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Messages from the Mayor

Lower Burrell was named in a recent publication as being in the top 20 in the state as a desirable place to be a homeowner. Many factors were considered. Living costs was a key factor. The study determined our median price for a home is \$129,900 and monthly operating costs averaged.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Since the last newsletter, we have seen a modest improvement in our overall business environment and performance. The overall economy has improved, and we have seen some of that in our local economy. Dollar sales from 2012 to 2013 have increased by more than ten percent and are on track to increase again this year. A number of new businesses have been added.

Welcome the following new businesses:

Burrell Community Church
Hillcrest Shopping Center
Comcast (site of the former Art Institute)
1250 Greensburg Road
Community Alternatives
2795 Leechburg Road
K & D Vape Shop
3033 Leechburg Road
Perry De Pizzaman
1150 Wildlife Lodge Road
Second Chance Second Hand
2789 Leechburg Road
Shoe Sensation
Hillcrest Shopping Center
Sloppy Dogzz
2879 Leechburg Road
SS Chassis and Supply
3010 Edgecliff Road
The Last Word Book Store
2909 Leechburg Road
TNT Flag Cars
2844 Leechburg Road
West Interior Services
1340 Greensburg Road

SHOP LOWER BURRELL FIRST

We have also lost several for various reasons: Papercraft (retirement), Brusters, Clementines, Quiznos, Kensington Financial, Jo Ann Fabrics (moving to the Pittsburgh Mills Mall), and Candy Creations and Sweet Bouquets. Active negotiations for most of these sites are currently underway. Look in our local media for future announcements. You can help find tenants by letting me know of something you may have read, heard, etc. I follow up on all these leads and have had some success.

Save-A-Lot has closed recently. The property is currently under control of First Commonwealth Bank. We are assisting those as requested who are working to determine the future use of this property. Stay tuned to your local media as plans develop.

Wards/Penneys: This continues to be our biggest challenge. Steps have been taken to improve the overall safety and appearance at the site. The agreement reached with Widewaters of DeWitt, New York, the owners, resulted in all combustibles being removed from the building, better securing of the site, and certification of the structural stability. We continue to search for new tenants to help Widewaters reactivate the site. In the last month, Widewaters has also removed and or replaced light standards.

Widewaters has also filed for a lowering of tax assessment citing condition of the building. We along with the school have appealed that reassessment and have taken steps along with the school district to appeal.

Housing Development: The Villas at Rabbit Foot Patio Homes along Craigdell Road has begun construction. So far two buildings – one with six units and one with four units – have been completed and one occupied. Another ten units are under construction. The entire plan will contain 66 units when completed. More information may be obtained at 724-339-9035.

Hillcrest Crossings (formerly Traders Path) has been purchased by Safe Harbor Community and have presented plans for significantly upgraded the site. To date more than 50 trailers in various states of disrepair have been removed. These will be replaced with units for either purchase or rent. A unit is available for inspection if you are seeking to have a unit. We have worked very closely with the current owners and look forward to the completion of many other improvements planned for the site. For more information, contact 724-334-3600 and ask for sales.

Eagle Scout: Congratulations to our most recent Eagle Scout, Michael Alan Shultz. His Eagle Project involved the assembly and installation of commercial shelving and custom built cabinetry in the St. Margaret Mary Food Pantry in partnership with the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Michael's brother, Matt and father Ed are also Eagle Scouts. Awesome.

We express our condolences to the Cornuet family on the loss of Noah. Noah was posthumously awarded the very coveted Eagle Scout award. His project was on beautification at Puckety Presbyterian Church.

Sewage: Wildlife Lodge Road sewer line installation is nearly complete. The lines are in. The last step which should be complete by the end of September is the tie in to the Little Puckety Interceptor (the main line running along the Route 56 Bypass). Once the tie in is completed, Wildlife Lodge residents will be able to tap in to the new line most likely before years end.

