



Town of Stonewood

8052 Southern Avenue, Stonewood, WV 26301

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

DECEMBER 2020

From the Mayor's Office

I want to truly thank all the residents for their patience in these trying times. Our council meetings are being held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm (per ordinance Sec. 2-21). Currently, we are doing the meetings virtually. If anyone would like to join, please call 1(415) 926-7785. The conference ID is 4434077.

Our fire department letter drive is still going on. Please consider donating to support your local fire department. Additionally, the Stonewood Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for new members. Contact Fire Chief Ron Woods at (304) 622-1199 for more information or to schedule a tour of the station.

We received correspondence from the Assessor's office with numerous residents who have not paid their dog taxes. Our City ordinance Sec. 6-39 requires all dogs to be licensed. This helps us identify the dogs if they get loose.

We want to offer a warm farewell to a lifelong resident and pillar of the community, Thelma Defazio. Thelma was a business owner and friend to anyone who knew her. She will truly be missed.

Additionally, we have lost two former residents and long-time members of the Stonewood Fire Department. Joe Reed and Bruce Hudkins, we hope you rest in peace.

Fire Department

Santa Claus will be coming around with the Stonewood Vol. Fire Department to hand out candies and collect canned goods. This is a great event for the community to give back and an opportunity to contribute to a local food pantry. Santa's arrival is scheduled for December 20th, 2020 at 12 pm.

During the Christmas season, please remember to keep live trees watered to prevent unnecessary fires. Also, inspect Christmas lights for shorts, cuts in the cord, etc.

This time of year, many residents deal with frozen water lines. Make sure you consult a professional before attempting to thaw out your lines. Many fires have occurred while homeowners are attempting this process. This would also be a great time to check that your smoke detectors are properly working, and your furnace filters are appropriate for use.

Remember ordinance Sec. 14-7 requires burn permits for any burning activities. Applications are available at City Hall. Once you have made an application, one of the members of the Fire Department will inspect your burn location and make recommendations to ensure compliance with city and state laws. Your permit will be issued or denied at that time. We have no intention of keeping our citizens from burning under the state regulation, we just want to maintain safety for you and the City.

We have paid firefighters on duty each day Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please stop by and say hello! These are great hardworking firefighters that are here to **protect and serve the citizens of Stonewood.**

Thank you

Ron Woods, Fire Chief Stonewood VFD

Sewer Board

This month we feature your Sewer Board. They meet every third Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM and discuss various projects, including improvements to be made and problems that arise. Meet your Sewer Board:



James Terango is Stonewood's current Mayor and by virtue of ordinance 23-1, serves as Chairman of the Sewer Board. Mayor Terango is a lifelong resident that had served on Council from 1985-1987 and as Mayor from 1987-1992. He was also a part of the Stonewood Volunteer Fire Department for nearly 20 years. James is Harrison County's Chief Tax Deputy serving under Sheriff Robert Matheny.



Jimmy Paugh is a Senior land and construction agent for Percheron Field Services and TC Energy. He oversees the preconstruction, installation and reclamation of the water and gas lines. He is a lifetime resident of Stonewood and has spent four terms on City Council and served on the Sewer Board since 2015.



Greg Demark has spent many decades in the Stonewood Volunteer Fire Department holding various positions. He has served on City Council and is currently employed with Clarksburg Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Tammy Clark is the Secretary of the Sewer Board. She has worked with utility systems for over nine years, serving over six years at Greater Harrison PSD and three years with the City. She has completed various trainings with the Public Service Commission and is well-versed on the rules and regulations.



Director of Public Works- Rick Cox, and his wife Janet, have been residents of Stonewood for over 30 years. Rick recently joined the City work team in February 2018. He brought years of experience and safety knowledge to the department and maintains his Water Certification Card and CDL. Shortly after joining the department, he became a Certified Fire Fighter to aid in the care of Stonewood residents.

DO YOU RECYCLE?

