



BOROUGH of HI-NELLA
SMOKE SIGNAL



DECEMBER 2025 – JANUARY 2026
Hi - Nella Fire Company meets each
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. - Fire Station

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY BOROUGH MEETINGS:

Borough Council – 1st Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. - Court Room
Planning/Zoning Board - 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. - Court Room
Borough Council – special agendas - 3rd Tuesday at 6 :00 p.m. - Court Room
Court – 1st Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. - Court Room

BOROUGH OFFICE HOURS:

Municipal Clerk	Monday through Thursday	9:00AM - 3:00 PM
Tax Collector	Tuesdays	5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Court Administrator	Tuesday and Thursday	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
	Friday	11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Building Code Official	Tuesday	11:00 AM - noon

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday - 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Phone 856-784-2917, ext. 120

BOROUGH NEWS:

ELECTION RESULTS: Congratulations to Suraiya Basil who was elected to a seat on Borough Council!

WE WELCOME OFFICER ANTHONY ROMAN TO THE HI-NELLA POLICE DEPARTMENT!

REMINDER: Pet licenses are still due for 2025!

THANK YOU to everyone involved in organizing and helping with our Fall Festival!

TREE LIGHTING/SANTA: Tree lighting will take place on December 6 at approximately 5:30 p.m. Children who made ornaments should bring them to Memorial Field prior to that time. Santa will be visiting with the children after the tree lighting.



LIGHTS ON HIAWATHA: The Schules family display was recently featured on HGTV's "Hoarding for the Holidays!" Check the "Lights on Hiawatha" Facebook page for open dates and times.

SENIOR AND VETERAN COMMUNITY DINNER: January 24, 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Somerdale Community Center on Hilltop Avenue. Sponsored by McCoy's Stop the Hunger Food and Mobile, Inc. RSVP to 856-426-9908 or email Cindy McCoy at cindy.mccoystopthehunger24@gmail.com.

REMINDER FROM PUBLIC WORKS:

LEAF PICKUP:

- Rake leaves to curb. Keep in large piles rather than multiple small piles.
- Leaf pick-up is usually 3rd Wednesday of December, followed by street sweeping. Street parking should be avoided if possible. If you don't have off street parking available, please be courteous to your neighbor and park in front of your own home. Collection date will be posted.
- Please don't mix grass, twigs, or vines with the leaves. This could result in leaves not being picked up.

You always have option to bag leaves for weekly trash pickup, this will avoid blowing leaves, water build up, and possibility of plowing leaf piles should it snow.

BRANCH AND SHRUB: There will be no collection by Borough of cut large branches. Shrub trimmings should be bagged and put out with regular trash collection. Twigs and small branches should be cut to 4-foot pieces and placed in trash can or bundled (up to 40lbs) for regular trash pickup. Large **fallen** branches only shall be placed at curb and picked up by Borough periodically.

ICE AND SNOW REMINDER: Please remember to put your car in the driveway when there is significant snow in the forecast so that public works can do a thorough job of plowing. Also, drivers are now required by state law to remove all snow and ice from their cars before driving. Fines of at least \$25.00 and up to \$75.00 may be assessed.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY TIPS:

- Replace all Christmas lights that have frayed or damaged wiring.
- Keep live trees well-watered.
- Have a working smoke detector installed near the area of your tree.
- **Never** leave candles unattended!
- Practice a family escape plan. When a fire hits, seconds count!

NEED HELP PAYING FOR HEAT? Programs are available for New Jersey residents who need assistance with utility payments:

LIHEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) – helps very low-income residents with heating and cooling bills. **UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND (USF)** – Credits to make energy bills more affordable for low-income customers. **WINTER TERMINATION PROGRAM** – prevents utilities from being cut off from qualified customers between November 15 and March 15.

For information on all these programs, visit the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities website or call NJBPU at 1-800-624-0241.

SCHOOL NEWS:

STRATFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Upcoming School Events

12/22 – 12:30 dismissal for staff in-service
12/23 – 12:30 dismissal for students and staff
12/24 -31 – school closed for winter recess
1/1-1/2 – school closed
1/5 – school reopens for students, full day
1/16 – school closed for staff in-service
1/19 – school closed for Martin Luther King Day

STERLING HIGH SCHOOL

Upcoming School Events

12/23 – early dismissal – 12:00
12/24 – 12/31 – school closed for winter recess
1/1 – 1/2 - school closed for winter recess
1/19 – school closed for Martin Luther King Day
1/26 – first semester ends – early dismissal – 12:00

DEADLINE FOR NEXT SMOKE SIGNAL: January 20

To submit items for the Smoke Signal contact Janice McLaughlin, email janrmcl@gmail.com (please put “Smoke Signal” in the subject line), or call 856-517-1926.

SMOKE SIGNAL ONLINE! Go to hi-nellaboro.org and click on “Community News and Events” at the top. Then scroll down below the Borough calendar and click on “Smoke Signal Newsletter.”

