

“Talk of the Township”

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

A Newsletter For Our Residents

January • February • March 2014

TOWNSHIP NEWS

From the Desk of the Supervisors

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.

Ligonier Township Municipal Authority

Those residents that have received notice to pay their sewer tap fee, and have not done so yet, need to remit their payment to the LTMA office as soon as possible. We are required to begin billing 60 days from the date of your original connection letter. Delaying payment of the tap fee, or connecting, does not delay the billing.

From the Police Department

I would like to inform you about a program that we are happy to be involved in. In recent years the Ligonier Twp. Police Department has been in a one day cooperative program with the State Attorney Generals' office called "Drug Take Back Day". This is when individuals can bring expired or unwanted prescription drugs to a drop off location, usually at the Ligonier Twp. Municipal building, and they will be disposed of properly. This program eliminates dangerous drugs lying around the house. Often innocent people have been burglarized by addicts looking for such drugs.

In recent months we were asked by the Westmoreland County DA's office if we would be interested in housing a "Prescription Medication Collection Box". This gives year round access for citizens to dispose of dangerous drugs. There were 21 locations around Westmoreland County with Ligonier Twp. being one of them. The box is located at the Ligonier Twp. Municipal building. The box can be accessed during business hours only. If these hours are not convenient for you, please contact this department at 724-238-5105 and an officer can make arrangements to meet with you to have these drugs deposited.

The following are general guidelines concerning the prescription medication collection boxes:

1. Medication, whether prescription or over the counter, from households and residences are accepted for placement in the box.
2. Medications may be disposed of in the original containers or in a sealed plastic bag.
3. Liquid pharmaceuticals shall remain in the original container.
4. No needles, syringes, or lancets shall be placed in the box.
5. Individuals utilizing the box shall not be questioned, be required to disclose personal identification or be charged a fee.
6. Individuals shall place medication directly into the collection box.
7. Only controlled and non-controlled medication from the individual's household or residence shall be collected.

Please contact this department if you have any questions.

TAX COLLECTOR

By Sue R. Kinsey

Ligonier Township Spring property taxes (County and Township) will be mailed March 1, 2014. Discount amount will be honored through April 30, face amount through June 30 and penalty amount through December 31, 2014. Ligonier Township Fall property taxes (School) will be mailed August 1, 2014. Discount amount will be honored through September 30, face amount through November 30 and penalty amount through December 31, 2014. 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 statement does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility of payment. If you do not receive your statement, please contact the Tax Office. Payments made December 1 through December 31 must be paid with a certified check, cashiers check or money order. A drop-off slot is available at the township 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 months
April and September
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
724-238-2300

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Ligonier Valley Recycling Hopes to Continue Through 2014

Since the re-establishment of the Ligonier Valley Community Recycling Program in 2011, our community has successfully recycled over 1,260 TONS of plastics, glass, aluminum/bi-metal cans, paper, and cardboard at the drop-off facility located on Old Route 30 West in the Township. This has been no easy feat! By working cooperatively, McInchok Sanitation, Ligonier Township, Ligonier Borough, and the Loyalhanna Watershed Association have been able to offer a recycling program that is valuable to many Ligonier Valley residents despite the downturn in the recycling industry.

"This program is run primarily from individual donations," adds LWA Executive Director, Susan Huba. "Since the program started fully operating again January, 2011, more that \$16,000 has been leveraged from individual contributions - everything from checks sent in for the program to change collected in the donation box at the facility. The need for this program is there, but we are concerned about how long it can be financially sustained."

Currently, there is only enough funding remaining to continue paying for the program through June, 2014. After this time, unless additional contributions are received, the recycling industry shifts or changes occur with how the program is mandated, the program will not be able to continue. It costs \$200 each time the large co-mingled bin is hauled to Greenstar Pittsburgh to be recycled, approximately twice per week. Add to this the cost of hauling the four cardboard recycling bins at \$25 each per week, and the average expense for the program is \$1,600 per week.

Act 101 of 1988, "The Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act," mandates recycling in municipalities with populations over 10,000 and those with populations between 5,000 and 10,000 that have population densities greater than 300 persons per square mile. At present, 440 of Pennsylvania's 2,700 municipalities are mandated to recycle and provide curbside collection programs. Of the communities not required to recycle, 873 have access to drop-off programs, like the Ligonier Valley Program.

"Because Ligonier residents are not required to recycle, this program can only continue if those who use it contribute to keep it running," says Huba. "We are probably the only people that like to see the bins full at the facility, because to us, it means people are recycling. That is what's important. If facility users appreciate the program, we hope they will choose to support it by donating to keep it open."

The Ligonier Valley Community Recycling Facility is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The facility has designated bins for co-mingled items including plastics #1-#7, all colors of glass bottles/jars, and aluminum/bi-metal cans, as well as bins for paper and bins for cardboard. Recyclers are urged to follow the directions posted at the facility, most importantly to not leave any items near the bins or on the ground if they are full.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Ligonier Valley Recycling Program, checks can be mailed to the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, 110 Andi Lane, Ligonier, PA 15658, or donations can be placed in the locked "ticket" box located at the facility. With your help, recycling can continue for our residents!

