



City of Stonewood

8052 Southern Avenue, Stonewood, WV 26301

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 19

FEBRUARY 2025

From the Mayor's Office

Dear Community Members,

Community Losses and Tributes

Since our last report, we have mourned the loss of several community members, including Dennis Dean and the couple Barbara and Raymond Smith. On a personal note, I also said goodbye to my youngest brother, Mike.

Major Sewer Replacement Project Underway

We are currently undertaking a major overhaul of our sewer system—most of which was originally installed in 1965. Please be patient, as these improvements may temporarily affect traffic flow in your neighborhood. Assistant Public Works Director Greg Demark, who brings extensive experience from his years as lead operator at the Clarksburg waste treatment plant and service on both the city council and the sewer board, is overseeing the project. For any concerns, please contact City Hall; your inquiry will be forwarded to Public Works Director Richard Cox. The engineering is being managed by the Thrasher Group of Bridgeport, while The Virco Company of Charleston is serving as the general contractor.

Collaborative Efforts and Community Support

We are grateful for the contributions of board members Jimmy Paugh and Tim DeFazio, Recorder Danny Phares, and Council Member Mike Hyman, who have been involved in every step of this process. Mike Hyman also serves on the Region IV Planning & Development Council, working diligently to represent our interests and promote regional growth. Our front office staff—Crystal Johnson and Tammy Clark—continue to provide vital support to both the board and Public Works. We also appreciate the support of the USDA and Region IV for their assistance with this project. Their contributions have been instrumental in ensuring its success and helping us move forward with these vital improvements. Additionally, our strong partnerships with local governments have been invaluable. The cities of Clarksburg, Anmoore, and Nutter Fort offer assistance in the form of equipment loans, labor support, and mutual aid with our police and fire departments. We remain committed to returning the favor during their times of need.

Honoring Our Police Officers During National Police Week

National Police Week is May 11–17, 2025, and we take this time to recognize and honor our dedicated law enforcement officers.

We congratulate former Police Chief Robert Matheny II on recently assuming the position of Sheriff and former officer Roger Cunningham on being elected Sheriff of Marion County.

We also extend our appreciation to our current police department, including our new Chief, Josh Thomas. Additionally, we welcome back Lieutenant Robert Matheny I and recognize Patrolmen Andrew Moore, Brett Levine, and Joe Matheny for their service.

We are also proud to acknowledge two Stonewood residents who serve as deputies for the Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Shane Richardson and Jake Sukanick, as well as former SPD officer and current Deputy Zach Kesling.

Thank you all for your service and dedication to keeping our community safe!

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From the Mayor's Office

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How You Can Show Appreciation

If you'd like to express your gratitude to our officers, here are a few ways you can participate:

- Drop off snacks such as cookies, donuts, or fruit at the police station.
- If you see an officer dining at a restaurant, consider paying for their meal.
- Donate gift cards for local restaurants or grocery stores.
- Make a donation to the FOP Mountaineer Lodge #78 in the Stonewood Police Department's name: PO Box 133, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

Your support means a great deal to our officers and their families.

Citizen Services and Community Programs

For those requiring assistance with copying important documents, sending or receiving faxes, notarizing paperwork, or emailing, City Hall is available to help. Please call in advance to schedule an appointment.

With spring approaching, you may notice an increase in unsightly trash on our streets. The Adopt-A-Street program continues to play a key role in keeping our town looking its best. However, several streets remain unadopted, so please let us know if you can lend a hand.

If you witness someone littering, please call 911 to report it. Provide a description of the person, and if a vehicle is involved, share the license plate number, color, make, and model, along with the location of the violation and what trash was littered. Keep in mind that the 911 dispatchers will ask several questions; however, the units are notified while they still have you on the phone. They are required to obtain as much information as possible for the safety of the first responder and to assist in apprehending the violator. Ordinances 22-38 & 39 make it unlawful to litter, and your help in reporting violations supports our efforts to maintain a clean and safe environment.

