



# "Talk of the Township"

Township of Ligonier • One Municipal Park Drive • Ligonier, PA 15658

A Newsletter For Our Residents

January/February/March 2012

## TOWNSHIP NEWS

### From the desk of Chief Matrunics

Due to an increase in the number of dog complaints, we would like to take this opportunity to remind residents of state dog laws.

All dogs must be kept secured either by leash, kennel, fence, etc. Owners and/or handlers must maintain control of dogs at all times. This is not only in the best interest of the pet owner, but for the safety of the pet.

Pet owners are also encouraged to show respect and courtesy to neighbors when walking their dogs. Please be sure to clean up all feces after your dog.

If your dog is an outside pet, please be certain that it is properly housed and protected from inclement weather, in both the heat of summer and the cold of winter. In any case, your dog must have proper shelter and bedding, and food and water at all times.

### From the desk of Supervisor Timothy Komar

As winter fast approaches we must remind residents once again that although some on-street parking is tolerated in the summer months, it can create difficulties when it comes to snow removal. Any campers, trailers, trucks, equipment, etc. parked within the township right of ways that impede with snow removal may be cause for a ticket by the township police. Also, it is recommended that when removing snow from driveways and mail boxes, it is to your benefit to place snow on the side away from the direction that the snow plow comes from. This allows the plows to push the snow back without depositing it back into the already cleaned drive. Although the township is not legally responsible for damages to mail boxes and other items within the right of way, we will however look at these situations on a case by case basis as a courtesy to our residents. If you have any concerns please contact our office at 724-238-2725.

### From the desk of the Secretary/Treasurer

Recently the Supervisors passed the tentative 2012 budget. For the second consecutive year, we have trimmed the Capital Account (used to hold prior years' budget surpluses for use on very large expenditures, such as bridge replacements, large equipment purchases and the like) in order to balance the budget. In addition, we continue to bid for road supplies, insurances, and other high cost items. We purchase equipment through County or State Associations established to gain pricing concessions based on large volume purchasing. We do this to ensure that we are paying the absolute least amount possible for these high priced items.

At every turn, we are seeking to do more with less. But, we are fighting a great battle because decreasing wage tax receipts has brought home to us the financial conditions affecting us all in our daily lives. We will be praying for a mild winter this year and, hopefully, a slowing in the rising costs of operating, so that we will not be forced to increase real estate taxes in the next budget (2013). Your Supervisors will be making every effort to do all we can, but it is inescapable that, either increasing taxes or decreasing services, will be necessary at some point.

## TAX COLLECTOR

By Sue R. Kinsey

Ligonier Township Spring property taxes (County and Township) will be mailed March 1, 2012. Discount amount will be honored through April 30<sup>th</sup>, face amount through June 30<sup>th</sup> and penalty amount through December 31, 2012. Ligonier Township Fall property taxes (School) will be mailed August 1, 2012. Discount amount will be honored through September 30<sup>th</sup>, face amount through November 30<sup>th</sup> and penalty amount through December 31, 2012. All payments must be accompanied with a tax statement. If a receipt is requested, please include a self addressed, stamped return envelope. Tax statements are no longer mailed to the mortgage companies. Tax statements are mailed to the taxpayer. If applicable, please forward your statement to the mortgage company for prompt payment. Failure to receive a tax statement does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility of payment. If you do not receive a tax statement, please contact the tax office. Payments made December 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> must be paid with a certified check, cashiers check or money order. A drop-off slot is available at the tax collectors office to accept payments before or after normal business hours. Please keep your addresses updated with the tax office.

#### OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday thru Thursday  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Last Saturday of the month  
April and September  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

724-238-2300

# TOWNSHIP NEWS

## Ligonier East Sewage Project

I would like to give some simple reminders to those customers that are receiving their 60 day connection notices.