Route 56 Bypass: A replacement interceptor along the bypass is also nearly complete. The old line had multiple problems but the most significant was joint failures, cracks, or just deterioration which allowed significant quantities of rain water to penetrate the sewer system (inflow and infiltration) overloading it and causing sewage to come out of the system during

A WEDIG COMMUNITY

heavy rains. These sewer systems overflows are prohibited by the DEP, and we must do multiple things to prevent them from occurring. The new line should be complete in the next couple of months. We are awaiting a permit from the Bureau of Conservation since the line goes across wetlands.

Your Role: The residents, you, also play a key role in helping solve the overflow problem described previously. Major sources of rain water into the sanitary sewer system are downspout connections, driveway drains, internal French drains, etc. These are all illegal connections and prohibited by federal, state, and local law. We are asking for your help and cooperation in eliminating these connections. If you are not sure, contact the City Public Works Department, and we will assist you in determining if you are in violation. We plan to do smoke and dye testing as we are required by law to determine the rainwater sources and requires you to bring them into compliance. If you receive a request from the City asking that we do a smoke/dye test on your property, please be cooperative and do your part to help solve this difficult problem. Ignoring the request does not remove responsibility. It just puts the City in the position of having to take other more costly steps to bring compliance. Please help us to help you.

Pump Stations: We are in the final stations of making changes in the sewer system that will eliminate up to three additional pump stations. The number of pump stations will be down to five or six from a total of 11 that existed 15 years ago. This is very important because these stations are costly to operate and spare parts seem to rapidly become obsolete. More later.

Sewage – Administrative of Consent: This is a legal order from the Department of Environmental Protection and Environment Protection Agency where all users of the New Kensington Sanitary Authority treatment are required to improve their sewage systems and prevent or severely limit any sewage spilling into the Allegheny River during heavy rain events.

The court order requires a Long Term Control Plan be submitted to DEP by September 14, 2014. The plan is jointly being prepared by Lower Burrell, New Kensington, Arnold, and Plum working together. The plan will cover what will be

done over the next 20 plus years to make corrections to stop these overflows.

A task team in Lower Burrell has been working very hard over the last year to identify our issues, cost them, and prioritize them. Each of the identified communities is doing the same thing. Hatch Mott and McDonald, an engineering company, will then put all these plans together into a single document, check for consistency, and incorporate any treatment plant changes needed. Once the plan is approved by DEP/EPA, it will be implemented over the 20 plus year period. We are taking multiple steps to keep the rate you pay as low as possible. Even though your sewer rate is high compared to years ago, we are among the lowest in the entire region and will try to maintain that position.

Go back to the “Your Role” section to see how you can help keep costs down!!!

Signs – This is the Mayor’s pet peeve!! Each year there are many yard, garage, etc. signs attached to light poles, street signs, etc. Not only are these unsightly but also illegal. We have been very patient and understanding in allowing these signs on a short time basis. My patience ends when the owners of the signs don’t take them down within a day or two of the sale being over. Please help us keep the city beautiful by removing the signs. While I am venting, the same goes for weeds and grass. Please trim weeds, grass, etc. on a regular basis.

Congratulations to Judge David Regoli. David was a council person in Lower Burrell for the past 16 years. He did an outstanding job and made major contributions to solving critical problems. He will be an outstanding judge.

Welcome to new Council Member Christopher Fabry who replaces Judge David Regoli. Read more about Chris’ background in this newsletter under Parks and Public Property.

**A Message from
Lower Burrell Police Department**

New Police Officer

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the city residents to our newest Patrol Officer Mike Ondo.

Officer Ondo joined the department on May 1, 2014. Ondo is a 2004 graduate of the Allegheny County Police Academy. Prior to joining the Lower Burrell Police Department, Ondo worked as a police officer for the City of Arnold for ten years. During his tenure with Arnold, Ondo was promoted to the rank of patrol sergeant.



