

# “Talk of the Township”

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

A Newsletter For Our Residents

January / February / March 2003

## Ligonier Township Recreation Board

by Jim Gieseey, Vice President

The Ligonier Township Recreation Board was started in 2001 when a group of concerned individuals approached the Ligonier Township Supervisors about building tennis courts in the township. The Recreation Board has now become an Advisory Board to the Ligonier Township Supervisors and consists of 7 members. These members include, Janet Wilson, Pres.; Jim Gieseey, Vice-Pres.; Jim Hamm, Sec.; Tad Murphy, Josh Whetzel, Pat Petraca and currently one vacant seat due to Al Nauck's resignation and move out of the area. The Board is currently looking for a few good members to fill Al's position and the new position that will open up when one of the members' term ends. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact one of the current board members. The Board currently meets the 4th Tuesday of each month

and all meetings are open to the public.

The Recreation Board is currently planning the following projects; 6 well lighted modern tennis courts, a five mile hiking/biking trail, upgrading playground equipment at the Wilpen, Laughlinton and Rector playgrounds and small park-like areas throughout the township. The first project, the Tennis Courts, is continuing along with the Board seeking funding from the public sector as well as the private sector by way of grants. Once the funding is established, the project can continue into the construction phase. The second project is the biking/hiking trail. This project is now being planned, and we are inviting the public to our February meeting to discuss and show their support for the project. Watch your newspaper for the details. The third project is already

underway and some playground equipment has been secured for the Wilpen playground and should be installed this coming spring. Our last, but not final, project is the park-like areas throughout the Township. This project is still in the study phase and no planning has started with it yet.

If anyone is interested in helping with any of these projects or has ideas about these projects, please attend our meetings for we would be happy to hear your ideas. We especially will accept anyone who would be willing to help in any of these projects or be on any of the committees that are associated with these projects. Please contact the Supervisors' office at 724-238-2725 and leave your name, address, phone number and what project you would like to help with. Hope to see you all at our February meeting to hear your support for the biking/hiking trail.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

by Police Chief Ron Dorazio

Well, the year 2002 is coming to an end. A look back over the Police Department's activities for the past year, not including this December, shows an increase in the Police Department's services to the community from the previous year. For the year 2002, the total police services and calls totaled 3563, and the total miles the Police Department drove was 66,818. There were 209 accidents investigated of which 121 were reportable, which means the accident had an injury, death or the vehicle had to be towed. Something new the Department started this year was Commercial Vehicle Inspections, and a total of 32 inspections were performed. I believe this program is a vital safety issue, due to so many commercial vehicles traveling through the Township and descending Laurel Mountain. There were two commercial vehicle accidents on Laurel Mountain within a week of each other and, in both accidents, driver error was partially the cause. A new Part-time Officer has joined the Department since December. His name is Robert Shapiro. He is currently learning the many roads in the Township, along with the different housing plans. With his experience and education, he will be an asset to our Police Department.

Officer Eslary will finish K-9 Training on December 13, and will be on duty with his K-9 beginning December 18. We wish Officer Eslary, and his K-9 (Ando) the best with their new assignment. Since this program is new to Ligonier Valley, Officer Eslary and K-9 (Ando) will be made available for demonstrations and education upon request.

## Salute to Our Soldiers

Our servicemen from this area have been receiving E-mail from residents here in the valley. If you would like to send an E-mail, their addresses are:

robert.derk@usarm.mil

ronald.derkjr@us.army.mil

michael.dirinaldo@us.army.mil

josh.leidy@us.army.mil

I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to keep in touch with our servicemen.

Sue Kinsey

Consider placing an ad in the Ligonier Township Newsletter, which will be sent out every quarter. The next issue will be for April, 2003. Please call the office for more information, 724-238-2725.

Thank You!

## SUPERVISORS

by Keith Whipkey

### Inter-municipal Agreement - What does it mean?

In our ongoing discussion of the sanitary sewerage issues in Ligonier Township, sometimes it is good to step back and place the whole thing in perspective - even though we are celebrating a cooperative agreement that is long overdue between the Township and the Borough.

But where does this agreement fit into the overall plan, and how does it bring us closer to our goal of providing sanitary sewers in areas of the Township very much in need of them?

The Township is required by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt a plan, known as the Act 537 Plan, to provide sewerage services throughout the Township. As part of this plan, we were required to identify those areas most in need, and develop cost estimates for alternative ways of providing service to those areas. The DEP then looks at the option which treats the areas in the most cost effective way.

