



# Town of Stonewood

8052 Southern Avenue, Stonewood, WV 26301

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SEPTEMBER 2021

## From the Mayor's Office

I would like to bid farewell to lifelong resident, Joe Leroy, who passed away August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the age of 89. Joe was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Flora, 12 years ago. He attended both Norwood and RW. He had an amazing list of accomplishments including being a lifelong parishioner at Saint Bridgetts and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, worked over 20 years at PPG, coached Minor League Baseball Bell Mining with Chief Carvelli and Jim Hooker Terango, served three terms on City Council and was a community watchdog. This shows his commitment and dedication to our city and its citizens.

I have a story to share that is unusual and may be hard to believe. Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1985, was election day. I was a bright eyed and aggressive 21-year-old lieutenant in the fire department who decided to run for City Council and was elected. You may be asking, "What's this have to do with anything?" Two very well-known and popular residents, Joe Leonetti and Joe Leroy, were running for Mayor and both had worked at PPG. Both candidates had shared the same first name and initials! What's the point, right? Terry Whiteman had a great response when either would ask her what she had been hearing about the election. She would respond, "I hear they're voting for Joe." Now comes the hard part to believe, they tied in the election. With the voter turnout we get these days, you may be thinking it's not that hard. In comparison, our most recent election had under 200 folks exercise their voting right. Going back, Joe Leonetti and Joe Leroy garnished 369 votes each. This is not a typo and no, I didn't make it up. Yes, if you're counting, it's 369x2, which equals 738 votes in Stonewood. Hard to believe, I know, but it's completely accurate. The votes were counted three times with no change. Now what? Jack Biafore was the Mayor and Larry Snider served as Recorder. They requested assistance from the WV Secretary of State's Office. A. James Manchin was serving that office. John Pratt was assigned to oversee the outcome and served in that office as an election official. On Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1985, Council was tasked by canvassing the election and the third recount. After the canvass, it was still tied. Council then agreed to select a mayor through lottery by submitting seven names of each candidate to be drawn out one at a time until a majority of four was drawn. All seven members of council had to pull out one name and like the world series, first one to four wins. My dad was on Council and drew first, pulling Leonetti. The next member was Jim Nutter, who also pulled Leonetti. The next two pulls were Leroy so now its two-two at this point in the World Series and the team heading home has the advantage. That doesn't exist in this case since we're all at home. The remainder of council was made up of Fred Krivosky, Dave Riffle, and Bud Bohn. Then the next two pulls were for Leonetti, and it was decided. I forgot to mention all media outlets were in attendance. And, yes, the council room was beyond capacity. Joe Leroy's media response was very fitting of his personality. It went something like this, "It was fair, I have no bitterness and will assist in any way needed." A good sport even after it didn't turn out the way he planned. Farwell old friend. You were closer to getting to serve as Mayor than humanely possible. Rest easy good man. See you on the other side.

## OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

It's close to that time of year again when we begin the "Official Burning Season". I would like to remind all residents of the WV State Forestry Law, it reads as follows:

- Burning season date: March 1- May 31 and October 1- December 31
- Burning is prohibited during burning season from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- If burning has occurred during permitted hours (5:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.), the fire must be completely extinguished by 7:00 A.M.
- All fires must be always attended and have a water source available.
- Burning season prohibitions exclude 1) small fires for the purpose of food preparation, warmth, or light around which all grass, brush, stubble, or debris has been removed for at least 10 feet from the fire and 2) burning which is conducted at any time when the ground surrounding the burning site is covered by one inch of snow or more.
- The City of Stonewood requires any resident burning to obtain a burn permit at city hall.

I would like to remind all citizens to check their smoke detectors and change the batteries. If any citizen needs a smoke detector, the Stonewood Fire Department does have some available and will assist you in placement and install.

Paid staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. till 4:00 P.M. as always for your assistance.

Let's remember to be safe, practice fire safety and know your way out in a plan from your home in the time of an emergency.

## Parks and Rec. Committee

We have been working hard over the last year to update and improve the parks in our area. At this time, our Public Works department has built new picnic tables, painted playground equipment as well as updating the swings at each of the parks.

We have also purchased a zero-turn mower for \$6,983.00 to keep up with the grass at each of the parks. This has help to reduce cutting time drastically. Parotta Paving paved D.F. Oliverio Park basketball court, parking area, and walking path as well as Rt. 58 Catala Heights basketball court for a total of \$27,100.00. Spags sealed both basketball courts and Maple Avenue courts for \$1,700.00.

