

# The Docket

December 2021/January 2022

## Sondheim: Bucks County, on Broadway!



The passing of composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim over the weekend brought with it mentions of his strong connections to Bucks County. Sondheim was born in New York City to parents in the dress design and manufacturing business. After his parents divorced he moved with his mother to Fox Hill Farm near Doylestown. He attended the George School in Newtown where he wrote his first musical, *By George* (1946).

Sondheim became good friends with one of Oscar Hammerstein's sons, Jimmy, who lived only four miles away and Oscar became Sondheim's surrogate father and mentor. The boys would often go to the movies together in Doylestown and spent time at the Hammerstein estate. After his time in Bucks County, Sondheim moved back to New York and then enrolled in Williams College where he was voted the most versatile, most brilliant, most original and most likely to succeed.

Sondheim's first big break came when he was hired by Leonard Bernstein to write the lyrics for *West Side Story* which opened on Broadway in 1957 and ran for 732 performances. In 1959 he wrote the lyrics for *Gypsy* starring Ethel Merman. The first musical for which Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics was *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* which opened in 1962 and won six Tony Awards.

### Prominent Sondheim Musicals

*A Funny Thing  
Happened on the Way  
to the Forum*

*A Little Night Music*

*Company*

*Follies*

*Gypsy*

*Into the Woods*

*Sunday in the Park  
with George*

*Sweeney Todd*

*West Side Story*

## Judge Swears in Lawyer He Once Sentenced as a Drug Dealer



In 2005, Edward Martell stood before Judge Bruce Morrow of Wayne County, Michigan, to be sentenced on his conviction of selling and manufacturing crack cocaine. He faced a sentence of 20 years.

Instead, Judge Morrow sentenced Martell to three years of probation and challenged him to become a CEO of a Fortune 500 company, rather than a drug dealer.

Martell took up the challenge. Despite some stumbles along the way, he enrolled in community college in 2008 and then attended the University of Detroit Mercy on scholarships for undergraduate and law school degrees.

Over the years, Martell and Morrow kept in touch. When Martell underwent the character and fitness review for the bar, Morrow was among his advisors. Martell submitted an application that was more than 1,200 pages long. The character and fitness board needed only fifteen minutes to review and approve Martell's application. On May 14, 2021, Judge Morrow swore in Martell as a Michigan lawyer in his Wayne County courtroom. Martell will practice with a Detroit law firm where he worked as a legal researcher.

Judge Morrow said that many people who come before the court on criminal charges have untapped potential. "If you believe like I believe, that there but for the grace of God go you and me....It took some intelligence to get in and out of the kind of trouble he got into. I told him, 'You could be my son. Let's see how far you can go.' And man, he hasn't finished yet."



# 1 Highways PENNA. TURN-PIKE

## How Does PA rate?

- ⇒ 22nd - Highway Fatality
- ⇒ 46th - Structurally deficient bridges
- ⇒ 43rd - Condition of interstate pavement in urban areas
- ⇒ 36th - Condition of interstate pavement in rural areas
- ⇒ 35th - Total spending, at \$102,329 per mile cost of state controlled road
- ⇒ 5th - Size of the state highway system
- ⇒ 39th - Overall condition and cost effectiveness

Pennsylvania has a total of 120,852 linear highway miles and 233.6 million daily vehicle miles of travel. Urban linear miles make up 40% of the miles and rural linear miles make up 60%.

### Top five counties with the most linear highway miles:

Allegheny County  
521.4 linear miles

Montgomery County  
363.5 linear miles

Bucks County  
306.4 linear miles

Philadelphia County  
276.8 linear miles

Chester County  
223.8 linear miles

### Five counties with the least linear highway miles:

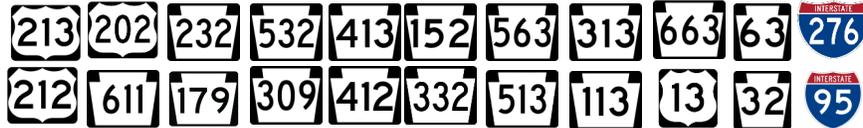
Cameron County  
0 linear miles

Sullivan County  
0 linear miles

Wayne County  
6.6 linear miles

Forest County  
14.1 linear miles

Montour County  
21.5 linear miles



## TRIVIA

### Why is Street Road called Street Road?

## We asked the staff: What is your favorite holiday tradition?

Amanda— Our family Gingerbread House Competition Party.

Arianna— Finding the Christmas pickle ornament.

Aubrey— Christmas tree hunting—we always go out and cut down our own tree.

Brian—The kids finding the Christmas pickle ornament.

Cathy— Decorating the house.

Deanna— The "Christmas Elf" brings a new pair of pajamas on Christmas Eve that everyone wears to breakfast the next morning.

Eileen— Baking cookies.

Frank— A large Christmas Eve/Day celebration.

Jackie— Baking cookies.

Jason— Family holiday party.

Jeannette—Black Friday shopping with my daughter.

Liz— Decorating the Christmas Tree.

Lizzy— Christmas party at my aunt's house with Pollyanna gift exchange.

Marcia— Going to New York to see the store fronts.

Marissa— Looking at the lights in my neighborhood and at Peddler's Village, with my family.

Megan—Decorating the Christmas Tree with my family.

Michele— Coming home from Mass on Christmas morning and then cooking and having breakfast with everyone.

Mike— Family secret gift exchange.

Sam— Christmas Eve Box tradition.

Shannon— Around Christmas my family and I drive around the neighborhood and rank our favorite decorated houses.

Sharon— Setting the alarm in the middle of Thanksgiving night to go on an early shopping frenzy while the stores are still empty.

Shelley — We make triple berry jam and sugared walnuts and give it as gifts. The house smells amazing.



<https://buckscounty.gov/222/Clerk-of-Courts>



February/March Newsletter :  
Electronic filing has arrived



Answer to Trivia: The original use of the word "street" was for paved road. Street Road was paved by 1911 when it was called Street (for paved) Road.