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Messages from the Mayor

Sewage

Administrative Order of Consent (AOC)

As you know, the Cities of Lower Burrell, Arnold, and New Kensington are under an administrative order to reduce storm overflows into the Allegheny River. This is part of the Clean Streams Act and is being administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Over the past two years, there has been extensive flow monitoring in the three cities to determine the largest source of problems requiring correction. All the flow data is now being analyzed. The analysis will be the basis for a long term control plan (LTCP). The length of time for the implementation of the control plan is yet to be negotiated. The time period will be based on the extent of the corrections and cost/affordability.

Thank you, residents, for your cooperation in disconnecting downspouts, driveway drains, etc. These connections make the problems worse and also put us in a non-compliance situation. Thanks to you, we are in the mid to high nineties for compliance. Please help to keep rainwater out of our sewer system. If you see a problem or think there may be a problem, call city hall and report it.

Wildlife Lodge Road

All bids are in and ready to be awarded. They are being reviewed by EPA/DEP. Once we get their approval, hopefully done by the time you get this, construction will start. If all goes according to plan, construction should be complete by late spring of 2014.

Part of this project is replacing the Little Puckety Interceptor along the Route 56 bypass. It was bid at the same time as the Wildlife Lodge Road project and will be constructed on the same time schedule.

Pump Stations

Yet another component of our overall sewage plan is to eliminate as many pump stations as possible. This project will eliminate Widmer, Hillcrest and Indiana stations. Once completed, we will be down to five pump stations from our original 11. This is very significant since pump stations are costly to operate and parts are difficult to obtain.

Sewer Rates

I receive multiple phone calls every time sewer bills are mailed. I agree that sewage processing is not as low cost as it once was. So what is happening? First your sewage bill is divided into two parts – conveyance and treatment. The conveyance part is all the major lines we own to get the sewage to the treatment plant in New Kensington. The second part is treatment at the plant. Inside of each of these is the cost of lines and the plant itself. The increases you have seen over the last three years have been the treatment plant upgrades to meet DEP requirements. This amounted to \$22 million (\$40 million amortized). Lower Burrell bears about one third of this cost and the debt service is paid through New Kensington directly to bondholders. In addition, there is debt service for the Lower Burrell conveyance system which is also paid directly to bondholders. For Lower Burrell, the bond amount is right at \$4 million.

The second part is the consumption cost. This is determined by water usage. This payment includes treatment of the sewage in New Kensington and repair and maintenance in Lower Burrell.

On the average, in Lower Burrell, the monthly total cost is in the \$35 range and is billed quarterly. Even if you didn't put one ounce of sewage into the system, you would still be responsible for debt service which is commonly called "base rate." Since the system is there, we must pay for it whether we use it or not. Comparatively,

our total rate is about average. As mentioned earlier, we don't know where the administrative order will take us but everything possible is being done to keep costs to a minimum.

Business

Widewaters

(Also known as Wards/Penneys)

Recently it was reported in the media that Widewaters was cited by the City on code enforcement issues. This is correct and puts us in an interesting situation.

First with regard to code enforcement, public safety is the primary role of the city government. We must take all steps legally possible to insure structures do not present a risk to our residents. We do this through codes and enforcement. Our code enforcement structure has only been in place about six years. Strict enforcement has and will continue to improve the safety and quality of structures in our City. Widewaters is now proceeding on correcting the cited deficiencies where legally required.

The second part is we remain very committed to doing everything possible to bring the site back to be fully active. We are pursuing conventional (retail) and unconventional (mixed use) uses. To say this has been a frustrating journey would be an understatement but this hasn't slowed our effort or determination. Remember, you can help by keeping your eyes and ears open to ideas and letting me know. I will follow up quickly.

Retail

The remaining shopping centers are performing well. Crossroads Plaza is full and negotiations are continuing to fill Hillcrest. Gumbergs is working very closely with the City and hopefully we will see a full center very soon.

Parnassus – The center in the area of Save-A-Lot continues to be a priority. It has

been a difficult road. Just a few months ago, we were preparing to announce a new center for the area. Since then we have experienced a serious problem. Hopefully it will work out and progress will continue. Unfortunately, I can't give you more details but will provide them through the media as available.

Brusters

I receive calls frequently about the former Bruster's site as to what is going there. The answer is we don't know. There are all kind of rumors but the fact is there have been no requests or plans submitted to the Planning Commission nor has any demolition permit been sought. The rumors are just that – rumors. Once we know, you will know.

Garage Sale Signs

Every year we go through this same problem – people put up yard sale signs and then fail to take them down. The signs are illegal to start with and are not permitted to be attached to power poles, street signs, etc. There are fines associated with doing this and the signs are just plain ugly. We have been very tolerant but if you put up a sign for the day, take it down when the sale is over. DO NOT staple or nail signs to power poles or street signs. Be considerate to your community.