In the case of the Township, the areas deemed most in need include: Darlington, Laughlintown, Oak Grove, Waterford, and Wilpen. The option to service Darlington was to build a treatment plant in the vicinity of Longbridge and run all connecting lines to be serviced there. Laughlintown could most efficiently be serviced by the Borough treatment plant on Route 30 opposite Giant Eagle. The remaining areas could be serviced for nearly identical cost at the Borough plant or by the Township building yet another plant. The final decision has not been made, but it is very possible that DEP will want to opt for the Borough plant because they required the Borough to upgrade its plant to a size large enough to take in that area. The Inter-municipal Agreement is part of the process of making this option workable.

However, it must be clearly understood that there are other independent issues that must be addressed before we can go ahead with the projects. The Township will be working with the Rural Utility Service (RUS), which could provide grant money and low interest loans to keep the cost down to around \$40 per month per customer (which must occur for RUS to make the money available). We will be in competition with other projects in other municipalities and must rely on assistance from our area elected officials and being placed on a high priority for funding by the DEP. We are working with these agencies and meet with them on at least a monthly basis to keep everyone apprised of our progress. The Inter-municipal Agreement is an important piece but not the only one left to our puzzle. But we will succeed through perseverance.

## WATER AND SEWAGE

by Nancy Crowe

In fairness to the majority of our customers who pay their bills in a timely manner, this is a reminder that all quarterly bills are due (TO BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE) on the 15th of the month following each billing. This allows 4 to 5 weeks in which to make your payment.

If you mail your payment, remember to allow ample time for delivery by the Post Office that it be RECEIVED by us on or before the 15th.

If you make your payment at Commercial National Bank, allow several days for bank processing and delivery of your payment to us by the 15th.

If you make your payment at First National Bank, please be aware that we receive payments from them only once a week (usually on Wednesday for payments received by them by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday). So please allow sufficient time so that we have your payment by the 15th.

As always, feel free to stop by the office with your payment. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. After hours you may leave your check in the mail slot on the front door and indicate if you would like a receipt mailed to you.

## ZONING DEPARTMENT

by Cindy Turley

Total Permits issued for 2002 (through 11/30/02)	
Building Permits .....	128
Demolition Permits .....	14
Timbering Permits .....	6
Grading Permits .....	1
Occupancy Permits .....	17
Sign Permits .....	31

### Common Zoning Questions:

**Q:** Do I need a building permit to enclose my porch?

**A:** Yes, when you enclose your porch it requires an Alteration Permit.

**Q:** Do I need a permit to tear down a building or structure?

**A:** Yes, you need to obtain a Demolition Permit. This allows the Township to notify the County that the structure is no longer there and thus it will be removed from your tax bill.

If you have questions you'd like to see answered in our newsletter, please e-mail or call my office.

## TAX COLLECTOR

by Kaywin C. Shadron

The 2003 County and Township taxes will be mailed March 1, 2003. If you have a change of address, please contact the tax collector. "Failure to receive a tax notice does not relieve the taxpayer from liability for prompt payment of taxes imposed by the taxing district".

Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms will be arriving in January 2003 to file for year 2002. Total eligible annual household income is \$15,000.00 You should exclude 50% of your Social Security benefits. Any questions, feel free to contact your tax collector or any State office.

Have a Good Year!



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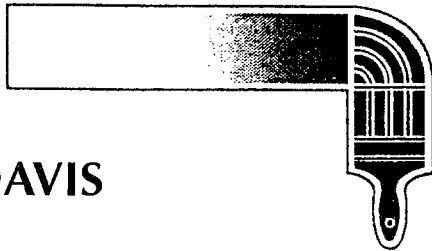
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Commonwealth

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# MEETINGS

## JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH

- Ligonier Township Municipal Building** ..... 724-238-2725
- Ligonier Township Municipal Authority** ..... 7:00 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 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
- Ligonier Township Recreation Board** ..... 7:00 p.m.  
January 23 • February 27 • March 27

**Township Offices will be closed:**  
December 25, 2002  
January 1, 2003

# LIGONIER TOWNSHIP

## DIRECTORY

- Ligonier Township Supervisors** ..... 724-238-2725  
William C. Penrod, Jr., Keith A. Whipkey,  
Grover T. Binkey
- Receptionist**  
Sue R. Kinsey
- Ligonier Township Secretary / Treasurer**  
Keith Whipkey
- Assistant Secretary**  
Cindy Turley
- Ligonier Township Zoning Officer** ..... 724-238-3640  
Cindy Turley
- Ligonier Township Municipal Authority** ..... 724-238-7464  
Manager Paul Knupp  
Secretary Nancy Crowe
- Ligonier Township Tax Collector** ..... 724-238-2300  
Kaywin Shadron
- Ligonier Township Police** ..... 724-238-5105  
Chief Ronald Dorazio  
Lieutenant John Berger
- Ligonier Township Web Site** ..... [www.ligoniertwp.com](http://www.ligoniertwp.com)
- Ligonier Township Email Address** ..... [ligtwp@adelphia.net](mailto:ligtwp@adelphia.net)

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