- You have a total of 60 days to hook into the system as well as pay for your tap.
- You will need to provide your water account number if your property is serviced by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County.
- There is no need to fill in the sewage account information on your letter because that is for "office use only" and we will be giving you your new account number.
- If you are a landlord the billing will come to you and you then will be responsible to pass that information onto your tenant. The board made the decision in January of 2011 to eliminate putting bills into the tenant's names. It is helpful if you give us the tenants name so that we will have record if they drop their payments off to us.
- If you do not hook into the sewer systems within your 60 day period of time we will then be sending you a bill for the base rate until you hook in, after that, we will be charging the base rate as well as usage.
- And most important, please make sure that your contractor calls our office 24 hours before they plan to dig. We must schedule the appointments with our inspector and he must be on site when your contractor starts.

Thank you and please feel free to call us with any questions.

## What is Zoning?

Zoning is the process of planning for land use to allocate certain kinds of structures in certain areas and control the location of different uses in a community. Zoning also includes restrictions in different zoning districts, such as height of buildings, use of green space, density (number of structures in a certain area), use of lots, and types of businesses. By controlling location, use and intensity (or density), zoning can have a significant impact on protecting critical features in a community such as rural villages, farms, environmentally sensitive or historical areas. In Pennsylvania 57% of municipalities have zoning.

Levels or types of zoning include open space, residential, retail, commercial, agricultural, and industrial. For example, if you wanted to open a business in an area that was zoned as "residential", you might not be able to do it.

### May I have a home-based business?

Home-based businesses are known as "No-Impact Home Based Businesses" in the Zoning Ordinance. Home businesses meeting certain criteria are permitted in any residential district. Home-based businesses or occupations can not employ anyone other than family members residing in the dwelling, there can be no exterior signage or appearance of a business use, no emission of odor, dust, gas, noise, vibration, smoke, heat, or glare, or contain mechanical equipment not normally used for domestic purposes, the use can not exceed more than 25% of the dwelling and there can be no stockpiling or inventory of a substantial nature. You must apply for an Occupancy Permit if you wish to operate a home-based business in your home. For more information on no-impact home based businesses refer to Section 206.4 of the Ligonier Township Comprehensive Development Ordinance available online at [www.ligoniertownship.com](http://www.ligoniertownship.com) or call the Zoning Office at 724-238-3640

### But doesn't Zoning regulate unkept properties, junk/rubbish and junk cars?

No it does not. The Township Codes regulate nuisances, garbage/rubbish/trash and junk cars/yards. In some larger areas the municipalities or cities have adopted Property Maintenance Ordinances or Codes that can also regulate these issues. The Township Codes are also available online.

### Municipal Building Closings

The Ligonier Township Municipal Building will be closed on:

Monday, January 2, 2012: New Year's Day  
Monday, February 20, 2012: President's Day

Normal business hours are: Monday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Ligonier YMCA

At the Y, your membership means more! There's a unique combination at the Ligonier Valley YMCA. It's a place where generations gather together, little ones build skills and self-esteem. Seniors socialize alongside toddlers splashing and learning new skills in our pool. The Y offers everything from water activities, fitness equipment, to healthy classes and kids programming that nurture their potential through play. Make your membership mean more to you. New members signing up during the month of January 2012, NO JOINING fee and all fitness classes are included for ALL members.

The Y offers a Child Development Program for ages 6 weeks to 12 years from 6:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each child is provided stimulating age appropriate activities; a positive group experience and swimming instruction for all preschool and pre-kindergarten. Contact Sarah Bryne-Houser or Kathi Betton for additional details.

In an effort to fight childhood obesity and encourage a healthy lifestyle, Ligonier YMCA offers a variety of youth development programs that teach respect, honesty, caring and responsibility to our youth. Interested? We have a number of new programs and keeping with past favorites, sign up for Youth Outdoor Lacrosse, Xbox Tournaments, Indoor Soccer, High School Basketball League, Youth Golf and much more. So kick away those winter blues, call to register!

Kids need a safe, nurturing place to be after school, and in response to the community's need, the Y offers "A Get Active" after school programs including Dodgeball, Floor Hockey, Flag Football and more. Programs will start in January - March 2012.