Prior to the start of his police career, Patrolman Ondo served for nine years in the United States Navy as an Aviation Structural Mechanic and Airframe Welder. In his off time Ondo enjoys participating in outdoor hobbies.

I am extremely happy we had the opportunity to bring Patrolman Ondo on as a member of our team. Between his military career and prior police service, he has spent his life in service to others. I know Officer Ondo to be a man of high integrity and strong character. These attributes, coupled with the experience that he brings with him as he now endeavors to serve the residents of our City make him a valuable asset to our community. I look forward to his continued contribution to our police department and our City as we work with him over the course of his career.

Chief Weitzel

**Public Works
Councilman Richard Callender
W. Scott Johnson, Foreman**

Public Works Department

Street Department

The street department is continuing with road repairs and maintenance consisting of spot base repairs, catch basin rebuilds, repairing any storm pipe issues, cutting branches, and installing Vascar lines, stop bars, and cross walks. Seal coating of Sullivan, Oakridge, Rose, Roosevelt, Falsetti, Seventh Street (loop 1), Carson, Lasher, Alder, Grant, Washington, and Schreiber Streets have been completed, along with the street sweeper following close behind to pick up any loose chips.

The Kenmont Avenue Road restoration project has been started with the formal acceptance of a bid at the August Council meeting. The preconstruction meeting is in the process of being scheduled, with

construction to start soon thereafter . In working with The New Kensington Water Authority with this overall road restoration, their waterline project has been completed and the road is now available for milling and repaving.

On the topic of storm water, we are governed to follow certain guidelines by the DEP and EPA with the storm lines throughout the City limits. Please keep in mind that it is a violation to dump grass, leaves, or any foreign matter into catch basins or into the outfall of any storm pipe. When cutting lawns, please refrain from directing the grass out into the street as this is also considered a violation as the clippings eventually get to the catch basins on the street. Not only do these situations create a potential back up/flood situation, but it also contaminates the streams which feed our rivers. There have been hundreds of round markers/labels installed at catch basins throughout the City as reminders of this importance. If you see someone doing anything above, please call 911 to help keep our streams and rivers clear. We also have information/resources on our website to help with any storm water issues that may pertain to your property.

As a reminder, if there are any issues with your street, street signs, or street lights (including pole number and/or street address), please call the street department at 724-889-2007. A simple call helps our department keep up with any repairs in a timely fashion and it is greatly appreciated.

Sewer Department

The Sewer Department has been continuing to evaluate the sanitary system through visual inspections, camera inspections, along with jet cleaning of the sanitary lines. Our efforts have been concentrating on areas that have been identified through flow monitoring results and data collected through part of our Regional Consent Agreement. These areas include Claremont, Hillcrest/Countryview, and the area known as the Bon Air Plan (Harding Street to Reimer Street). These evaluations enabled us to integrate projects that are needed to further reduce Infiltration in the sanitary system. During this same time frame, routine cleaning and root cutting of lines in other areas of the City are also being performed. When evaluated twice a week, pump station repairs are completed as needed.

Along with these evaluations and previously gathered smoke and dye test data, residents will be contacted

accordingly when any private laterals, downspouts, or driveway drains are found to be adding to the water infiltration of the City's sanitary system. The Sewer Department will do its best to work with each resident in order to help resolve any issue that may be initiated during these processes.

The Wildlife Lodge sanitary sewer line extension project is nearing its final stages, with lateral tap ins to be released soon thereafter. Westmoreland County Planning and Development was also involved in this extension project to help some qualifying residents possibly receive grant funding for the lateral tap ins for this project.

Just a reminder, any downspout, exterior drain, or driveway drain connected to the sanitary lines is in violation of City Ordinances, State Law, and Federal Law. These connections are overloading the sanitary lines during heavy rain storms causing manholes to overflow in the lower areas of the City and then flowing directly into the streams which run to the river.

