



# ShrewsBury Borough

## NEWSLETTER

### FROM POLICE CHIEF JAMES BODDINGTON

As most of you know, there has been a dramatic increase in opioid related deaths nationwide. Our area is not immune from this problem. In the past three weeks, we have had 4 drug related deaths in our area. Our officers carry Narcan and have used it to save many lives in the past few years. However, we need to do more to reduce the deaths. Public awareness is crucial. If you think there is drug activity in your area, please call our station or send us a message on our tip line. If you know someone who has an addiction problem, do everything you can to get them help. We also offer a drop box in our lobby for unused or expired prescription drugs which we collect and turn over to DEA for proper disposal. Our phone number is (717) 235-3944 or visit our website at [srpd.us](http://srpd.us).

### 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.

**Shrewsbury Borough**  
35 West Railroad Avenue  
Shrewsbury, PA 17361  
(717) 235-4371  
[www.shrewsburyborough.org](http://www.shrewsburyborough.org)  
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### FROM MAYOR MIKE SHARKEY

On Sunday, December 2 at our annual tree lighting event, I was reminded why Shrewsbury Borough is a great place to live. Simply put, our community embodies the essence of small town America. The cold, damp and misty weather was less than optimal for a night time event in December.

However, the weather didn't deter us as we took part in an annual community tradition. The Susquehannock High School Jazz Band played classic and modern music of the season, the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts brought hot chocolate, baked items and candy. J.J.'s Hot Dog Stand provided a dinner alternative, the new Shrewsbury Area Lions Club even brought coloring books and crayons as we witnessed the arrival by jeep of our special guest from the North Pole who passed out candy canes. All of the groups volunteered their time, energy and talents to make it a memorable night as we kicked off the holiday season represented by Christmas, Hannukah and Kwanzaa. In the tradition of the movie "Elf", we belted out a short rendition of "Santa Clause is Coming to Town" and enjoyed the opportunity to gather as Shrewsburyans (or is it Shrewsburyites?). These are among the little things that make our Borough a place we enjoy to call "our" home. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well and wish peace and joy to all Shrewsburyans/Shrewsburyites.

Mayor Mike Sharkey

### A FEW WORDS FROM BUCK BUCHANAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**TRASH COLLECTION:** In the last Newsletter, I asked for your opinions regarding the quantity and frequency of trash collection, knowing that we are facing a rate increase. There was an amazing response from about 50 residents, the vast majority of which said to keep things as they are. Having heard that, we will continue to have collections twice a week with four (4) bags each, plus the recycling and one bulk item on Fridays. Two extra bags for leaves will also continue for the months of November, December, and January. The cost increase for the new contract will add an additional \$54.00 to your annual bill. Sometime in the future, the large bulk containers will probably be forced upon us to minimize such rate increases.

**TAX INCREASE:** The General Fund Budget is not in balance and will be supplemented by drawing funds from our Reserves. This is certainly the last year we can do this, so by next year we will face a millage increase.

*(continued on page 3)*

# PUBLIC WORKS



## SNOW SEASON AND REMOVAL

The Public Works Department works around the clock to maintain road safety and provide emergency accessibility throughout the snow storm. The Public Works maintains approximately 25 miles of roads with seven employees and seven pieces of equipment. We track potential storms and respond immediately as snow begins to accumulate. The Public Works Department plows and spreads salt and anti-skid to maintain road safety throughout the storm. When driving, please operate with extra caution around snow removal equipment.

- Stay at least six car lengths behind a plow truck and remember the plow is wider than the truck.
- Be alert since trucks travel slower than other traffic.
- When the plow and truck is traveling toward you, stay away from the center of the road since snow can obscure the actual snow plow width.
- Keep your lights on to help the plow operator better see your vehicle. Pennsylvania state law requires vehicle lights on when your vehicle's wipers are on.