Condominium Construction

Condos at Countryview Estates and Rabbit Foot Lake are continuing. Several are ready for occupancy at Countryview. The contact is Century 21. The first condo at Rabbit Foot is nearly complete. Construction of the next condo will soon be underway.

Other Changes

Former Tri-City Life Center site will soon be the site for All State Insurance offices.

Former Tire Corral will be the site for TNT which provides on road guiding assistance and is primarily an outgrowth from the Marcellus Shale Industry.

Former Ponderosa is now the site of the beautiful new China Lobster.

Former Electric Line Tattoo is now the site of This and That Resale Shop.

Welcome the following new businesses:

T & R Specialists, LLC
2772 Leechburg Road
So Cute Beads and Gifts
2879 Leechburg Road
American Healthcare Solutions
2920 Leechburg Road
Liberty Tax Preparation
3083 Leechburg Road
Gonella's Auto
2787 Leechburg Road
This and That Resale Shop
2748 Leechburg Road
Riviera Pizza and Pasta
2955 Leechburg Road
Burrell's Family Cuts
3033 Leechburg Road
Betik, Inc.
2776 Leechburg Road
Kirk E. Pattock Farmers Insurance
2785 Leechburg Road
TNA Tire & Services
3162 Leechburg Road
Brestensky Agency, LLC
2644 Leechburg Road
Quest Diagnostics
1600 Wildlife Lodge Road

A Message from Lower Burrell Police Department

New Police Officers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the city residents to our two new Patrol Officers and the new police K-9.

First, Officer Brendon Noll joined the department on November 12, 2012. Noll is a 2010 graduate of Seton Hill University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and a 2011 graduate of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Police Academy.



Prior to joining the Lower Burrell Police Department, Noll worked as a police officer for the University of Pittsburgh in Greensburg. He is coming to the end of his first year of employment with the department and has proven to be a fine, dedicated officer.



Secondly, Officer Brandon Nedley started with the department on July 1, 2013. Officer Nedley is a 2004

graduate of the Westmoreland County Community College where he earned a degree in criminal justice. He is a 2006 graduate of the Allegheny County Police Academy. Nedley began his career in police work as a part-time officer with Tarentum Borough in 2006. Officer Nedley has also served on the Washington Township, East Deer, Frazier Township, and most recently Butler Township Police Departments. Officer Nedley is an experienced officer, and I feel fortunate to have him as a member of this department.

I am extremely happy we had the opportunity to have both of these men join our team in the past few months, and we look forward to working with them over the course of their careers. I am certain they will serve the people of this community well.



Lastly, the department's new police dog "Dax" began patrolling the city with his handler, Officer Steve Cernava, earlier this spring. Dax is a two year old German Shepherd trained in narcotics detection, tracking, and apprehension. Cernava and Dax have already had an impact on drug activity in Lower Burrell and the surrounding communities.

Chief Weitzel

The "Anti-Drug Bug"



On behalf of the Lower Burrell Police Department, I would again like to thank

Bob Bordonaro, Jr. and Bob Bordonaro, Sr. of Hillcrest Volkswagen, Inc. Hillcrest Volkswagen's generous donation of a 2013 Volkswagen Beetle to the Lower Burrell Police Department DARE program shows the Bordonaro's dedication to the overall health and safety of the children and residents of this community.

The car has been named the "Anti-Drug Bug." Hillcrest Volkswagen has prepaid a three-year lease and Volkswagen Credit donated a Lease Wear Policy which fully covers the vehicle for up to \$20,000 in

wear and damages. Hillcrest Volkswagen is also covering all of the vehicle's maintenance during the lease period.

The car was delivered by the Bordonaro's in September 2012 adorned with DARE and Anti-Drug Use slogans on the graphics. The car will continue to make appearances at the elementary schools and community events. We know this car will continue to make a strong impression on the minds of our community's children when it comes to choosing to live a drug-free life. For that the Lower Burrell Police Department salutes the Bordonaro's and their entire team at Hillcrest Volkswagen.

Public Works
Councilman Frank Trozzi, Jr.
W. Scott Johnson, Foreman

Public Works Department

Street Department

The street department is finishing road repairs and maintenance consisting of spot base repairs, catch basin rebuilds, cutting branches, and repairing any storm pipe issues. Seal coating of Chester, Lehigh, Shank, Edna, Clarendon, Prospect Circle, Morgan, Park, Westbrook, Florida, Dorothy, Susan, Taymer, Guyer, Kunkle, and Laing streets have been completed, along with the street sweeper following close behind to pick up any loose chips.

Kenmont Ave Project: The Kenmont Ave Road restoration project has been postponed until the summer of 2014. In working with The New Kensington Water Authority, a waterline project has been updated to include this area for restoration, with the road milling and overlay to begin soon thereafter. The timeline for this work is scheduled for completion by the end of August 2014.

