

BOROUGH OF

# SELINGSGROVE



ONE NORTH HIGH STREET - SELINGSGROVE, PENNSYLVANIA 17870  
Voice: 570-374-2311 Fax: 570-374-8902 slgwboro@snydercounty.org

November 2002

A LOOK AT OUR BOROUGH

Issue 10

## DH&L FIRE COMPANY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The DH&L Fire Company has started their fund raising for the development of their new facility on Bridge Street, located at the former AMP Building. These volunteers donate their time and efforts to protect our homes, and our families, and our friends.

## FACTS ON FIRE

Fires in 1-2 family dwellings most often start in the:

- Kitchen 23.5%
- Bedroom 12.7%
- Living Room 7.9%
- Chimney 7.1%
- Laundry Area

## Help Our Meter Readers Serve You Better

So we can give you an accurate water meter reading and a bill based on your actual water use, make sure our meter readers have access to the water meter.

Please keep your pets secured. Dogs are protective of their homes and may become aggressive when they see a water meter reader. A threatening dog may result in an estimated bill.

As part of your yard work, please clear shrubs and bushes from around the remote terminal. If the remote terminal is inside a fenced yard, make sure the gate is unlocked and can be opened by the water meter

## Removal of Snow & Ice From Sidewalks

Every homeowner shall have removed and cleared snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours after the cessation of any snow, sleet or freezing rain. No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited any snow and ice into Borough alleys or streets, or on or against any fire hydrant.

Any violator shall be sentenced to pay all costs incurred by the Borough, together with legal costs and a fine. Each continual day of

## WINTER EVENTS

*Decorating Day & Community Tree Lighting  
Tuesday, November 26  
Downtown Selingsgrove*

*Late Shoppers' Night  
Tuesday, December 3  
Downtown Selingsgrove*



## Leaf Pickup

As part of the Borough's mandated recycling program, the Borough will begin leaf pickup at the end of October. Residents are reminded that the leaf pickup schedule follows the street cleaning schedule. If you are unsure of your day for leaf pickup, please call the Office.

Borough Ordinances prohibit the placement of leaves in a gutter, street or other public place. During the fall leaf pickup, **please do not place leaves in the gutter or street.** Leaves should be placed as close to the gutter as possible, without obstructing any sidewalk or impairing any on-street parking. The Borough crew will rake these leaves into the gutter immediately before pickup. This is preferable to dealing with saturated or frozen piles of leaves that cause obstructions to stormwater

## SIDEWALKS UPDATE

Residents continue to contact the Borough Office regarding the installation and/or replacement of their sidewalks. Council commends those who recognized their community responsibility and installed sidewalks to enhance the safety of pedestrians. Inspections of properties throughout the Borough have been made and written notices have been or will be sent to property owners who have curbs but do not have sidewalks. If you were in the first group of property owners notified, you were required to have installed sidewalks by the end of 2001. Reminder letters are being sent for 2002. Borough Council is currently considering having the sidewalks constructed, submitting the bill to the property owner and, if needed, filing a municipal lien against the property until the cost to the Borough is repaid. The ordinance generally requires 4' wide sidewalks and recommends a minimum of 12" between the sidewalks and the curb to protect the curbing and save money in the long run.

Waivers may be granted by Borough Council for unusual circumstances.

Grant funds are available to property owners who meet

*look for us at:*  
[www.selingsgrove.org](http://www.selingsgrove.org)

## Water, Sewer & Recycling Billing

All bills for water, sewer and recycling services are due and payable on the 20th day of February, May, August and November of each year for service furnished during the immediately preceding calendar quarter.

Any customer who doubts the accuracy of a bill shall bring or mail the bill, within ten (10) days of receipt, to the Borough Office. The Borough shall check the bill and either confirm the original billing or issue a corrected bill.

Failure to receive a bill shall not exempt a customer from the obligation to pay the bill by its due date. The Borough, at any time, shall issue a duplicate bill upon proper request. However, no claim for exemption from assessment of delayed payment charge for any reason whatsoever shall be entertained or allowed.

A bill that is unpaid after its due date shall be delinquent and shall be subject to a one-time only penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount due. Services may be terminated from the delinquent premises as provided by law and shall not be restored until all delinquent bills against the same have been paid. Failure to pay delinquent bills for two (2) quarters may result in a lien being imposed against the delinquent premises together with interest, attorneys' fees and court costs.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

**Marlin Inch**  
**William Hetherington, Jr.**  
**Wilhelm Reuning**

### PennDOT RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTER DRIVING

Do not drink and drive;  
 Always wear your seatbelt;  
 Keep your gas tank full;  
 During inclement weather, turn on your headlights;  
 Use extra caution on bridges and ramps where ice can often form without warning;  
 Beware of roads that may look wet but are actually frozen, often referred to as "black ice";  
 Do not park or abandon your vehicle on snow emergency routes;  
 Do not pass or get between trucks plowing in a "plow line";  
 Remain at least six car lengths behind an operating snowplow;  
 If you become stranded, do not leave your vehicle; rather keep the down-wind window cracked, run the motor every half-hour and wait for help to arrive.

### SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1853-2003

The Selin's Grove Sesquicentennial Committee was formed to oversee the formal celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Borough. One of the first challenges they faced was to establish an image that would serve as a representation of the community. The choices were many; but the committee ultimately selected four images that were recognizable and reminiscent of the community's long history. From the four original pencil sketches they have reproduced a limited edition of 100 pieces of each of these beautiful pictures. The images include the Last Canal Boat, the Selinsgrove Train Station, Selin's Grove Market Street Scene, and the United States Post Office. For information or to purchase these limited edition prints, contact the Borough Office where they are on display. The cost is \$50.00 per print.

Sesquicentennial apparel is also available for sale. These items include a short sleeve T-shirt \$10.00, long sleeve T-shirt \$15.00, polo shirts \$18.00 and sweatshirts \$20.00. Please contact D. J. Ernst Books to purchase the apparel. Other items may become available. Watch for details.

This year long celebration will run through the September 2003 Selinsgrove Market Street Festival. It is the desire of the Sesquicentennial Committee that throughout this exciting year community groups will voluntarily incorporate the sesquicentennial theme into events they sponsor. Volunteers will be needed in the months ahead. If you or a group you belong to would like to become involved in this historic celebration, contact John Bickhart at the Selinsgrove Borough Office. This opportunity only

### Ordinances of Interest

Many residents contact the Borough Office regarding ordinance violations. We can all make life more pleasant for our neighbors by abiding by these ordinances.

**Dogs, Cats and Other Animals:**

No person owning an animal shall allow such animal to defecate on or commit any nuisance on any public or private property. Such feces shall be removed by animal owner. No barking dogs.

**Brush, Grass and Weeds:**

No growth over eight (8) inches tall.

These are the most complained about violations within the Borough. Please

### Other Helpful Hints

All property owners are reminded that you need a building permit for any addition or structural change on your property. Permits are required for sheds, patios and decks.

When making any improvements or repairs, especially when siding your home, please contact the Borough Office to have your water meter remote terminal removed and replaced. Keep in mind that the water meter remotes need to be accessible to meter readers. If the remote is lost or misplaced, this could result in an estimated water bill for the

## Why Do I Pay \$7.50 on My Water & Sewer Bill

Many residents question what the \$7.50 charge is for on their water and sewer bills. This charge is for recycling and disposal.

Selinsgrove's recycling program is a marvel of community cooperation. Pennsylvania's Act 101 established the Borough's program of curbside pickup and residential recycling, as well as the collection and recycling of wastes from businesses. A fee is added quarterly to your water and sewer bill enabling the borough to collect recyclables at curbside on a monthly basis and as part of the annual Borough Clean-Up.

The curbside program picks up aluminum beverage cans and green, brown and clear glass jars and bottles. Glass must be separated by color or recycler will not pick up.

A drop-off site at the Borough shed is open the third Saturday of each month for acceptance of newspapers and magazines. No drop-off prior to or after scheduled times. Violators will be prosecuted.

An additional drop-off site is available at the borough maintenance building on W. Sassafras Street every Thursday for tin cans, aluminum and bi-metal cans, glass (clear, green and brown), plastics (#1s & #2s-bottle form only), corrugated cardboard and hi-grade office paper. This site was initially opened for the use of businesses, but we allow residents to also use this service for added convenience.

The Borough has a compost site at the south end of Strawberry Alley for brush and leaves only. No grass clippings.

The Borough Clean-up is held during the month of April.

The Borough will begin leaf pickup during the month of October. Leaves will be picked up according to the street cleaning schedule. Do not place leaves in the street. Leaves may be placed in bags at the curb and the bags will be emptied and left for reuse. Leaf pickup continues until Thanksgiving or the first snowfall, whichever comes first.

If you need a schedule of the dates for curbside pickup on your street or if you are interested in additional information regarding the recycling program, please call the Borough Office at 374-2311.

Selinsgrove Borough is the only mandated recycling community in Snyder County.

## From the desk of John C. Bickhart, Borough Manager:

Within my first year as your Borough Manager, a few issues have come to my attention often enough to indicate that they are having a significant effect on our community. These issues include:

### Shoveling Snow into Streets

As you know our Borough Street crew works very hard to keep the streets open and safe for traffic and functional for stormwater drainage all year round. As we continue through Autumn with falling leaves and into the winter with falling snow, the Borough Street crew would like to remind all property owners and residents of some important ways that everyone can help.

Borough Ordinances require that every property owner or tenant remove snow and ice from all adjoining public sidewalks within 24 hours of the cessation of any snow, sleet or freezing rain. If the snow depth from any one snowfall exceeds 12 inches, a 2 foot wide path is to be cleared within 24 hours and the full width cleared within 48 hours. In the event that the snow and ice has become so hard that it cannot be removed without damaging the sidewalk; sand, salt or other suitable substances should be used to make travel reasonably safe. In addition, Borough Ordinances prohibit "the deposition of snow or ice into Borough Alleys, Streets or against any fire hydrant." Please arrange to have snow and ice removed from your public sidewalks and do not place snow or ice onto the Alleys or Streets.

