough citizens. Sayre area contractors JD Ward and Nick's Landscaping completed the concrete walkway, concrete plaza, and retaining wall. Metal Fusion of Waverly constructed and installed the handrailing system. New trees were planted around the perimeter of the pond by Robinson's Landscaping and future improvements include benches and the installation of a plaque listing the names of the individuals and families who had boards on the old dock.

Borough's Slum & Blight Efforts Continue

The Borough's efforts to address slum & blight issues continue to make a positive impact most recently with the demolition of 410 South Keystone Avenue and purchase of 305 North Thomas Avenue. Both properties have been vacant for more than a decade and were eyesores in the neighborhoods. The Borough Council voted in December to adopt a new Quality of Life Ordinance. The purpose of the new Ordinance is to provide the Code Enforcement Office with the ability to be more aggressive with the lack of maintenance of properties, littering, improper storage of trash and rubbish, high grass and weeds, storage of inoperable/non-registered vehicles, front yard parking, and accumulation of snow and ice are costly problems that contribute to the deterioration of property values and general disorder in a community. These problems degrade the physical appearance of the Borough, which reduces business and tax revenue, inhibiting economic development. The quality of life and community pride of the citizens of Sayre are negatively impacted by the occurrences and existence of these activities. Recognizing these are community problems, the purpose of this article is to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the Borough by helping to create a clean environment for the citizens of Sayre.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency	911	Sayre Tax Office	(570) 888-9750
Borough Hall	(570) 888-7739	Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	(570) 888-9612
Public Works Department	(570) 888-5131	Police Department (Non-Emergency)	(570) 888-2233
Code Enforcement Agency	(570) 888-4410	State Representative Tina Pickett	(570) 888-9011
State Senator Gene Yaw	(570)-322-6457	Bradford County Commissioners	(570) 265-1727

Local Services Tax Takes Effect in New Year

The Borough Council voted in August to adopt an Ordinance that allows the Borough to collect \$52.00 a year from individuals earning \$12,000 working in the Borough. Revenues that will be generated by the Local Services Tax are earmarked for road paving projects, police department projects, and the majority of the tax revenue will be allocated to the fire department. Berkheimer Associates has been contracted by the Borough to collect the tax, and they are working with area employers to coordinate the collection of the tax.

Motorists & Business Owners Impacted by Infrastructure Improvements

Valley motorists dreaded traveling on South Keystone Avenue between West Lockhart Street and the Borough line as contractors worked on water lines for Aqua PA and sanitary sewer lines for the Borough for most of 2016 all in advance of PennDot's plans to repave South Keystone Avenue in 2017.

Vacri Construction Corporation of Binghamton, New York was awarded the \$873,000 sanitary sewer improvement project by the Borough in May of 2016 and work began in mid-August. The project scope of work included the installation of approximately 2,700 LF of 8", 10" and 12" new sanitary sewer pipe, manholes, sanitary wyes, existing system connections, abandonment of existing sanitary sewer facilities along Keystone Avenue and Valor Street, and associated trench restoration; and rehabilitation and repaving of Valor Street including associated drainage and accessible curb ramp improvements. The contractor concentrated his efforts on South Keystone Avenue and completed installation and roadway restoration up to Valor Street before October 31st to be in compliance with PennDot regulations which prohibit construction on state roadways after that date. The contractor then moved onto Valor Street and there they completed installation of the sewer main and some of the service laterals before shutting down operations for the Winter. Crews from Vacri Construction will be back on site in 2017 as soon as the weather permits to complete the improvements on South Keystone Avenue and Valor Street.

Milltown Pump Station Improvement Project Nearing Completion

Vacri Construction Corporation of Binghamton, New York was awarded the \$273,000.00 bid for the upgrade of the Milltown Pump Station in August. The pump station that was originally constructed in 1995 is the last of the Borough's four sanitary sewer pumping stations to be upgraded and work is expected to be completed before March 31, 2017. The project scope of work includes removal and replacement of all electrical components and controls, valves, pumps, railings, internal wet well piping, backup generator; installation of a new slide gate on the perimeter fencing; and site restoration.