We made a commitment in July of 2017 to get in compliance with recycling. At that time only 9% of our waste was being recycled. Since then, we have skyrocketed that number to 70%! We really appreciate our citizens doing their part and are excited to see what can happen when we all work together towards a common goal!

If you need a blue recycle bin, please contact City Hall to make arrangements. Per Harrison County ordinance, listed on their website

<http://www.harrisoncountysolidwaste.com/recycling.cfm>, every Harrison county resident is required to recycle.

As a reminder, the Town of Stonewood has mandatory recycling of paper, cardboard, aluminum, tin, and plastics #1 and #2. **We do not accept #5 materials.**

The Public Works Department is dedicated to enforcing recycling so when we're collecting your garbage, if you have recycling materials that are visible (such as cardboard boxes or plastic buckets), they will be left behind and picked up on Fridays. **Green garbage cans and dumpsters are for solid waste materials and blue cans, bins and dumpsters are for recycling material.** We use the garbage truck for recycling pickup, but please remember Friday's pickups are delivered to the recycling center **NOT** the landfill.



THE CODE NOTICE

As we come into winter, we want to thank all those who have been consistent in cutting their grass throughout the summer. The violations have steadily slowed, and residents have been good about responding to the violations as they are sent.

Citizens are required to obtain building permits when doing projects around the home. We want to remind everyone to get a building permit for any repair, addition, installation, or alteration of the property. Additionally, business licenses are required to be obtained anytime a business is working within the city limits (Ord. Chapter 10). If you have any questions about what work constitutes the need for a permit or obtaining a business license, please contact City Hall at (304) 623-2919.

We have seen a decrease in the number of illegal vehicles within the City. We still have found a few and sent notices out for them. Per IPMC code 302.8, except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle (current MVI and Registration stickers) shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. We will continue to monitor the City for this. We are working to take care of the structures that need to be repaired. These things take time, and we appreciate your patience.

Thank you for your hard work and compliance.

-Robert Leonard, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer

Life on the Beat

Chief Secreto

The winter season for the Stonewood Police Department will have a holiday theme. We will assist the Stonewood Volunteer Fire Department with the Santa on the 20th of December 2020 at 12:00 PM. The SWPD will have extra police coverage during the Christmas and New Year Festivities.

Be sure your vehicles are ready for winter with good wiper blades, tires, and working defrosters and headlights. When driving on snow covered roadways: never tailgate, allow for extra travel time, and do not drive unless necessary.

In the event you depart your residence for the winter months for any extended time, please arrange to have sidewalks and driveways cleared of snow. Also, remember that internal and external light timers give the appearance of presence in the home. Newspapers and mail piling up can invite the criminal element to break into your residence and steal your hard-earned belongings. There are many apps, cameras, and other security products available that can be a great deterrent. Finally, always notify your local police before leaving.

Please remember to telephone 911 when you observe someone or something suspicious. Never leave your vehicles, residence, storage buildings and garages unsecured while they are unattended. Always keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are home.

We have seen an influx of comments on Facebook about issues. Although communication is encouraged, it is vital that you call the SWPD to give a reference point, create a log and help deter crime in the future. You can also contact 911 and report it as a non-emergency. They will direct you to the proper authorities.

Please have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God bless and be safe.

Public Works

It has been a busy Summer in the Maintenance Department with many projects. In addition to our regular schedule, the largest project was paving some of our roads. This project allowed us to improve many streets, resurface our two basketball courts, and pave the parking lot/path for the Maple Avenue Park. We have also placed many new concrete street markers around town and painted the signs to help identify streets more easily.

Another big project was the removal of many years' worth of overgrown trees and brush along Elk Creek when entering Stonewood. We will continue to work on all these improvements, if weather permits in the future.

There will be no recycling pickup on December 25th, 2020. Instead of January 1st, 2021, recycling pickup will be moved to December 31st, 2020. Please be sure to mark your calendars and have your recyclables out the night before or by 6:00 AM. We will resume normal recycling pickup on Friday, January 8th, 2020.