Celebrations and Announcements

We extend our warm wishes to former Mayor and retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant Kenneth "Sarge" Gorby on his 92nd birthday on March 23. Additionally, I am delighted to announce that my dear Aunt, Lois Jean Scott, will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on March 24. Wilma Jean Frazier turns 91 on March 20. A special birthday wish also goes out to my cousin Wanda Seti, who turned 91 on February 17th. Please join me in celebrating these remarkable milestones!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support as we are "working together for a better community"- Mayor the late Joe Leonette

Sincerely,

Mayor Jim Terango

Stonewood Lions Club

The Stonewood Lions Club motto is “we serve”. Our club members are dedicated to serve people in need. As Lions, we do fundraisers and community services throughout the year. Our club offers a \$500 scholarship to one High School graduate that lives in Stonewood. Food baskets are distributed to community members, and we help with the purchase of eyeglasses. We partnered with local businesses Total Comfort and Edwards Company, LLC to distribute over 100 filled backpacks for Nutter Fort School and the club also purchased personal care items for the Mustard Seed. As lions we were proud to sponsor a Veteran for the Veteran Honor Flight.

Our fundraisers for the club are our annual yard sale and hot dog sale in conjunction with the Stonewood community yard sale and our annual apple sale in the fall. In addition to all of that we sell brooms, mops and dishcloths year-round.

This year, Lions will be holding our annual food drive for the backpack program benefiting Nutter Fort School and Robert C Byrd High School March 30th-April 5th. We will be collecting items at various businesses in town during that week. With a drop off on Saturday April 5th on Water Street across from Town and Country.

Our biggest community service is Adopt-A-Highway. We have been picking up trash in our designated area along Rt. 58 for over 10 years. With continuous support from the city giving us police and fire presence and Mayor Terango, who also participates, along with other community members we have been able to expand to include other streets in Stonewood.

Stonewood Lions share a passion to make a positive impact on our community.

From the Public Works Department

What a winter it has been! Thank you for bearing with us through the back-to-back snowstorms as public works has cleared the streets. We hope the snowfall will take a break but during snow removal, please be patient. Public Works will salt/plow your street as soon as we can. Our priority is 1st, the fire department in case of an emergency; 2nd are the hills around the city; 3rd are the main roads, 4th will be the alleys. We as that you please be patient with us as we do our best to keep up with the snow!

Over the next 12 months, we are doing a sanitary sewer system upgrade starting on Water Street. During the upgrade, Water Street will be closed, and alternate routes will be marked. Please be patient, we know this is a little inconvenient but due to the aging infrastructure in Stonewood, this project is necessary for our future.

We are looking forward to spring and have scheduled the city-wide clean up. As we have done over the past few years, the city will provide a free clean-up for the residents of Stonewood and it is scheduled for the week of June 23rd, 2025, to June 27th, 2025. Additional details will be available when we get closer to the cleanup.

Recycling

As a reminder, recycling runs every Friday and only the blue recycling cans will be picked up.

Every resident should recycle at least:

- Aluminum, bi-metal and steel beverage and food cans
- Plastic containers, cardboard, and newspapers including inserts.

Recycling items will have a recycling symbol or seal on it.

Why Local Governments Are Some of the Best-Run Organizations—Without a Profit Motive

Every so often, someone makes the comparison: Why can't local government operate more like a business? It's an argument rooted in the belief that the private sector is more efficient, innovative, and results driven. And while businesses certainly have their strengths, this comparison often overlooks a critical difference—businesses exist to generate profits, while local governments exist to serve their communities.

Despite this distinction, many small towns and cities across America operate as highly efficient, well-run organizations that deliver essential services, manage multimillion-dollar budgets, and improve quality of life—all without the luxury of profit incentives.

Small-Town Efficiency: Doing More with Less

Consider the city of Spencer, West Virginia. A small community of just over 2,000 residents, Spencer has managed to implement forward-thinking infrastructure projects while keeping costs in check. The city operates with a lean administrative team that maximizes every dollar, stretching resources in a way that would make any private-sector CFO proud. They don't have the option to increase revenue by selling more products—so they rely on smart budgeting, creative problem-solving, and collaboration with regional partners to get things done.

