



TALK *of the* TOWNSHIP

A Newsletter for our Residents

One Municipal Park Drive | Ligonier, PA 15658 | Fax: (724) 238-3711 | www.ligoniertownship.com

A NOTE FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Happy New Year Ligonier Township!

The past year proved to be very challenging for the Township staff. We experienced record breaking rain in 2018, more than 75% over normal rain fall for our region. This drastically affected the ability of the public works crew to complete our major projects in 2018 and two of them had to be carried over for completion in the spring of 2019. The record setting rain created additional storm water related problems that we plan to address in the coming year.

Our budget for 2019 is very tight with a long list of deficient roads that are scheduled to be repaired this year. We are Pennsylvania's second largest township in terms of land mass after Salem Township. There are 122 roads — over 100 miles that are maintained by the Township. Because it's a large area to monitor, we may not see trees down or inclement weather conditions in all areas at all times. Please call 911 for a faster response time to road emergencies.

Finally, the Ligonier Township Police department officially ends, effective 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2018 and is reborn as the Ligonier Valley Police Department effective January 1, 2019 at 12:01 a.m. The long awaited creation will continue to serve the residents of both the Township and Borough with the professionalism and service that we have come to know over the years. The new department will operate out of both buildings and a list of the new officers and Chief will be released at the re-organizational meeting on Monday, January 7 at 4 p.m.

Terry Carcella

STORM WATER PLANNING

Storm water is water from rain — or melting snow — that does not quickly soak into the ground. Storm water flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns and fields. As it flows, this runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, leaves, litter, and other potential pollutants that ultimately wind up in local bodies of water. Even houses that are not beside a creek can contribute to problems. Storm drains, ditch systems and pipes are designed to move runoff from your neighborhood to the nearest body of water. Storm sewers do not carry storm water to wastewater treatment plants. Planning for storm water is important because it can lead to pollution, erosion, flooding and other environmental and health issues. In 2018, we experienced higher than average rainfall, more than 64 inches, as well as flooding. This year, we will be partnering with other agencies to identify storm water programs that could greatly benefit our community.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Volunteer Fire Departments Directory

Darlington Volunteer Fire Department.....	724-238-4820	<i>Chief Robert McDowell</i>
Waterford Volunteer Fire Department.....	724-238-0471	<i>Chief Robert Beaufort</i>
Wilpen Volunteer Fire Department.....	724-238-6585	<i>Chief Michael DiRinaldo</i>

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Winter Driving - Please use caution and keep a safe distance when you encounter our crew members out working to keep the roads clear of snow and ice. Remember that the road in front of the snow plow is usually in much worse condition than the roadway behind it. Plows will typically travel under 35 miles per hour and there is a temptation to pass them. Keeping a safe distance not only reduces the chance of accidents, it also helps prevent your vehicle from getting sprayed with anti-skid materials.




The Clifford Woods Bridge has been set, but rain has postponed its completion.

LIGONIER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

The Ligonier Township Municipal Authority is moving to the former tax office accessible from the lobby of the Township Municipal building. Hours remain the same Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and there is a drop slot in the front door to a locked box for after hour payments. Please note you don't have to wait for your bill every 3 months to make a payment; you can make as many payments ahead of time as you like.

The 2019 Board meetings and work session dates will be posted on the website at www.ligtwpwater.com.

If you have any questions about our services please call us at 724-238-7464




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FROM THE LIGONIER VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The importance of having an address number on your home cannot be emphasized enough; in life-threatening situations, every minute is critical. In an effort to serve you better, the Police Department is requesting that residents cooperate in posting their street numbers on their homes. Walk out to the street in front of your home and see if your house numbers can be easily seen.

- The numbers on residences should be at least 3 inches high and the numbers on businesses should be at least 4 inches high.
- Numbers should be a contrasting color to the background.
- Numbers should be placed on, above, or at the side of the main entrance, so that they can be easily detected from the street.
- Reflective numbers or light-up signs are recommended.
- If the entrance is more than 50 feet from the street, or cannot be seen from the street, a second set of numbers should be displayed on the mailbox or on a post at the street or end of the drive. If there is more than one way to approach your residence, be sure to mark both sides of your mailbox or post.

Consider that some emergency medical service employees, volunteer firefighters and your local police officers do not live in Ligonier Township and are not familiar with all of the streets or family names. This is all the more reason to have a house number clearly posted by your front door. If you still need another reason to post a number on your home, fines can range up to \$300.00.

The main concern is for the safety of the residents of Ligonier Township. You never know when you may be the next one to call 911 for an emergency. Be sure your house number is posted and visible from the road so you or a loved one can be found as quickly as possible when every minute counts.

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Township of Ligonier
One Municipal Park Drive
Ligonier, PA 15658

TOWNSHIP CLOSED
JAN. 1
FEB. 18

To: Our Neighbors At

TAX OFFICE

The Township would like to remind residents that the Keystone Collections Group has taken over the collection of spring and fall real estate taxes. Property owners can no longer make payments at the Township Office. Real estate tax can be paid online through Keystone's fast and secure e-Pay, available on their website www.KeystoneCollects.com/Pay. Simply enter the invoice number on the tax bill, select the method of payment (electronic bank transfer or credit card), and receive online confirmation the tax is paid. Or the tax can be paid by mail or in person at the address below (NO CASH):

Keystone Collections Group
PO Box 505
Irwin, PA 15642

Make checks payable to Keystone Collections Group. If you would like a receipt, please include the full bill along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and your payment. For questions, contact Keystone at 1-866-539-1100, Monday through Friday between 8 A.M. and 4 P.M., or anytime by clicking the "Contact Us" link on their website.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY GUN PERMIT SCHEDULE

The Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office will be at the Municipal Building to issue License to Carry Permits on the following dates:

Thursday, Jan 24 • Thursday, Feb 28 • Thursday, Mar 28

The available hours are 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

K-9 T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

T-shirts are \$10 and Sweatshirts are \$15 only size Small. Youth size L is also available. You can purchase by contacting Jimmy via Facebook (Ligonier Township PD K-9) or stopping by the Township to see Roxanne.