Lastly, with winter quickly approaching, we want to remind you to please drive safely as the roads become snow-covered or freeze. With the addition of a Ford F250 Service rig last year, we have budgeted this year to purchase a snowplow and salt spreader. Now, when the snow starts to fly, we will have two vehicles, two salt spreaders, and three plows to keep the city streets safe.

75th Anniversary

We have two public volunteers and two members from City Council joining the 75th anniversary committee. Resident John Stopiak, Stonewood native Dennis Fitzpatrick, and council members Kim Nicholson and Jackie Carrico volunteered to start this committee. We are also privileged to have Pat Folio of Port Folio Events, LLC collaborating with us on this project.

We are still interested in adding new members to our committee for the 75th anniversary in 2022. Please contact City Hall if you are interested.

If you have any memorabilia that you would like to share, please let us know whether it is a donation, or you would like it returned. If you are sending photos, you can scan and email them, or make copies. It would be greatly appreciated as we can use them in years to come for the history of Stonewood.

From the Front Office

We would like to take time to truly thank you, our residents, during these especially difficult times. We have had to make many changes during the pandemic and adapt to the situations that have arose, not always by conventional means. We have certainly leaned on technology more to help us spread the word as well as helping us to keep you safe. We appreciate the patience and understanding you have shown and continue to show. We do not know when this will be over, but we can all work and get through this together. Please, if you have any issues paying your bill, contact our office before water service is terminated to make arrangements.

We have had several issues with garbage collections recently. Per Chapter 24 of the Codified Ordinances, residential garbage must be placed in refuse containers, provided by the resident, that are equipped with suitable handles, tight fitting covers, and should be watertight. They also should have a capacity between 10 gallons and 30 gallons. Each residence is billed based on the amount of their garbage disposal.

At this time, all residents are being billed for six bags per week or an average of two cans. If you have garbage that is excessively over the normal bag limit, please contact City Hall to make arrangements for pickup. If collections are being made and amounts are **frequently** over the bag limit, we will send a notice out and adjust billing accordingly. If you should have larger items to go out, please contact City Hall to verify that we are able to take the bulky items. We will not take construction materials and will leave these items.

For all information related to City Hall, please follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofstonewood as well as our website www.cityofstonewood.com.

For emergency alerts, please sign up with Nixle by texting your zip code to 888777.

The Municipal Election will be held on June 8th, 2021. If you would like to file as a candidate, you may do so by filling out an application at City Hall between January 11th-January 30th, 2021. Cost of filing for: Mayor \$50.00, Recorder and Council \$25.00. Last day to register to vote in the Municipal election is May 18th, 2021. Early voting in person will be conducted on May 29th, 2021 as well as June 5th, 2021 between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Calendar of Events**Council Meeting**January 5th, 2020

7 P.M.

Council MeetingJanuary 19th, 2020

7 P.M.

Sewer Board MeetingJanuary 19th, 2020

4:30 P.M.

Council MeetingFebruary 2nd, 2020

7 P.M.

Council MeetingFebruary 16th, 2020

7 P.M.

Sewer Board MeetingFebruary 16th, 2020

4:30 P.M.

Council MeetingMarch 2nd, 2020

7 P.M.

Council MeetingMarch 16th, 2020

7 P.M.

Sewer Board MeetingMarch 16th, 2020

4:30 P.M.

CHURCHES AND LOCATIONS**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

8092 Third Street

(304) 623-2334

Bible Baptist Temple

1450 Cost Avenue

(304) 623-2630

Church of the Nazarene

9254 Cost Avenue

(304) 624-0430

Christian & Missionary**Alliance**

8301 Hazelwood Avenue

(304) 624-5966

Congregational Missionary

8095 Hazelwood Avenue

(304) 622-7256

Oasis Worship Center

8556 Cost Avenue

(304) 918-9110

Happy Birthday to our Residents 90 and over!

