



# “Talk of the Township”

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

A Newsletter For Our Residents

October • November • December 2013

## TOWNSHIP NEWS

### 2013 Teen Seat Belt Mobilization

The Ligonier Township Police, along with 220 other law enforcement agencies were enrolled and recently participated in seat belt enforcement as part of the state wide seat belt enforcement mobilization. This enforcement period was September 9, 2013 thru September 22, 2013. The target area was on roads in and around the schools and other various locations in Ligonier Township. As part of this program this department received funding for personnel costs. The funding came from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

During this mobilization period the department conducted a no tolerance enforcement. Citations were to be issued if caught in violation.

In Pennsylvania in 2012 there were

106 teenagers 16 to 19 years old who were killed in crashes. Of those teens, 92 of them did not have their seat belt on and 68 of those were the driver. 124,092 crashes occurred in Pennsylvania in 2012 resulting in 1,307 fatalities.

- 504 unbelted occupant fatalities
- 256 belted occupied fatalities
- 118 belt use unknown
- 415 non-occupied fatalities (motorcycle, pedestrian, etc.)

Seat belts were not worn by over 50% of people killed in occupant related traffic crashes. The percentage rises significantly at night.

Pennsylvania's seat belt usage rate was 83.5% in 2012, a decrease from 83.8% in 2011.

### Westmoreland County License to Carry Permit

Since May 29, 2013 the Westmoreland County Sheriff has been using the Ligonier Township Municipal Building to issue new and renewal License to Carry Permits. This building is considered a satellite location and will be available every Wednesday of the month from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Please refer to the Westmoreland County website for details. Please see the following dates that are currently scheduled: October 30, and November 27, 2013; January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30, May 28 and June 25, 2014.

### Fort Ligonier Days

Fort Ligonier Days will be on October 11, 12 and 13, 2013. It is a three day festival that commemorates the Battle of Fort Ligonier, a key engagement of the French and Indian War fought on October 12, 1758. This outstanding outdoor fall festival is celebrating its 54th year! Join us this year for handmade crafts, community food booths and live entertainment. Craft and Food Booths are open Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Parade is Saturday, October 12 at 11:00 a.m. down Main Street and the fireworks will be Saturday night at 8:45 p.m. The 5K Race/Walk is Sunday, October 13 at the Ligonier Valley High School. There will be live entertainment on the Diamond all weekend. To register for the 5K, or to get more information on Fort Ligonier Days, including the full schedule of events, go to [www.fortligonierdays.com](http://www.fortligonierdays.com)

The Ligonier Township Municipal Building will be closed on:

Friday, October 11 - Fort Ligonier Days

Monday, November 11 - Veterans' Day

Thursday, Nov. 28, Friday, Nov. 29 and Monday December 2 - Thanksgiving

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Holiday

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

## TAX COLLECTOR

By Sue R. Kinsey

County and Township (spring) taxes are now at Penalty until December 31, 2013. School (fall) taxes for 2013-14 can be paid at face value until November 30, 2013, then at penalty until December 31, 2013. The last day to pay your 2nd installment payment is October 31, 2013; the last day to pay your 3rd installment payment is November 30, 2013. If you pay after these dates on your installment payments there will be a 10% penalty added. If you do not receive your statement, please contact the Tax Office. Failure to receive a statement does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility of payment. A drop-off slot is available at the township tax collectors office to accept payments before or after normal business hours. Tax statements are no longer mailed to the mortgage company.

#### 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

Tax Office will be closed  
November 27, 28 29, 2013

Open December 2

8:00 a.m. to noon

Tax Office will be closed  
December 21 thru 26, 2013.  
Open Monday, December 30

8:00 a.m. to noon

724-238-2300

## Trick or Treat

The Ligonier Township Supervisors have designated Wednesday, October 31, 2013 as Trick or Treat in the township, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Please be extra cautious when traveling at this time and watch for children. Although the township designated October 31 as the observed Halloween date, we do not discourage or prevent anyone from going trick or treating on any other day. This is simply the date that we will have extra police on patrol in the interest of public safety. Please make sure that younger children are accompanied by an adult or older sibling and check all candy when they return home.

## Leaves and Snow Removal

The Ligonier Township Supervisors would like to thank our residents for their cooperation during our road sealing that took place in late August. We would also like to remind residents that it is unlawful to burn or dispose of leaves in any township ditches or roadways. Please dispose of them in a proper manner. A reminder that during the winter months any on-street parking that interferes with snow removal will be cause for a ticket. It is also unlawful to deposit snow on any township roads or block ditches, which many cause ice hazards. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated because it makes our job easier and snow removal can be done in a more timely fashion.

## Support Needed for Recycling Program

Each day, dozens of users frequent the Ligonier Valley Recycling Facility on Old Lincoln Highway West in Ligonier Township. Over the years, it has proved to be a convenient "one stop shop" for those wishing to recycle plastics, glass, metal cans, newspapers, magazines and cardboard. What many may not realize is that this program is offered free of charge to all users, with financial support only coming from community member donations. It is not supported from the Township or Borough's tax base.