Similarly, Logan, West Virginia, has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability. Under the leadership of city officials like City Clerk Amber Miller-Belcher, Logan has not only improved its public engagement efforts but has also successfully organized community programs that enhance civic pride—all while managing a budget with a level of transparency and fiscal responsibility that many corporations struggle to match.

A Different Kind of Bottom Line

For businesses, the bottom line is profit. For local governments, the bottom line is the well-being of their residents. Yet, despite this difference, local governments operate under constraints that would challenge even the most seasoned corporate executives:

- **Strict Budgetary Constraints** – Unlike businesses, cities can't simply raise prices to increase revenue. They must operate within tax structures and state-imposed budget limitations while still maintaining essential services.
- **Public Accountability** – Every decision is scrutinized by the public, local media, and oversight agencies. Unlike a CEO making internal decisions, a city manager or mayor must justify every major expense to the citizens they serve.
- **Unpredictable Challenges** – From natural disasters to economic downturns, local governments must respond to crises without the ability to simply shut down operations or pivot to a new business model.

- **Governing body blowback**-Another real impact is often the public pushback to members of the city council, who are on the frontline when services are cut, or taxes are increased. A council chamber full of angry constituents can exert pressure on elected representatives and have real implications.

Entrepreneurial Thinking Without the Profit Motive

Many cities have embraced an entrepreneurial mindset, applying business principles to governance while keeping their mission centered on public service. Take the city of Clarksburg, West Virginia, which has successfully leveraged partnerships with the private sector to attract investment and enhance economic development. They've focused on making smart, long-term investments in infrastructure while also ensuring their citizens receive the services they need.

What the Private Sector Can Learn from Local Government

Rather than asking why government can't operate like a business, perhaps the private sector should be asking what it can learn from local government:

1. **Long-Term Planning Over Short-Term Gains** – Cities plan decades ahead, investing in infrastructure and community development, while many businesses focus on quarterly earnings reports.
2. **Service Over Sales** – Governments measure success not by revenue, but by how well they meet the needs of their citizens.
3. **Accountability and Transparency** – Every dollar spent is documented, debated, and publicly disclosed—something many businesses could benefit from adopting more rigorously.

The Takeaway

While businesses operate to make money, local governments operate to make a difference. The best-run cities and towns have mastered the art of balancing limited resources, responding to crises, and planning for the future—all while staying accountable to the people they serve.

So, the next time someone asks why local government isn't run like a business, perhaps the better question is: *How do they manage to do so much with so little?*

Jim Hunt

Amazing Cities



Stonewood Firefighter's Festival

The third annual Stonewood Volunteer Firefighter's Festival will be held on August 1-3, 2025, at the Chief James A Carvelli Fire Station. The 2024 event raised over \$38,000.00 that was used to purchase new gear for the firefighters. This year's event will kick-off with the Miss Stonewood Firefighter's Pageant on June 14th, 2025, as the fire station is transformed to showcase the best pageant contestants in the Mountain State. The new Miss Stonewood Firefighter's Queen will open the 3-day festival on August 1st and will host the Little Stonewood Firefighter's Pageant that evening. Once again, the event will feature the Carnival Midway- with new and exciting rides, our famous Food Truck Alley, area crafters, the annual 5 Alarm 5K on Saturday morning, the Harry Lynch ICS Chili Cook-Off, outstanding entertainment and our Ecumenical Service and Community Picnic. If you wish to participate, volunteer in the event or become a sponsor, please contact us at stonewoodfireco12@gmail.com.

From the Front Office

Reminders for our residents:

1. Utility bills are mailed out by the 5th of every month and always due on the 25th of that month. If you do not receive your bill, it is your responsibility to follow up with the utility.
2. 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.
3. 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 the voided plan.
4. You have the option to pay your bill online at www.cityofstonewood.com and clicking the water tab located at the top right of the screen.
5. Please note that we cannot give out any information regarding someone's account if you are not on the account. If you would like to be added to an account, both you and the account holder need to be present with your IDs and fill out a form. We will not give out any information regarding an account as that is a violation of privacy.