Robert Wagner 10/8

Rita Fragmin 10/10

Loretta Hyman 11/28

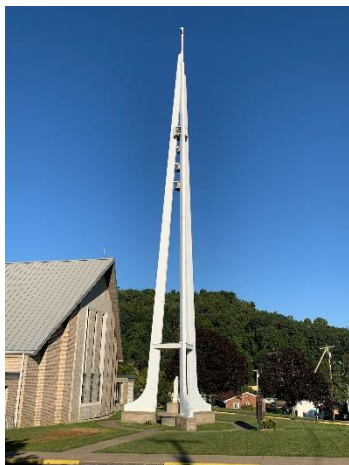
If you have not been listed and would like your birthday listed, please contact City Hall at (304)623-2919 ex. 3.

Please also let us know if it is ok to pass along your address information for those interested in sending birthday cards. Addresses will only be given out with permission of the resident.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church's Bells Will Ring out Again in Stonewood

By Colleen Rowan



Anyone visiting the town of Stonewood is met with an extraordinary sign of the Catholic faith—the 104-foot bell spire in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. The three bells of the spire which rang throughout the community for almost half a century, sadly fell silent eight years ago. “Every day at 7 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m. the Angelus bells would chime. And, as a child, it was our way of knowing the time of day,” said Janet Cox, a lifelong member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Cox has lived next door to the church since its construction in 1965. And the bells, she said, have been engrained in Stonewood residents’ daily lives. “We also had the ‘call to Mass’ about fifteen minutes before Mass, giving us the reminder that it was time to head out the door, so we weren’t late,” she said. Cox remembers the funeral toll, which was a single bell tolling, signifying to the community they were laying a parishioner to rest or the celebratory bells on a Saturday afternoon for a wedding. “The bells were very common in our community, so it was quickly noticed when they stopped working about eight years ago,” she said. At the center of the spire is a statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, originally covered by a protective circular cover representing a halo. Cox said the disc was damaged by water and fell about five years ago and has recently been replaced by a new protective triangular cover representing the Blessed Trinity. Efforts to replace the bell system are currently underway and have received a huge response from the parish community. “We are close to the completion of our ‘Bell Tower’ project with the replacement of the bells to sound the praises of the Lord and call the faithful to worship,” Cox said. “In an effort to raise funds to help with the cost of replacing the bell system, we asked our parishioners to consider making contributions and within three weeks, we exceeded our fundraising goal. The bells clearly have been missed by our church and community.” Deacon John Yaquinta, permanent deacon at the parish who helped get the bell replacement project started, said it won’t be long now until the bells will be ringing once more. “Catholics and non-Catholics alike will be able to know what is going on by the source of the bells,” he said. “They will know when Mass is about to start, when a funeral procession has arrived, when a couple is getting married, or when it is time to stop and pray the Angelus. In other words, God is about to start talking to his people again, using the bells installed in the bell tower at OLPH. “It makes me happy that the community at large supports the project,” he continued. “The bells have not worked since I have been a member of OLPH. However, I am excited to hear them for the first time once the work is completed.” The new bells are set to be installed Nov. 16. Information offered by the parish’s “Repair the Bell Tower Fund” said the project includes removal of the existing system and speakers, installation of a new Verdin Digital Sonata bell system, new speakers, cables, and hardware. Parishioners were invited to honor their loved ones who have passed away with memorial plaques along with their contribution. Contribution plaques will be placed in the church with the names of those memorialized or donors to the fund. The architect, Louis Joseph Schmidt, wrote the following after the construction of the spire in 1966: “A new landmark on the skyline in Stonewood, the bell spire is rising more than 104 feet above the floor of the church. The three spire legs represent the Blessed Trinity and collectively support the Roman Cross, so the Christian community might be reminded of Christ’s continuous presence. Nestled high in the spire are external speakers to sound the praises of the Lord and call the faithful of Stonewood to worship.” And so, the parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help today have made sure their beautiful bells will ring out to future generations. Courtesy Photo At right is the 104-foot bell spire in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Stonewood.

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