The Ligonier Township Municipal Building will be closed on:

February 17 - President's Day

The Township Building is open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

From the Zoning Office

Hello, my name is Shelly Kaltenbaugh, and I am the new Zoning Officer for Ligonier Township. Getting this job has been a dream come true for me. I grew up in the Valley, loved living here and consider it an honor to work for a community that holds a special place in my heart and in my family's life.

There are a number of goals that I hope to achieve over the next few months.

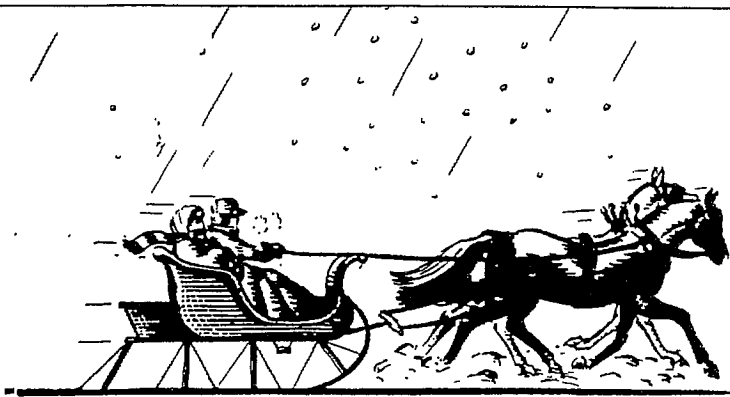
- First, it is my recommendation that the Township opt back into administering the UCC Building Code, allowing the Township to administer and enforce the UCC locally, using a Certified Third Party Inspection Agency. This would be more convenient for residents. They will be able to meet with a certified third party agency at the Township Building to review proposed construction plans. The third party inspection agency will review construction documents; issue building permits; schedule building inspections; insure compliance with the Building Code and construction documents; and issue final occupancy permits.

Currently, residents and businesses must select from the list of third party agencies as published by the Department of Labor and Industry, and travel out of town to submit building plans.

- Secondly, a web page for the Planning and Zoning Department that will keep residents up to date on land development activities in the Township. Agendas and minutes for the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board will be posted on this page. It will be a great place for citizens' input: such as an "Ask Zoning" column: a column named "Our Vision" where residents tell what they like the most and least about the Township, as we begin a visioning process and the first steps to developing a new Comprehensive Plan; and "Picture This" where residents are asked to submit photographs, new and old, that tell the story of Ligonier Township.
- Third, the adoption of the IPMC International Property Maintenance Code, 2009, which gives more power and capability to enforce property maintenance requirements more that those found in the Ligonier Township Public Nuisance Ordinance. Allows for condemnation and demolition of unsafe structures.
- Fourth, the reorganization of the Township Planning and Zoning filing system, condensing the files in one location. Beginning in 2014, all new files will be organized by year and type of application.
- Fifth, institute GIS Mapping utilizing Westmoreland County Base Mapping for Ligonier Township, and develop layers for showing lot lines, addresses, zoning districts, flood plains, roadways, structures, sanitary sewer lines and storm water facilities. Grants will be applied for to enable the Township to purchase the necessary software and equipment.

And finally, should you have any questions, or any ideas to improve services with the Zoning Department, please stop by my office in the Township Building or email me at skaltenbaugh@ligoniertownship.com

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happy winter!*

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LIGONIER, PENNSYLVANIA

(724) 238-5877

www.ligonierlawyer.com

MEETINGS

JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH

- Ligonier Township Municipal Building.....724-238-2725
- Ligonier Township Municipal Authority** 4:00 p.m.
January 2 • February 5 • March 5
- Ligonier Township Supervisors' Work Session..** 8:00 a.m.
January 10 • February 7 • March 7
- Ligonier Township Supervisors' Meeting**..... 7:00 p.m.
January 14 • February 11 • March 11
- Ligonier Township Recreation Board**..... 7:00 p.m.
January 13 • February 10 • March 10
- Ligonier Township Planning Commission**..... 7:30 p.m.
January 21 • February 18 • March 18
- Ligonier Township Zoning Hearing Board** 7:30 p.m.
January 28 • February 25 • March 25

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
Timothy R. Komar, Scott Matson, Paul E. Knupp
- Receptionist, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**
Barbara L. Hollick
- Ligonier Township Secretary / Treasurer**
- Ligonier Township Zoning Officer**
Shelly Kaltenbaugh..... 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. Matrunics
- Ligonier Township Code Enforcement** 724-875-2785
- Ligonier Township Web Site**..... www.ligoniertownship.com
- Ligonier Township Email Address** ligsec@comcast.net
- Ligonier Township Fax Number** 724-238-3711
- Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co** 412-828-2178
- Berkheimer Tax Administrator** 866-701-7206

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