We are working hard to get the parks updated and are slowly making progress. There are some major plans in the work for the future! However, playground equipment is very expensive, so we continue to diligently work and explore our future options in updating each of the parks.

We are currently in need of a new member for the Parks and Rec. Committee. If you or anyone you know may be interested, please contact City Hall so we may forward your information to the board.

## Stonewood Lions Club

The Club was started in September 2013 with a very active presence in the community. The Club’s next bi-annual cleanup for the highway on Rt. 58 is scheduled for Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 AM Starting at Rt. 58 (Catalpa Heights Park). Anyone who is interested in helping, please contact Jeff Lawrence, President.

### Sec. 22-38. - Littering and deposit of garbage, rubbish, junk, etc.

(a)No person shall, without lawful authority, place or dispose of in any manner, upon any public property or upon the premises of another, any paper, trash, garbage, waste, rubbish, refuse, junk or any substance or material which is or may become noxious, offensive, injurious, or dangerous to the public health, comfort, or safety.

(b)No person shall cause or allow trash, garbage, waste, rubbish, refuse or any other noxious or offensive materials or substances to be collected or remain in any place to the damage or prejudice of others or of the public, or unlawfully obstruct, impede, divert, corrupt, or render unwholesome or impure, any natural watercourse.

### Sec. 22-40. - Penalty.

Any person convicted of a violation of sections 22-38 or 22-39 shall be subject to the following penalties:

- (1) Upon first conviction, the defendant shall be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$250.00.
- (2) Upon second conviction, the defendant shall be fined not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$500.00.
- (3) Upon any subsequent conviction in excess of a second conviction, the defendant shall be fined not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1000.00.



## SAVE THE DATE

Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade

Evening of 12/4/2021

Stay tuned for more information



## Life on the Beat

### Chief Secreta

I like the fall months with its sporting events, cooler weather, children returning to school, the many holidays, hunting and West Virginia's beautiful scenery. With that being said, the SWPD will continue to patrol our streets and will be constantly alert for the criminal element. Keep your home doors as well as your vehicle doors always locked. You should follow the same precautions for any storage buildings as well. Please keep your property illuminated. Motion lights work very well. Notify the police when streetlights are not working, and they will report them to get repaired promptly. Install video cameras if you can do so as an additional deterrent. Please telephone 911 when you observe someone or something suspicious. Calling 911 documents all incidents and gives the police a record so patrol routes can be adjusted along with extra vigilantes for your area.

### COVID-19 TIPS

COVID-19 and variant precautions; Please sanitize your hands before wearing masks. Make sure it covers both your nose, mouth, and chin. After removing your mask, store it in a plastic container and wash it every day. Don't use masks with valves. Always wash your hands with disinfectant when touching items in public. Try not to touch your face until you are sure your hands are sanitized.

### DRIVING TIPS

Make sure your vehicles are always in perfect, operational condition: tires, lights windshield wipers and defrosters. Be attentive during the fall and winter months to changing road conditions such as wet roadways, deer (especially during the fall months), snow and ice hazards. Driving slower during fowl weather conditions is a good way to prevent weather-related accidents.

Please be safe and God bless!

Chief M. A. Secreta

## Police pics follow from Issue 10.

1. Now Harrison County Deputy Sheriff Zack Kesling
2. Chief Tom Bokey
3. Chief Junior Devericks
4. Robin Depolo
5. Joe Messe
6. Form Chief now Sheriff Robert Matheny
7. John Barnes
8. Sargent Greg LeMasters WV State Police
9. Marcel Fontain
10. Chief Chris Minor, who also worked for the Shinnston, Salem, and Anmoore Police Departments.
11. Chief Dave Riffle who later was an officer with the Anmoore Police Department
12. Ed Martin, who is now a retired lieutenant from the Harrison County Sheriff's Office
13. Time Smith was an officer for the Town of Lost Creek, who is now a retired lieutenant with the Clarksburg Police Department
14. Retired Captain Rick Miller, who also served as Anmoore Police Chief, Deputy Sheriff, Harrison County Sheriff's Office as well as a Harrison County Constable
15. Ron Grover
16. Jimmy Lucante
17. Eugene Scott
18. Chief Joe Devono
19. Paul Kidd
20. Vioalee Riffle
21. Dave Riffle
22. Kenny Fragman
23. Larry Cosner
24. Jim Macatee, who retired from the Harrison County Sheriff's Office as Lieutenant. He also worked for the Anmoore Police Department.
25. Bob Woods
26. Jimmy Snyder
27. Bud Bohn
28. Paul Snyder
29. Tony Paul Clutter

