



January, February, March, 2021

Shrewsbury Borough

NEWSLETTER

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING SUSPENDED

The York County Solid Waste Authority has suspended its electronic recycling until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to reduce person-to-person contact. Please hold onto your electronic devices until the Authority re-opens the program.



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.



FROM THE BILLING DEPARTMENT

Occasionally, the utility bills get lost in the mail. Call the Borough Office if you do not receive your utility bill by mid-month following the end of the quarter. For the quarter ending December 31, you should receive your bill by January 15. Not receiving your bill does not relieve you of paying the late fee.

A FEW WORDS FROM BUCK BUCHANAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

SEWER EDUs

Sewer Capacity is an issue that must now be addressed. Shrewsbury Council made long term decisions back in the 1988-1990 time period on what capacity would be needed out to the year 2015. Obviously, we have passed that target date, and the amount of sewer capacity that remains (as defined by equivalent dwelling units or EDUs) is running very low. Projections made years ago were based upon an engineering study of "what if" such and such a farm/property were to be developed into residential properties. At that time, the Borough allocated some of the sewer capacity to properties for future use. However, that sewer capacity was not committed to those properties nor is it guaranteed to remain there. In fact, the Borough has been challenged by individuals seeking sewer capacity because it was not specifically reserved for certain properties. Based on previous public meetings, there are some citizens that believe that those EDUs are "committed" to such properties, but that is simply not the case. Our Borough Engineer has just updated the projections of how much capacity might be necessary to build out underdeveloped and undeveloped properties in the Borough, based upon current ordinances and land development plans. With the existing demands for EDUs in the outlying Townships served by the Shrewsbury Borough Municipal Authority, it is not practical to hold onto these EDUs for projected uses when the EDUs can be sold right now. The proceeds from the sale of those EDUs are needed to fund both the current and projected sewer plant and sewer system upgrades that are scheduled or necessary.

To educate our citizens that may want to develop property in the future, the Council will be holding a public meeting on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. to present all the facts and requirements about reservation of sewer capacity. A limited number will be able to physically attend this meeting, and others will be able to view it on line. Watch for a future notice on how to do so on line, and it will also be posted on our web site. As was stated well over a year ago, a financial commitment must soon be made to "Reserve an EDU" for future use. Those EDUs that are not reserved, will be offered for sale through the Shrewsbury Borough Municipal Authority. If you have any plan for future development of your property, or anticipate growth of a current business that might need additional sewer capacity, then this meeting is a must attend. Should you know anyone who falls in this category, whether or not they receive a Borough newsletter, please pass this message along to them. The situation is becoming one where action must be taken, as the Borough is not in a position to indefinitely hold onto sewer capacity for future development. Rather, property owners will need to solidify their options by making the appropriate purchase or financial commitment to reserve an EDU.

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(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. The Shrewsbury Borough Facebook page will also report Snow Emergencies.
- 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. Practice defensive driving and allow ample time to reach destination. Plan ahead and only travel if absolutely necessary. Snow removal crews can plow in a safe and efficient manner with less traffic. Be patient!
- 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.

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, 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.
7. Never leave home without heat in freezing temperatures. Test and maintain heating system especially if home will be unoccupied.



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

A FEW WORDS FROM BUCK BUCHANAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT - CONTINUED

ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR POSITION

Judy Kroh has served this Borough well for the past 16 years as the Tax Collector for the Borough and several years for the Southern York County School District. She will be retiring from this position at the end of 2021 when her term ends. Anyone interested in this elected position should contact me for a briefing of what this duty requires. Although this paid position is labeled "part time" it is both demanding of a lot of time and even more of patience to explain our tax laws to new residents. We are looking to identify someone now so a smooth transition can be done during this last year of Judy's term. You would need to have a police background check performed prior to filing your Petition to Run at the York County Elections Office to be placed on the May Primary Ballot. Training courses are available and must be completed prior to taking this position. On behalf of Shrewsbury Borough, I would like to commend Judy on the excellent job she has done these past 16 years.

IN-GROUND FUEL TANKS

We recently addressed three local issues with underground storage tanks leaking home heating oil. The tank leaks create an environmental issue with contaminants entering the ground and potentially polluting our drinking water sources. Shrewsbury's water system is supplied by nine wells that pump groundwater for domestic use and fire protection. A survey was distributed to residents near the recent oil tank leaks since underground storage tanks are prevalent in that development. If you receive the survey, or have an underground storage tank on your property, please notify the Borough. Should you discover that you have a leaking tank, it is imperative that you notify the Borough immediately. There are local and state regulations that specify what is required when a leaking tank is removed, so don't attempt do this on your own. The Borough can assist you in applying for a DEP Grant to help defray the costs of the oil tank's removal.

MEDICAL RESPONSE SERVICES

Coordination and discussions continue with the concept of creating a Regional Service for the Southern York County area. As is the case in all joint municipality plans, there are many different viewpoints that all have to come together to achieve a common goal beneficial to everyone. The Borough Council supports this concept but there remain "the small details" that need to be worked out.

TRAFFIC CALMING

- The temporary speed humps were removed from Covington Drive in November for snow removal season. Traffic studies were performed before and after the speed humps were installed. The Committee will meet in early 2021 to discuss data and future calming.
- Traffic studies will be performed on West Forrest Avenue, East Clearview Drive, and West Railroad Avenue. Traffic calming will be discussed after the data is received.
- Speed Limit study on West Forrest Avenue from Shetland Drive to Borough/Township line and proper speed limit.
- East Tolna Road and South Main Street sight triangle.



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CASKEY GROUP

DID YOU KNOW???

- Based on average snowfall totals, Shrewsbury Borough averages 25 inches of snow every Winter. Last Winter, we received 10.0 inches of snow with the largest accumulating snow on January 7th with five inches. The Public Works only responded to eight snow/ice events.

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT/ROAD PAVING

The water mains and services will be replaced on Mount Airy Road, Cardinal Drive, Westview Drive, and Circle Drive. The water main project will begin in the next few months and all residents will be notified prior to construction. The water mains are 50 years old and will be replaced with plastic pipe prior to the road replacement project. The road paving will begin in early Fall.

FROM THE SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY | 21 WEST FORREST AVENUE

The Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Company is always looking for highly motivated individuals to volunteer in all capacities. Please consider joining us and giving back to our community. Check out our website at shrewsburyfire.com or stop by the station and see what you can do to help make our community a better place! We look forward to seeing you soon!!