A large portion of the City's manholes now have rain guards, which help reduce infiltration and lower the opportunity for ash and grit to enter the sanitary system. The Department has installed over 200 this year, with another 100 arriving shortly. Please keep in mind that the rain guards will hold water just under the lid which you will be able to see when looking through the holes on the lid but the rest of the manhole will remain unaffected. If there is water **constantly** running from a manhole, please call 724-889-2007 during the week day or 911 after hours, on weekends, or holidays.

A Message from Councilman Joseph Grillo Public Safety

I would like to welcome John Kamarados to the Planning Commission. He is replacing Andrea Lovelace. Good luck, John and best wishes, Andrea. Thank you for your service to our City.

Please remember that when you sell or lease a house that you need to have your place inspected. This will help keep up our property values. When there are blighted properties in our neighborhoods, it decreases the values of our homes and invites absentee landlords. When absentee landlords come into our neighborhoods, one of the things that they bring with them is the criminal element that we don't need.

The inspectors work flexible times so they can schedule an inspection around our busy lifestyles.

We are still having issues with residents not displaying their property address so the first responders can identify your property in case of an emergency. Your address should be prominently displayed, visible, and clearly marked. **If 911 changed your address, please take down the old address and replace it with the new address that you were given.** There has been some confusion and fortunately our first responders have overcome some of the issues - GREAT JOB TO THE FIRST RESPONDERS.

There have been some changes to the handicap parking permit process. Everything will still be the same, however, you must renew your parking status every two years.

In closing, I would like to thank the residents for making a concentrated effort of not putting up signs on telephone poles and on our street signs to advertise their events and garage sales, etc.

Kudos to our firefighters on another successful carnival. It was great to see them work together on this project once again. The carnival is a positive event for the City and the families of Lower Burrell. Remember that a monetary donation to our firefighters is a donation that stays in our community, and the money is always well spent.

Congratulations to Todd Johnston, Lower Burrell # 3 firefighter who received the Bender-Weber Service Award at the recent Pennsylvania Fireman's Association. This award is presented to a firefighter who helps to develop skills in young firefighters.

In closing, I would like to take a moment of silence to a young man, Noah Cornuet, who had a major impact in this community even though his life was short lived. My prayers go out to his family and friends.

A Message from Councilman Christopher Fabry Parks and Public Property

Before I talk about the Recycling Day Program, I would like to first take the opportunity to introduce myself to everyone. On August 11th, I was sworn in by Judge Regoli to accept his vacated seat on City Council. During the meeting, I

was appointed to the Parks and Public Property department, something I could not possibly be happier about. Since I was a teenager I have always known that I wanted to serve my local government. That desire stems from changes I wanted to see to my parks growing up. Now, nearly 20 years later I am in a position to serve my community and make things better for everyone around. I will do my utmost best to make that happen.

I have worked in Lower Burrell since 2003 and purchased my home in 2007. My wife, Michelle and I were married in 2011 and plan to call Lower Burrell home for the rest of our lives. We are both committed to the city and its residents. It is therefore my intention to serve Lower Burrell for many years to come.

As you may or may not know, Lower Burrell's City Council Meetings are the second Monday each month. I welcome you all to attend a meeting in the near future and afterwards, introduce yourself. I value feedback from everyone in the community and would like to get to know as many of our residents as possible and hear your thoughts on our City. Thank you.

SEMI-ANNUAL RECYCLING DAY PROGRAM

As you may know, the semi-annual recycling program here in Lower Burrell has been extremely successful. The Recycling Task Force hosts the event with active and enthusiastic participation from the Burrell High School Environmental Club. In fact, a flyer describing the October 25, 2014 event is included with this newsletter.

At the Spring and Fall Recycling Days, we will continue to provide curbside pickup to include the following:

- Curbside pickup of leafs and limbs for the elderly and handicapped who are unable to drop off behind City Hall.
- Curbside pickup of recyclable materials (as defined in the attached recycling flyer) for the elderly and handicapped who are unable to drop off behind City Hall.