### From the Front office

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Tammy Clark, our billing clerk, for all her hard work over the last year through the pandemic. She has worked diligently with a multitude of program coordinators on several different assistance programs that have occurred during this time. I cannot thank her enough for her dedication to the City as well as the residents. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, she has been promoted to Administrative Specialist taking on several new tasks in addition to her current job duties. I look forward to working with her in the future and wish her the best of luck!

A few reminders for our residents:

- Utility bills are mailed out by the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month and always due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month. If for whatever reason, you do not receive your bill, it is your responsibility to follow up with the utility.
- You must set up a payment plan before your utility is turned off. Once the utility is disconnected, there is a \$25.00 reconnect fee and the full past due bill becomes due.
- If you are having issues paying on your utility bill, please contact us prior to any shut offs. We are here to assist you in any way we can.
- If you have previously set up a payment plan and did not make the payments due when noted in the agreement, your plan becomes null and void, and you cannot set up another payment plan for one year after voided plan.
- We accept all forms of payment; cash, check or card. There is a fee of \$4.05 to use a card up to \$131.75 and 3% for any payment amount above that.

## Public Works

Public Works has been busy this summer mowing grass at the parks and around the City. We want to give a thanks to the Parks and Rec. Committee for purchasing a new zero-turn mower and heavy duty weed-eater. We are also looking into the purchase of a dump trailer for the residents to rent. Keep an eye out for more information.



We would like to remind you, our residents, now is the time to start looking at winterizing your pipes, outdoor equipment as well as hoses and any outside spigots. This will help deter any issues when the weather starts dropping below freezing.

## CODE NOTICE

As we near the end of the year, grass is no longer an issue until next spring. In the spring, we will start the enforcement of our new ordinance Section 8-3 Public Grass Strips regarding grass within the right of way. All residents must have all grass on their property mowed and maintained up to the road. This is an ordinance that several other municipalities have and enforce. Section 8-2 Outdoor Storage of Materials will continue to be monitored and enforced. Any garbage or rubbish and illegal or inoperative vehicles will also be written up as a violation.

We have made great progress with vacant and dilapidated structures within the city. Many of these have been acquired by new owners looking to fix them up and flip them. A few of these have been demolished and we look to have another one demolished within the next 6 months. We are trying to make the city look its best so we hope you will continue to do your part to help. Thank you.

Robert Leonard  
Building Inspector  
City of Stonewood



## Section 8-3 Public grass strips.

All unpaved spaces of ground between the private property line(s) on any city street or public place, and the sidewalk abutting thereon or along the same, and all unpaved spaces of ground between any such sidewalk and the curb are declared to be public grass strips and shall be under the immediate control, care and responsibility of the owners and/or occupants of the private premises abutting thereon, and such owners and/or occupants shall be held responsible for the care and preservation thereof, and they shall sow grass seed or place sod thereon and carefully mow the grass thereon whenever it has attained a height of eight inches; and, they shall see that there is no accumulation of paper, trash, filth or dirt thereon.

Property owners shall be permitted to plant flowers and shrubs in the public grass strips wherever the width thereof will permit, so long as approved by the Public Works Director for the protection of flowers, grass, shrubbery of flower seeds planted in the public grass strips. The Public Works Director may also grant permits to abutting property owners to plant trees of an approved kind in any of the public grass strips where, in his/her judgement, the strip is sufficiently wide to allow trees and they will not injure the street paving, sidewalks, or sewers, but only such trees as shall be approved by the Public Works Director shall be so planted. No hedges exceeding 16 inches in height shall be allowed in any public grass strip and if any hedge is planted in any such strip, it shall always be kept neatly trimmed and vacant spaces replanted by the abutting property owner or occupant. The Public Works Director shall seek approval from the Chief of Police to ensure visibility for motorists, pedestrians, and bicycles to preclude obstruction from hedges, trees, flowers, etc.