LIGONIER VALLEY FIRE COMPANIES

All of our local fire companies are facing dwindling man-power and looking for new members. Volunteers are tough to find for all sorts of civic organizations, but it is especially hard because the work of a firefighter can be dangerous, it requires a lot of training and is often needed at the most inconvenient time – when you’re doing other things. There is no doubt about it, becoming a firefighter requires commitment and sacrifice.

Several of our local fire companies are currently participating in the “Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response” or SAFER grant. SAFER is a federal program aimed at attracting and training the next generation of volunteer firefighters. It has just concluded its first year of operation and has three remaining years. The grant provides money to cover costs associated with training and equipping new volunteers, and provides an incentive up to \$10,000 in tuition for individuals willing to commit. You can learn more about our local volunteer fire companies and what it takes to become a firefighter by visiting one of their training/drill nights. The fire companies meet for work nights or to train as follows:

Night	Company	Address	Station Phone	Fire Chief
Monday	Darlington	1280 Darlington Road	724-238-9469	Bob McDowell
Tuesday	Waterford	44 Firehall Road	724-238-5270	Rob Beaufort
Monday	Wilpen	379 Wilpen Road	724-238-7221	Mickey DiRinaldo
Monday	Ligonier	115 North Fairfield Street	724-238-2016	Steve Barron

The responsibility for providing fire protection rests with the local municipal government. Since colonial times, small Pennsylvania communities have relied upon local volunteers to provide that service. Now, that volunteer system is (pardon the pun) under fire. If it fails, due to lack of community support, we must ask: How will the service be provided, at what cost, and how will we pay for it? Who will answer the call when an emergency strikes your home or family? This is not a fire company problem; it is a community problem.

Correction: In the July-Aug-Sept 2018 Newsletter an article appeared under the header, "United Fire Companies" instead of the “Ligonier Valley Fire Companies.” We apologize for any confusion this might have caused.

<p>BEAUFORT SERVICES, INC. Plumbing, Heating and Electrical</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furnace Maintenance • Sewer-Water Lines • Backhoe Service • Electric Eel Service <p>HEATING LENNOX COOLING</p>  <p>3731 Route 711, Ligonier, PA 15658 724-238-3471</p>	<p>COUNSELING SERVICES Ligonier Valley Learning Center, Inc.</p>   <p>Counseling available for children, youth, and adults</p>
<p>Jeffrey J. Luther Kathy G. Snitzer</p> <p>5100 Front St. Jenners, PA 15546</p>  <p>Amish Made Furniture Home Décor Gifts Specializing in Custom-Made Pieces in all Styles of Furniture</p> <p>Phone: 814.703.6169 • Cell: 724.396.3144 • Fax: 814.703.8045 rusticwoods@rusticwoodspa.com • www.rusticwoodslc.com </p>	<p>Specializing in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depression • Anxiety • Relationship Issues • Trauma • Grief/Loss • Support/Training for Families <p>2 Convenient Locations:</p> <p>Ligonier Center 117 Juniper Lane Ligonier, PA 15658</p> <p>Latrobe Center 326 McKinley Avenue Latrobe, PA 15650</p> <p>Call 724-238-5556 to schedule an appointment</p>

LIGONIER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Wade Thomas (Chairman) Paul Knupp (Vice-Chairman) Stephanie Verna (Secretary/Treasurer)
John Beaufort D. Scott Matson

Ligonier Township Supervisors.....7:00 p.m.
Jan 7 • Feb 12 • Mar 12

Ligonier Township Supervisors Work Session.....4:30 p.m.
Jan 22 • Feb 26 • Mar 26

MEETINGS

JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH

All meetings* will be held at the Twp. Municipal Complex
(*meeting dates subject to change)

Ligonier Township Municipal Authority.....7:00 p.m.
Jan 9 • Feb 6 • Mar 6

Lig. Twp. Municipal Authority Work Session.....4:00 p.m.
Jan 30 • Feb 27 • Mar 27

Ligonier Township Zoning Hearing Board.....7:30 p.m.
Jan 15 • Feb 19 • Mar 19

Ligonier Township Planning Commission.....7:00 p.m.
Jan 30 • Feb 27 • Mar 27

Ligonier Township Recreation Board.....7:00 p.m.
Jan 14 • Feb 11 • Mar 11

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

Manager
Terry Carcella.....724-238-2725 ext 110

Ligonier Township Police
Chief of Police, Michael W. Matrunic.....724-238-5105

Financial Director/Assistant Secretary/Treasurer/Open Records Manager
Roxanne Shadron.....724-238-2725 ext 111

Administrative Assistant
Bethany Caldwell.....724-238-2725 ext 112

Community Development & Zoning Officer
Jim Nieusma.....724-238-2725 ext 116

Public Works Director
Russ Morgan.....724-238-2725 ext 139

Code Enforcement Officer
Keith Ashley.....724-238-2725 ext 115

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

Ligonier Township Municipal Building will be closed on: JAN. 1 and FEB. 18

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GEORGE V. WELTY
DOUGLAS J. WELTY
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221 West Loyalhanna Street • Ligonier, PA 15658
Office: 724-238-9645 • Fax: 724-995-8123
Cell: 724-331-4475
Email: donovanc@vt.edu