To qualify for curbside pickup of leaves, limbs, and recyclable materials for the October 25, 2014 Recycling Day:

- You must be at least 62 years of age or handicapped and be a resident of

Lower Burrell. Proof of age and residency are required.

- Materials must come from your primary Lower Burrell residence only.
- Leaves must be bagged and at curbside the day of pickup.
- Limbs must be neatly arranged, bundled, and at curbside the day of pickup.
- Approved recyclable materials (as defined in the attached recycling flyer) must be at curbside the day of pickup.
- Residents must prepay at city hall any recycable item that has a fee attached.
- Please call City Hall at 724.335.9875, extension 208 and ask for Nita no later than October 22, 2014 to schedule your pickup. She will ask for some basic information and will schedule your pickup.

Behind City Hall, there is a Paper Retriever container for recycling of magazines, catalogs, newspapers, junk mail, and office or school papers. No cardboard, phone books, fiberboard/cereal boxes, or text books are allowed. A Planet Aid container for clothing donations is also now in place. The distribution of the items collected will help people in natural disasters.

A Message from Lower Burrell Treasurer's Office Brian Eshbaugh, Treasurer 724-337-4381

2014 School Property Taxes have been mailed. Payments due dates are as follows. Discount: September 30, Face: November 30 and Penalty: December 31, 2014.

All property owners may participate in the installment program. Installments are due September 30, October 31 and November 30. 10% will be added to any late installment payment after the due date. This year's Homestead exclusion amount is \$157.40. Your tax reduction amount is based on the state gaming funds provided to the school district and is shared equally among all eligible homestead or farmstead property owners.

Business Privilege Tax is required by any business or individual who is using a Lower Burrell address to conduct business within the city. All businesses need to register with the tax office. For more information please call 724-337-4381.

Online Banking Payments have become a common way for residents to pay bills. Please include your account number, account name and what bill the payment is

to be applied to. This will alleviate any payments not being credited to the proper account. Also, please leave enough time for the check to reach us, the date you submit to your financial institution is not the date our office receives your payment.

Lower Burrell Tax forms can be found on the city's web site at www.cityoflowerburrell.com. Forms included on the web are Occupancy Permits, New Resident, Landlord Tenant, Business Registration, LST Refund Request, LST Exemption, and Business Privilege Tax.

Residents Requesting Receipts please mail or bring in the entire bill to our office. We will receipt all copies of the bill and you will receive back your receipted copy (residents must include a self-addressed stamped envelope when paying by mail).

After Hours Drop Boxes are located outside the drive through window and on the right side of the back entrance. All Tax payments and sewage/ recycling payments may be made after hours and will be credited the next business day. **Please No Cash in Drop Boxes**

Residents can now pay their sewage and recycling payments by credit card by either calling 1-800-272-9829 or by visiting www.officialpayments.com. Please have your sewage bill available and use the Jurisdiction code 4811. A \$3.95 service charge will be applied for payments up to \$300. Payments over \$300 will require a second visit and an additional \$3.95 service charge.

New Delinquent Sewage Policy has been adopted by council. Any sewage user who is delinquent and receives a registered letter from the New Kensington Municipal Water Authority for delinquent Lower Burrell sewage accounts must pay by cash or money order. Checks will not be accepted. Also any sewage user, who has their water service shut off for delinquent sewage accounts, must pay their delinquent and current bill along with a \$100 shut off fee before their water service can be restored. Please call the tax office with any questions on this new policy.

TRICK OR TREAT

Trick or Treat for Lower Burrell residents will be Friday, October 31, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m.

UPCOMING CHANGES

THE B.E.A.T. NEEDS YOU!