At the Y, we listen and respond to the communities' needs through programming. Starting in January 2012, we are offering adult cooking classes, Session I starts January 12<sup>th</sup> with Mastering the Basics. Woman's Fly Fishing series starts January 24<sup>th</sup> and will run for 7 weeks. Get out your dancing shoes for Ballroom dancing with Session I starting January 5<sup>th</sup>. Learn to Knit with Heidi Todd Kozar for two great sessions open to all beginners. Check out our website to register and for additional programming.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

The Loyalhanna Watershed Association will once again be holding Christmas tree recycling at the Ligonier Country Market field beginning December 26 - January 31. Please make sure to remove all decorations, wire hangers, etc. and do not leave the tree in a plastic bag.

LAW OFFICE OF

# RICHARD F. FLICKINGER

Continuing legal services for the citizens of Ligonier Valley since 1951.

300 North Market Street  
Ligonier, PA 15658-1233

Telephone: 724-238-0300  
Fax: 724-238-1300

[www.ligonierlaw.com](http://www.ligonierlaw.com)



## TIBERI'S

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- DRIVEWAY SEALING
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Ligonier, PA 15658

## WALL COVERING SPECIALIST

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Res: 724-238-5279

*Forgot Something? We've Got It...*

## WATKINS' MARKET

GROCERIES and DELI

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427 ROUTE 271, LIGONIER, PA 15658

724-238-9714

Lynn & Hazel Watkins, *Owners*

## TENWILS AUTO SERVICE AND TOWING

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724-238-5656  
After hours: 724-238-4466

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3731 Route 711, Ligonier, PA 15658

724-238-3471



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# MEETINGS

**JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH**

- Ligonier Township Municipal Building.....724-238-2725
- Ligonier Township Municipal Authority** ..... 7:00 p.m.  
January 4 • February 1 • March 7
- Ligonier Township Supervisors' Work Session**.. 8:00 a.m.  
January 6 • February 10 • March 9
- Ligonier Township Supervisors' Meeting**..... 7:00 p.m.  
January 10 • February 14 • March 13
- Ligonier Township Recreation Board**..... 6:30 p.m.  
January 12 • February 9 • March 8
- Ligonier Township Planning Commission** ..... 7:30 p.m.  
January 17 • February 21 • March 20
- Ligonier Township Zoning Hearing Board** ..... 7:30 p.m.  
January 24 • February 28 • March 27

## Volunteer Fire Departments Directory

- Waterford Volunteer Fire Department.....724-238-0471  
Chief Robert Beaufort
- Darlington Volunteer Fire Department.....724-238-4820  
Chief Robert McDowell                      Cell.....814-242-3785
- Wilpen Volunteer Fire Department.....724-238-6585  
Chief Michael DiRinaldo

# LIGONIER TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

- Ligonier Township Supervisors** .....724-238-2725  
William C. Penrod, Jr., Keith A. Whipkey, Timothy R. Komar
- Receptionist**  
Barbara L. Hollick
- Ligonier Township Secretary / Treasurer**  
Keith A. Whipkey
- Ligonier Township Zoning Officer/Assistant Secretary**  
Cindy Turley.....724-238-3640
- Ligonier Township Municipal Authority** .....724-238-7464  
Manager - Paul Knupp  
Secretary - Anna Bills
- Ligonier Township Tax Collector** .....724-238-2300  
Sue R. Kinsey
- Ligonier Township Police** .....724-238-5105  
Chief of Police Michael W. Matronics
- Ligonier Township Code Enforcement** .....724-875-2785
- Ligonier Township Web Site**..... [www.ligoniertownship.com](http://www.ligoniertownship.com)
- Ligonier Township Email Address** ..... [ligsec@comcast.net](mailto:ligsec@comcast.net)
- Ligonier Township Fax Number** .....724-238-3711
- Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co** .....724-238-9450

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