OFFICE OF THE STONEWOOD FIRE CHIEF

The Stonewood Fire Department would like to remind all citizens of some winter facts in our deepest hopes to keep everyone safe and warm.

More than 350,000 fires occur each year and often within the homes of seniors. Some of the leading causes include cooking, portable heaters, and faulty electrical equipment. The National Center for health Statistics found that adults 65 and older were 2.4 times as likely as the general population to die in fires. For those 85 and older, the risk was 3.6 times higher. Fires are more common during winter months, in part due to increased use of heating equipment.

Home Heating Fire Prevention Tips. Heating equipment caused an annual average of 44,210 home fires and 480 deaths between 2016 and 2020 according to the National Fire Protection Association. Learn how to stay safe with these tips.

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heat sources
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn off when leaving a room or sleeping.
- Never use a cooking stove to heat your home or dry clothes
- Space heaters on level, flat surfaces on the ground
- Have a qualified service professional inspect your heating system annually
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms
- Never use a space heater or any appliance with a damaged cord

Please remember that your fire department is always here for any questions or concerns you may have. Please stay safe, and if you wonder if what you are doing is safe, please call us for more information.

Chief Ron Woods

Stonewood Police Department

Letter from the Office of the Chief of Police

Dear Citizens,

As you may know, Robert Matheny II, your former Chief of Police took office as Sheriff of Harrison County on January 1, 2025. My name is Josh Thomas, and I am currently serving as your Chief of Police. I come to you with over 22 years of experience, having previously served 6 years as the Chief of Police in Weston before my retirement in 2022.

In addition to myself, the Stonewood Police Department also currently has two full-time officers and two part-time officers onboard. These officers are often out conducting patrol operations, and our phone lines are not always staffed. If you need assistance from a Police officer, you can call 911 or the non-emergency line at 304-626-4900.

I encourage you to report suspicious activity that you may see in the community, if you see something, say something. We can never quantify the amount of crime prevention that is the result of citizens reporting suspicious activity.

As we start approaching warmer weather, people will be out and about more. Most thefts are crimes of opportunity. Make sure you secure valuable belongings, lock car doors, close garage doors, etc.

My final thought, I will leave you with. With the cooperation of our citizens, we can strive to prevent crime instead of reacting to it, making the community a safer place for all.

Respectfully,

Josh Thomas, Chief

Calendar of Events

Council Meetings- 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm

Sewer Board Meetings- 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm

Fire Department Bag Bingo- March 16th, 2025

City Wide Yard Sale- June 13th and 14th, 2025

Stonewood Firefighter’s Festival Queens Pageant – June 14th, 2025

City-wide cleanup- June 23rd- 27th, 2025

Stonewood Firefighter’s Festival- August 1st- 3rd, 2025

Happy Birthday to our Residents 90 and over!

Wanda Seti	2/17
Wilma Jean Frazier	3/20
Kenneth “Sarge” Gorby	3/23
Louis Jean Scott	3/24
Juanita Fisher	9/10
Charles Shafer	10/31
Loretta “Jean” Hyman	11/28

If you or anyone you know are 90 and over and would like your birthday to be featured in the newsletter, please contact City Hall.



Churches and Locations

Bible Baptist Temple

1450 Cost Avenue

(304) 623-2630

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

Visit website for other services offered

Church of the Nazarene

9254 Cost Avenue

(304) 624-0430

Sundays at 10:45 AM and 6:00 PM

Congregational Missionary

8095 Hazelwood Avenue

(304) 622-7256

Sundays at 10:50 AM

Oasis Worship Center

8556 Cost Avenue

(304) 918-9110

Sundays at 10:30 AM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

8092 Third Street

(304) 623-2334

Saturdays at 5:00 PM

Sundays at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Stonewood Alliance

8301 Hazelwood Avenue

(304) 884-8154