### Destruction of Borough Property/Abuse of Borough Services

In recent months, there have been a number of incidents in which Borough Property has been destroyed or Borough services have been abused. These incidents include the uprooting or breaking of trees planted along Market Street in the Downtown Business District, removing street name signs, using trash receptacles for household garbage, and general littering. Such destruction or abuse is an action taken against every one in this community. It costs all of us money and results in the elimination of public services that we have enjoyed, diminishing our pride in our Community. As you enjoy our streets and parks, please clean up your trash. Leave our streets and parks at least as clean as, or cleaner, than you found them. A good test is to look and see that no one would be able to tell that you were there.

### Illegal Posting of Notices (Posters, Advertisements, Announcements, Yard Sale Signs, Etc.)

Selinsgrove Borough Code Section 95-16. Posting notices. "No person shall post or affix any notice, poster or other paper or device, calculated to attract attention of the public, to any lamppost, public utility or shade tree or upon any public structure or building..."

As a result of the diligent efforts of many; borough employees, property owners, and residents alike; the Borough streets and public areas of our Community are generally neat, clean and very attractive. These efforts demonstrate a significant amount of pride in our Community and inspire others. Although the practice of placing notices on trees and electric/telephone poles has been largely overlooked in the past, it has now escalated to a level that I believe requires immediate attention. Not only do improperly posted notices violate the Ordinances, but such postings can offend property owners who find their trees or poled littered with signs. I am therefore asking for your cooperation to assist the Borough in stopping this practice in its entirety. Please do not post notices and encourage your neighbors not to post notices in this manner. Notify the Borough Office immediately of such postings so that we may effectively enforce our Ordinances. There are many locations within the Borough where public notice bulletin boards have been provided for the display of such notices. In addition, many business owners will consent to placing notices in their display windows. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Many of these actions are in violation of the Ordinances that we have adopted to regulate how we live together in this Community and how we expect each other to behave. All of these actions can carry with them fines and fees for violations. If you see others engaged in such activities, please notify the Borough Police Department, a Borough employee or the Borough Office immediately, so that we may effectively enforce our Ordinances for the benefit of us all.



Selinsgrove Borough  
 1 North High Street  
 P. O. Box 34  
 Selinsgrove, PA 17870

**IMPORTANT**

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
 U. S. POSTAGE  
 PAID

***Borough Council***

- Dianne K. Mengel - President
- William D. Hetherington, Jr. -  
 Vice-President
- Sean E. Christine
- Marlin A. Inch
- George R. Kinney
- Wilhelm Reuning
- George H. Rishell, Sr.

***Other Borough Officials:***

- Garry F. Beaver - Mayor
- John C. Bickhart - Borough Manager
- Thomas L. Garlock - Chief of Police
- Robert M. Cravitz - Borough Solicitor
- John A. Coukart - Borough Engineer

**A LOOK AT OUR BOROUGH**

**FLOOD PLAIN ISSUES and INFORMATION**

**Is your existing building located within the Borough's 100-Year Flood Plain?**

The answer to this question is of great importance when contemplating any home repairs or improvements. It is fairly commonly known that repairs to a building such as adding or changing siding, adding paneling, remodeling a kitchen or bathroom, changing windows and doors, and similar improvements on or to the existing exterior walls or inside an existing building do not require a building permit. If, however, the building is in the 100-year flood plain, a building permit for such improvements is required. The Borough's Flood Plain Ordinance requires that any **modification, alteration, reconstruction or improvement of any kind** to an existing building (located in the Borough's 100-year flood plain) must be approved in advance by the Borough's Zoning Office. This approval is obtained by completing a building permit application and by providing the Zoning Office with additional information concerning the elevations of the proposed improvements and the elevation of the 100-year floodplain, along with a certification that the proposed construction has been adequately designed and will be constructed to withstand the flood depths, pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces and other hydrostatic and hydrodynamic and buoyancy factors associated with a 100-year flood.

If such proposed **modification, alteration, reconstruction or improvement of any kind** to an existing building, to an extent or amount of less than 50% of the buildings market value, the **modification, alteration, reconstruction or improvement of any kind** shall be elevated or flood-proofed to the greatest extent possible.

If such proposed **modification, alteration, reconstruction or improvement of any kind** to an existing building, to an extent or amount of 50% or more of the buildings market value, the **modification, alteration, reconstruction or improvement of any kind** shall be undertaken only in full compliance with the Flood Plain regulations. Full compliance would normally require elevating or flood-proofing to the full extent.

Compliance with these regulations is necessary to insure that federally subsidized flood insurance is available to Borough property owners. This compliance is also a factor in a proposed future re-rating of the Borough, that could result in a 5% to 10% reduction in flood insurance premiums. If you are contemplating any improvement to an existing building located within the Borough's 100-year flood plain, please contact the Borough office and allow us to assist you in evaluating the impact of these regulations on the proposed construction and to assist you in providing the required information. The Borough Office will also assist you in determining if the building is in the 100-year flood plain.