The B.E.A.T. (Burrell Entertainment and Activity Team) is looking for new members to volunteer their time to provide fun activities within the City. Presently B.E.A.T. sponsors the Merry Music Fest, Children's Christmas Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Strawberry Festival, and this year will participate in the Burrell 50th Celebration and Puckety Fall Fest. It is hoped that the addition of new members will provide the manpower to expand the scope of activities in our City. The group meets the first Monday of each month at City Hall at 7 pm. Don't like meetings? No problem. Sign up to volunteer at the different activities only. Call Debbie at 724-664-2383 to join. Meet new people, have some fun, and help with providing some great entertainment in our City. We need you!

HOW DID THEY KNOW?

Did you ever wonder how someone was privy to events occurring in the city prior to any public announcement? The answer is simple. They subscribe to the city's electronic distribution of the newsletter. Join in and be better informed by receiving the newsletter before it goes to print.

To enroll, go to our web site: www.cityoflowerburrell.com and click on "Sign up Today" to get the latest news and information on what is happening in Lower Burrell. Once you have signed up, you will begin receiving news and information electronically from the City. You may unsubscribe from this list at any time.

CHECK US OUT

For current updates of City news and events, "like" our Facebook page at The City of Lower Burrell. Also, check out our new and improved web site at www.cityoflowerburrell.com.

FARMER'S MARKET

The Farmer's Market will continue every Saturday from 9 am until 1 pm until October 18, 2014. The success of the Farmer's Market is due to the leadership of Mr. Bud Myers and the Lower Burrell Parks Commission.

Starting January 1, 2015, the rates for renting Fisher Hall or a pavilion at Burrell Lake Park will change as follows:

The daily rental of Fisher Hall for a Lower Burrell resident will be \$150, and the daily rental for a Non-Resident will be \$200. A \$100 deposit is required and will be refunded if it is cleaned up and nothing is broken.

The cost for renting a pavilion at Burrell Lake Park will be \$55 for a Lower Burrell Resident and \$60 for a Non-Resident.

Pavilions at K-9 Officer Derek Kotecki Memorial Park can also be rented. The cost is \$50 for a Lower Burrell Resident and \$55 for a Non-Resident.

COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

According to state regulations, all commercial businesses are required to submit recycling tonnage numbers that are provided by their hauler to city hall. If the business is not in compliance with the regulation, they will be subject to penalties and fines. For more information, contact Kelly Biddle-Cook, City Clerk, at 724-335-9875, extension 201.

RESIDENT INFORMATION

A handicapped swing has been installed at Burrell Lake Park and is available.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Westmoreland Cleanways will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at WCCC, Youngwood Campus, 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697. Westmoreland Cleanways' mission is to maintain the environmental quality of Westmoreland County. Residents are given the opportunity to properly dispose of toxic and dangerous household products and chemicals. Call Westmoreland Cleanways at 724-879-4020 or visit their web site www.westmorelandcleanways.org for details.

DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Lower Burrell Police Department is now a collection site for both prescription and non-prescription medications. Anyone wishing to dispose of any of these items can bring them to the station for disposal. All medications must be in the original container or a sealed plastic bag. No liquid pharmaceuticals, syringes, needles, or lancets will be accepted. If possible please bring items for disposal between the hours on 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays, though this is not required.

LOWER BURRELL RANKED THIRD SAFEST IN STATE

In a recent post on the Movoto Real Estate Blog, Pennsylvania ranked the No. 20 safest state in the United States. Lower Burrell ranked third for the safest cities in Pennsylvania.

The top 10 cities are listed below:

1. Township of South Park
2. Borough of Franklin Park
3. City of Lower Burrell
4. Borough of Elizabethtown
5. Borough of Emmaus (tie)
6. Borough of Waynesboro (tie)
7. Borough of State College
8. Borough of Plum
9. Borough of Ephrata
10. City of Greensburg

To read the survey and the criteria that was considered, please look up this article on line: <http://www.movoto.com/pa/safest-places-in-pennsylvania/> . It's great for others to know what we've always known, Lower Burrell is One Great City.