Since the reinstatement of the program in January 2011, the amount of items recycled at the facility has continued to increase. In the first six months of 2013, more than 95 tons of paper, 61 tons of cardboard and 71 tons of co-mingled items have been recycled in Ligonier. On average, it costs approximately \$1,700 per month to operate the facility, which includes the hauling costs for the co-mingled and cardboard bins. The amount of donations received toward the program only averages around \$600 per month.

So what can you do? First and foremost, you can follow the directions at the facility! Please DO NOT leave items on the ground, steps or platforms near the bins if they are full - this only makes emptying them more difficult and contributes to unsightly litter along the roadway. The large co-mingled bin is emptied twice a week, usually on Mondays and Thursdays, the cardboard bins are emptied weekly on Sunday nights, and the paper bins are emptied every other week on Sunday nights. Second, if you frequent the facility, please contribute to keep it running by either volunteering to keep it clean or by donating towards the program's hauling expenses. There is a yellow donation box at the facility, or donations can be made to the program through the Loyalhanna Watershed Association, who has been overseeing recycling efforts in the Ligonier Valley since the 1980's.

For more information on the program or what you can do to help, contact the Loyalhanna Watershed Association at 724-238-7560. Thank you for supporting recycling in Ligonier!

## Pennsylvania's Statutory Protections for Trails

Pennsylvania has several statutes that are potentially available to limit the tort liability of trail managers in the event a person suffers personal or property injury while using the trail. First, Pennsylvania has enacted a recreational use statute, which is called the Recreation Use of Land and Water (RULWA), 68 P.S. §§ 477-1 to 477-8 (2003). Under RULWA, "an owner of land owes no duty of care to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for recreational purposes, or to give any warning of a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity on such premises to persons entering for such purposes," 68 P.S. § 477-3. However, liability is not limited "for willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use structure, or activity," 68 P.S. § 477-6(1). Liability is also not limited for injuries suffered if the owner charges for entry onto the land, 68 P.S. § 477-6(s). The law covers more than just pure "owners". Possessors, trail managers and lessors are protected, too, the RULWA is applicable to both public and private landowners, See *Favoroso v. Bristol Borough*, 569 A.2d 1045, 1046-47 (pa. Commw. 1990). Even if the landowner doesn't charge a fee but the trail manager does, the parties are not eligible for RULWA protection. Consideration received for land leased to the state or one of its subdivisions is not considered a fee within the meaning of 68 P.S. § 477-6(2).

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has held that RULWA does not insulate owners of fully developed recreational facilities from the normal duty of maintaining their property in a manner consistent with the property's designated and intended use by the public, *Mills v. Commonwealth*, 633 A.2d 1115, 1119 (Pa. 1993). Instead, RULWA's protections are limited to substantially unimproved land. Therefore, if a recreational facility has been designed with improvements that require regular maintenance to be safely used and enjoyed, the owner of the facility has the duty to maintain the improvements, *Stone v. York Haven Power Co.*, 749 A.2d 452, 456 (Pa. 2000).

Pennsylvania's Rails to Trails Act, 32 P.S. § 5611 *et seq.*, also limits liability for recreational trail use in a similar manner to Pennsylvania's RUS. Liability is limited for the owner or lessee who permits trail use by the public under the Rails to Trails Act. Like the RULWA, the act applies to both private and public owners, 32 P.S. § 5621(b). Also as with RULWA, liability is not limited if there are any fees charged in connection with trail use or for "willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity." 32 P.S. § 5621(d).

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Fax: 724-238-1300

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## *Forgot Something? We've Got It...* WATKINS' MARKET

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Lynn & Hazel Watkins, *Owners*

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Email: [darlingtonInn@yahoo.com](mailto:darlingtonInn@yahoo.com)



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# MEETINGS

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER

Ligonier Township Municipal Building.....724-238-2725

**Ligonier Township Municipal Authority** ..... 4:00 p.m.  
October 2 • November 6 • December 4

**Ligonier Township Supervisors' Work Session**.. 8:00 a.m.  
October 4 • November 8 • December 6

**Ligonier Township Supervisors' Meeting**..... 7:00 p.m.  
October 15 • November 12 • December 10

**Ligonier Township Recreation Board**..... 8:00 p.m.  
October 14 • November 11 • December 9

**Ligonier Township Planning Commission**..... 7:30 p.m.  
October 15 • November 19 • December 17

**Ligonier Township Zoning Hearing Board**..... 7:30 p.m.  
October 22 • November 26 • December 18

## 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, Grover T. Binkey, Albert H. Shadron

**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. Matrunic

**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** ..... 412-828-2178

**Berkheimer Tax Administrator** ..... 866-701-7206

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