This project has been in development through the cooperation of both the New Kensington Water Authority and the City of Lower Burrell. Both groups worked together in order to keep costs to a minimum for this overall project.

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. If you see someone doing so, 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, 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 is performing manhole inspections as well as camera evaluations of the sanitary system. Routine cleaning and root cutting of lines are also being performed. Pump station repairs are completed as needed when evaluated twice a week.

The City of Lower Burrell is working with the Municipal Sanitary Authority of New Kensington in the evaluation and monitoring of flow levels throughout the sanitary system in our City. Arnold and Plum are also involved in this process as a regional approach to see what can be done in order to provide a tighter sanitary system for each community. Each community involved is trying to eliminate inflow and infiltration issues that will eventually lead to potential savings in the treatment of sanitary sewage and keeping our waterways clean.

The Wildlife Lodge sanitary sewer line extension project is approaching the groundbreaking stage as the bids have been awarded and the preconstruction meetings are now being arranged with construction scheduled to start by November. Westmoreland County Planning and Development was also involved in this 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. 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 on weekends or holidays.

The Public Works Department would like to welcome aboard Mr. Bill Thomey in the Sewer Department. Since last newsletter, Bill has accepted a sewer mechanic position and has been a great asset to the Sewer Department. We would also like to recognize Mr. Jason Taylor in the Street Department as he is working towards successful completion of his probationary period toward a laborer/truck driver position in the Street Department.

The City would like to thank Mr. Tom Bertocki for his years of hard work and service to the City of Lower Burrell. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him the best of luck in his retirement!

A Message from
Councilman Joseph Grillo
Public Safety

We are beginning to see the end of summer with leaves starting to change colors. Please remember to have your furnace checked to make sure that it is running properly and efficiently. Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. When fires are detected, families can escape.

I would like to welcome Robert Liotta to the Planning Commission. He is replacing Aaron Kress. Good luck, Rob and best wishes Aaron; thank you for your years of service.

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.

Congratulations to Alexa Edwards and Gabby Grillo. They were recognized at the Western Pennsylvania Fireman's Association Convention and received scholarships to further their education. Best wishes and good luck as they further their education.

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.

**A Message from
Councilman Richard Callender
Parks and Public Property**

**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 26, 2013 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 26, 2013 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 23, 2013 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.

I would like to remind everyone about the new Recreation committee that is a part of the Parks department. B.E.A.T. (Burrell Entertainment and Activities Team) was created to provide events to the citizens of Lower Burrell. We are trying to get all organizations within Lower Burrell to participate. Our main objective is to provide four main events in the city: the Easter Egg Hunt, the Spring Strawberry Festival, Autumn Fest, and the Holiday Kickoff Weekend. Also, we can help the various organizations with the events that they are planning by providing contacts and possible volunteers. If we utilize the various expert services within our community, all events can be successful.

Please go and see our new playground at Kinloch Community Park. This summer with a group of concerned citizens, we were able to cleanup and improve the condition of the Kinloch Playground. A committee was formed to provide work details and fundraising to raise money for future improvements at the park. Going forward, they are looking to form a neighborhood watch group to curb the vandalism that has plagued the park in the past. When people take pride in their surroundings, great things can happen. I would like to challenge the people that live near or frequent the other parks in our community to follow Kinloch's example. If you would like to form a committee or watch group please contact city hall at (724) 335-9875. Take pride in your park. Take pride in your community!

We will be adding a handicap swing at Burrell Lake Park. If you know anyone that could use the new swing, please let them know. Everyone should have the capability to use our beautiful parks.

Some upcoming activities are as follows:

Every Saturday Until October 12th – City Hall – Farmer's Market
October 19th – Burrell Lake Park – Medieval Living Demonstration
October 26th – City Hall - Semi Annual Recycling Day

Remember to look for further information on the Holiday Kickoff Celebration coming soon!

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

We would like to congratulate Nancy McArdle on her retirement from the Treasurer's office on August 1, 2013 after 18 years of service. Her years of service have been much appreciated, and she will be truly missed. We wish her the best of everything in the years ahead. Also, we would like to welcome our new employee **Lori Rocchi** to the treasurer's office staff. Lori resides in Lower Burrell along with her husband Jerry.

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 being not credited to your 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 thru 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.

Earned Income is now being collected by Berkheimer and not our tax office. Please contact Berkheimer with any questions at 1-800-360-8989 or visit their website at www.hab-inc.com

Lost Bills and Tax Notices: Any resident who misplaces their sewage and recycling bills or tax notices must come inside so a new bill may be printed. Residents without their bills will no longer be able to use the drive thru window. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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.

TRICK OR TREAT

Trick or Treat for Lower Burrell residents will be Thursday, October 31, 2013 from 6 to 8 p.m.