No public grass strip shall be lowered below the grade of the sidewalk except by permission of the Public Works Director.

From the desk of the Mayor

A term in review

- New police cruiser
- Removed or made legal 145 vehicles since July 1, 2017
- PW equipment - brush hog, New Garbage Truck with arm
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- Painted & updated street signs corner markers
- Paved streets opened a dead-end street that now enables emergency services easier more timely access
- Contracted with Data Max Corporation for past due utility bill collection, business license & B & O tax
- Upgraded city hall's interior
- Assisted with 2020 census won an award
- The Fire Department's daytime paid firefighter EMT paramedic etc.
- Thanks to Sheriff Robert G. Matheny & Assessor Joseph Rocky Romano for holding satellite evening assessment & tax collection @ the fire department.
- Passed 14 ordinances

Tom Stalnaker, of Stonewood, is an active member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve 1975-1992. He joined the F.O.E. in 2005, became President of local Aerie, Clarksburg in 2006-2007. He served as Trustee for 10 years and was District Secretary for this area from 2012-2015. During this time, he was also President of the Harrison County Fraternal Association and became State Secretary in 2016. Tom was the first member to receive the Eagle of the Year Award from the WV State Aerie. In 2020, he received a Proclamation from Harrison County Commission at the Spring Conference in Clarksburg, WV. Tom was installed as President of WV State Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles in June 2021 at the WV State Convention in Elm Grove, WV. Tom and his wife have been members of the Stonewood community for 6 years. He has set up a Charity for this year as F.O.E. President. The money he raises throughout the year will go to the WV Children's Hospital. If interested in donating, you may contact him at [tstalnaker2011@aol.com](mailto:tstalnaker2011@aol.com)

## Happy Birthday to our Residents 90 and over!

Betty Harper 4/19

Ruby Casto 4/23

Fran Defazio 6/15

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.



The City of Stonewood will be celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> year of its founding July 1 -3, 2022. "Stonewood 75" is going to be a family friendly city-wide celebration that will not only attract city residents, but folks who have moved to other parts of the county, state, and country. The Stonewood 75 Committee has developed a tentative list of activities that include:

- Arts & Crafts Booth
- Food Booths & Trucks
- Games
- Concert with Fireworks
- Fireman's Parade
- School Tours
- Historical Discussions with Local Historians
- Ecumenical Service
- Pot-Luck Community Lunch
- Publishing of a Stonewood 75 Historical Program

At this time, we would like to announce that Geunita Hinkle and Doris Kidd have agreed to Co-Chair the event and we couldn't be more excited to have these two energetic ladies leading our team. They are being assisted by Patrick Folio, who will manage the overall event. Over the next few weeks, we will be reaching out to folks who have expressed interest in helping and some who we think would be a benefit to our efforts. If you would like to be part of the committee or have an idea regarding the event, please send us an email at [pfolio49@gmail.com](mailto:pfolio49@gmail.com) and let us know. We look forward to a great July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in 2022.

**Calendar of Events**

Council Meeting

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

7 P.M.

Council Meeting

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

7 P.M.

Sewer Board Meeting

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

4:30 P.M.

Council Meeting

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

7 P.M.

Council Meeting

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

7 P.M.

Sewer Board Meeting

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

4:30 P.M. [Grab your reader’s attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

Council Meeting

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

7 P.M.

Council Meeting

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

7 P.M.

Sewer Board Meeting

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

4:30 P.M.

**CHURCHES AND LOCATIONS**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

8092 Third Street

(304) 623-2334

Service 5:00 PM every Saturday

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM every Sunday

**Bible Baptist**

**Temple**

1450 Cost Avenue

(304) 623-2630

Service 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM every Sunday

**Church of the Nazarene**

9254 Cost Avenue

(304) 624-0430

Services 10:45 AM and 6:00 PM every Sunday

**Christian & Missionary**

**Alliance**

8301 Hazelwood Avenue

(304) 624-5966

**Congregational Missionary**

8095 Hazelwood Avenue

(304) 622-7256

Service 10:50 AM every Sunday

**Pentecostal**

**Church of**

**Living God**

8144 Stout Street (304) 884-8154

Service 10:30 AM every Sunday

**Oasis Worship Center**

8556 Cost Avenue

(304) 918-9110

Service 10:30 AM every Sunday