

## e-News 5 January 2011

### Banner Photos for Borough Web Site

If you have a photo you would like to see used as the 'banner' for the new web site, please send it to me and we can crop and edit it to fit. The perfect width is between 880 and 900 pixels, and short enough that it won't take up much of the screen. It takes but a minute to update, and seasonal or topical pictures can add some spice to an otherwise boring page.

Just send the photo, along with any text or caption, and we can do the rest...

### 2011 River of the Year

Go to: [http://wearecentralpa.com/fulltext/?nxd\\_id=229666](http://wearecentralpa.com/fulltext/?nxd_id=229666) or <http://pawatersheds.org/2010/12/keep-voting-for-river-of-the-year/> to find out whether the votes have been tallied for the award.

Reggie Musser was kind enough to point out an error in my last e-news regarding the **Stonycreek River**; Thanks, Reg... :

Bob:

Its seems that you're in need of a Geography Lesson. The Stonycreek River starts at Pius Spring in Berlin and flows through Shanksville, Kantner, Hooversville & Hollsopple before its confluence with the Conemaugh River in Johnstown. Rhoads Creek begins at the spillway of Lake Stonycreek and flows the short distance to its confluence with the Stonycreek River in Shanksville. Now this is where I may need a history lesson; **Rhoads Creek** may have been named following the construction of the Lake Stonycreek Dam. Calendars Run & Clear Run came together just north of the Indian Lake Dam and I believe Calendars Run was the name of the stream which continued to the Stonycreek River in Shanksville.

### Borough Building Code Official

I've reported in the past that Somerset County Building Inspections, our designated BCO, has been under scrutiny over a case outside the Borough. Keeping you informed seemed the minimum we should do; selecting another BCO seemed presumptuous at first (we should, after all, presume innocence), but two facts seem to dominate my thoughts on the topic. First, it is your money that pays for the permit and inspections, directly, and if we mandate you spend it with someone in particular, they should be above reproach; paying twice to be comfortable is dumb. Secondly, nearly 30% of the other municipalities in Somerset County have chosen to go a different route. At a minimum we should explore the choices; some are substantially less costly.

Input received has been mixed. An e-mail from a local building material supplier stresses that the case is being tried in/using the media but that SCBI and the builder(s) have not yet made their case in defense. I have heard before that the builder in this case was reputable, and at least partly a victim. I have also heard builders say that SCBI's responsiveness more than makes up for their higher cost. Input we received can be viewed at:

[ [http://www.indianlakepa.us/dotnetnuke/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1\\_cBh6pb-pg%3d&tabid=64&mid=590](http://www.indianlakepa.us/dotnetnuke/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1_cBh6pb-pg%3d&tabid=64&mid=590) ]

In my head I keep coming back to it being **your** money, and we need **your** opinion if you have one...

### **Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) and Low-Speed Vehicles (LSVs)**

In 1998 the federal government passed laws establishing safety and operating regulations for a new class of energy-efficient, low-cost "around-town" vehicles called NEVs and LSVs. Since 1998 there have been a number of federal incentives and tax-credits afforded people who purchase these very 'green' vehicles. These vehicles are now street-legal in all but 2 or 3 states; one of these few is Pennsylvania.

In 2009/2010 there was a Senate Bill (SB 152) that got all the way through to 'Appropriations' unanimously where it died due to inaction. Senator Greenleaf (D-12th District; Bucks/ Montgomery Co.) has been the sponsor and a stalwart supporter for the better part of a decade. He and his staff are trying to muster support for this newest Senate session. It must be re-introduced, having suffered a slow withering death last time. It is new SB 52, but not yet in print. They ask that we supporters in turn ask our state Representative (Metzgar) and Senator (Kasunic) to show some support this time. Neither has a published e-mail address, so we will have to call or send a letter... Senator Kasunic's web site is <http://www.senatorkasunic.com/> and Representative Metzgar's is <http://www.repmetzgar.com/>. Obviously this is my own personal view, shared by a few other residents. Check them out; you just might agree, too.

### **Charitable Contributions**

Each year the Borough contributes nominal amounts to local charities on request. These are charged to the Miscellaneous budget. The budget for this is around \$4000 and we generally spend under \$3000. This does not count large contributions to Fire and Ambulance services which total more \$25,000.

To ensure we make such contributions wisely, we will be asking the following questions: 1) Does the charity support/serve ILB or its residents or property owners? 2) Do any ILB residents or property owners serve as leadership or on the board of the charity? 3) Do any ILB residents or property owners personally support the charity (financially or as volunteers)? 4) Is the charity a registered non-profit authorized to solicit funds/donations within the Commonwealth?

Should you recommend or sponsor a charity which solicits a contribution, do them and us a favor by asking them to address these questions in their initial requests.

Thank you for your time.

**Happy New Year !!!**

Bob H.

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