## SNOW REMOVAL TIPS:

- 1. Roads.** Remove cars from streets and roadways before snow removal crews begin working on the roads. Vehicles parked on the roadways jeopardize the safety of road crew personnel and the public. Also, the snow cannot 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, WARM 103FM, 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. Operate with extra caution around snow removal equipment and traffic.
- 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 2014-3. 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. Broken mailboxes will not be repaired by the Public Works Department if damaged by the snow during the snow removal process. Mailboxes that are hit by the truck or plow will be repaired by the Public Works Department so mail can be delivered.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Based on average snowfall totals, Shrewsbury Borough averages 25 inches of snow every Winter. Last Winter, we received 26 inches snow with one snow accumulating 13 inches.

## HOME PLUMBING IN FREEZING TEMPERATURES

Cold temperatures and drinking water can be a costly and dangerous combination. Proper planning and preparation can prevent frozen pipes, water leaks, and water damage.

1. Disconnect outside hoses from outdoor faucets.
2. Pipes or faucets in unheated areas (garages, crawl spaces, and basements) should be insulated with heat tape or heat cable.
3. Insulate your house (doors, air vents, cracks, and basement doors).
4. Know where your master water shutoff valve is in case of emergency.

5. Report leaks or running water outside your house to the Shrewsbury Public Works Department.
6. If pipes are frozen, use a hair dryer to thaw the frozen pipe. Do not thaw the pipes with a torch unless the frozen pipe is in an open area.

Please contact the Public Works Department if you have questions about winterizing your home or where your main control valve is located.



## STORM DRAIN MAINTENANCE



We have received many questions with regards to cleaning storm drain grates to prevent flooding. The Public Works Department cleans off all storm drain grates prior to rain events and will check drains during and after storms. PA Dot is responsible for all grates on state-owned roads while Shrewsbury Public Works maintain all Borough street drains. The Public Works Department will clean any drain in Shrewsbury Borough to prevent flooding. The drains clog easily in the Fall with leaves so do not hesitate to call us if you notice a drain that needs cleared.

## A FEW WORDS FROM BUCK BUCHANAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT *(continued)*

**SEWER RATE INCREASE:** Although New Freedom Borough owns and operates the Waste Water Treatment Plant (in Railroad), we produce about 52% of the sewage that they process. Two of the major systems to operate the plant have not been replaced since the upgrade was done in 1992. Last month, New Freedom Borough gave us the anticipated 2019 budget, which includes almost a two million-dollar Capital Improvement. The Council is working diligently to seek financing for this since our 2019 Sewer Budget must include a one million-dollar loan. Both bank financing and State PENNVEST loans are under consideration. What this means to you is that the base rate for our quarterly sewer must be increased to meet the monthly loan payments. Here is the bad news:

Residential Customer Base Rate: currently \$55.00 per quarter goes to \$73.00 per quarter

Commercial/Industrial Base Rate: currently \$91.00 per quarter goes to \$120.00 per quarter

There will also be a change to the rate per thousand to the larger quantity users. Conserving your water usage is not only environmentally correct, but will help you minimize this rate increase.

Residents may pay the quarterly bills by going on-line to tell your bank the amount to pay the Borough and the bank will send us the payment.

Buck Buchanan, Council President



35 West Railroad Avenue  
Shrewsbury, PA 17361

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CASKEY GROUP

## SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

### LIVE-IN PROGRAM

Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Company is now offering a live-in program to qualified applicants. Please contact the station at 717-235-4476 or email us at [info@shrewsburyfire.com](mailto:info@shrewsburyfire.com). You may also stop by the station to take a tour and see the live-in quarters. Applications are available on our website and at the station.

### 2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SVFC will be having our 2nd annual golf tournament in April. More information will be available on our website and Facebook as it becomes available.

### CARNIVAL 2019

Summer kicks off to a great start with our carnival. This year carnival week is June 24-29. This is our biggest fund raiser for the year. It takes plenty of volunteers to make this event a success! With that being said, we are looking for volunteers to help out this year. Maybe you can help out for one or two evenings. If you are interested please contact the station.



### Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Company

21 West Forrest Avenue  
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[www.shrewsburyfire.com](http://www.shrewsburyfire.com)

*"PROFESSIONALLY STAFFED BY VOLUNTEERS"*