



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

Spring is Coming!

Spring is on its way; as you prepare for the new season be sure to check out the articles pertaining to this time of renewal – finish off your spring cleaning with our Dumpster Day event (see page 2), go “green” with our recycling programs (page 3) and celebrate Earth Day in April by joining the Loyalhanna Watershed’s annual Spring Cleaning effort to help keep our township roads litter free and beautiful (see page 2 for event details and registration).

Another sure sign of spring’s arrival, is the mailing of real estate taxes in March. Did you know that only 5-10% (approximately) of your spring tax dollars go to your local government? The remaining 90-95% go to the county and 100% of your fall real estate taxes go to the school district. As we spring forward, it’s worth a moment to pause and look back at our tax history:

- In 2004 the tax rate was set at 2 mills.
- In 2005 the tax rate was increased by 1.5 mills to a new total of 3.5 mills.
- In 2012 the tax rate was increased by 1.5 mills to a new total of 5 mills.
- In 2016 the tax rate was decreased by 1 mill to a new total of 4 mills.

Millage tax rates are typically expressed in “mills,” with each “mil” acting as 1/1000 of \$1,000 of property value, or \$1 total. If the millage rate for a property is 4 mills, this implies that the homeowner would pay \$4 in property taxes for every \$1,000 worth of assessed property value.

Despite the 2016 decrease in the tax rate and its resulting reduction in revenue, the Township has been operating efficiently for the past 2-3 years. But in 2018, severe storms damaged our roads and storm water infrastructure and caused major and costly delays in road maintenance. The Township is seeing less revenue coming in from property taxes as homes and businesses damaged by the flooding have been demolished or become uninhabitable.

Pending the weather’s cooperation, we will complete the Berkeley road project and the Clifford Woods Bridge in early spring. After these two projects the majority of work will be focused on repairing our existing roads where we can; we incurred damage to 10 of our 122 roads that exceeds one million dollars in repair costs. On average, it costs \$260,000 to pave 1 mile of road. A number of road projects will have to be assigned to outside contractors for some of our road work and that is expected to cost more than in previous years.

With warmer temps ahead, roadwork season will be in full effect. Please use caution when you encounter a work zone: slow down, be prepared to stop and give the crew plenty of space.

Terry Carcella

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>



CLEAN UP DUMPSTER DAY

It's time for spring cleaning! Bring your discarded items to the Municipal Building on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please note the Dumpster Day event is for Ligonier Borough & Ligonier Township residents only (IDs will be checked). We **cannot** accept plaster, concrete, rock, dirt, large tree stumps, grass clippings, paint, pressurized paint cans, shingles, fiberglass insulation, broken glass, liquids, medical waste, or any other hazardous / flammable materials.


Fee Schedule:

\$5.00 per carload	\$10.00 per appliance	\$2.00 per regular size tire
\$10.00 per truckload	\$15.00 per freon appliance	\$4.00 per regular tire w/ rims
\$20.00 per dump truckload		\$5.00 per large size tire
		\$10.00 per large tire w/ rims


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING ROADSIDE CLEAN UP

Help us keep our beautiful Township clean and litter free! The annual Spring Roadside Cleanup is Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. All volunteers from local organizations, clubs or individuals are encouraged to sign up for a portion of over 50 miles of roadways throughout the Township that are in need of "spring cleaning". As part of the "Great American Clean Up of Pennsylvania", all supplies including bags, vests and gloves will be provided. Since the Loyalhanna Watershed Association (LWA) started organizing this event over 10 years ago, more than 3,000 people from the Ligonier Valley have participated, removing more than 5,000 bags of trash from our roadsides!

Please contact Josh Penatzer, LWA Project Manager, to sign up at josh@loyalwater.com or (724) 238-7560, ext 2.


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RECYCLING

The Township operates a drop-off recycling program at the Municipal Complex located at 1 Municipal Park Drive (2 miles north of the diamond off Route 711).

Materials accepted are:

Aluminum Cans – Please place in a plastic bag and make sure the cans are empty. Steel or tin cans are not accepted.

Mixed Paper – This includes newsprint, magazines and high grade paper. Please place mixed paper in one of the two YELLOW recycling bins.

Cardboard – Please flatten cardboard before placing in the BLUE recycling bins.

Please follow the instructions above and DO NOT place materials on the ground near the recycling containers. Our recycling site is unmanned so we depend on the cooperation of residents to keep the recycling area free of any trash or materials that are not part of the program.

In 2018 over 69 tons of materials were recycled. Thanks to all who help make our program a success!

LIGONIER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY (LTMA)

LTMA crews will be flushing water lines in April. Water system customers may experience dirty water during the process. As soon as definitive dates for flushing are set, notifications will be posted on the "System Status" section of the LTMA website. LTMA crews will be in the Darlington area looking for Inflow & Infiltration. Customers will not be impacted by this; we just want you to be aware if you see crew in your area.

We have moved into our "new" office at the Township building - you can find us at the window immediately inside the front door.

Please remember to check our website for important announcements regarding your services: www.ligtwpwater.com

WALL COVERING SPECIALIST

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Township of Ligonier
One Municipal Park Drive
Ligonier, PA 15658

TOWNSHIP CLOSED
APRIL 19
MAY 27

To: Our Neighbors At

Ligonier Township
(Township and County)

PROPERTY TAX

Bills mailed in the first week of March

save time  *-Pay* online

www.KeystoneCollects.com/Pay

1. Choose real estate pay option
2. Enter invoice number from bill
3. Select payment option

Request a receipt online through *e-Pay*



Tax bills will continue to be mailed to taxpayers. If a mortgage company or bank pays your real estate tax from an escrow account, forward bill to mortgage company or bank to ensure timely payment.

Pay by April 30 to receive 2% discount

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, Apr 25 • Thursday, May 23 • Thursday, Jun 27

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

HOW DO YOUR TAXES COMPARE?

There are 21 Townships in the Westmoreland County. Of these, 13 have a higher tax rate, 3 have the same tax rate, and 4 are lower than Ligonier Township. The 3 townships with the same tax rate are Cook, Donegal, and South Huntingdon townships. Keep in mind, townships with lower tax rates do not provide the same kinds or levels of service for their residents.

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.
Apr 9 • May 14 • Jun 11

Ligonier Township Supervisors Work Session.....4:30 p.m.
Apr 23 • May 28 • Jun 25

MEETINGS

APRIL • MAY • JUNE

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

Ligonier Township Municipal Authority.....7:00 p.m.
Apr 3 • May 1 • Jun 5

Lig. Twp. Municipal Authority Work Session.....4:00 p.m.
Apr 24 • May 29 • Jun 26

Ligonier Township Zoning Hearing Board.....7:30 p.m.
Apr 16 • May 21 • Jun 18

Ligonier Township Planning Commission.....7:00 p.m.
Apr 24 • May 29 • Jun 26

Ligonier Township Recreation Board.....7:00 p.m.
Apr 8 • May 13 • Jun 10

Ligonier Joint Planning Steering Committee.....7:00 p.m.
Apr 4 • May 2 • Jun 6 (Even month meetings held at Ligonier Town Hall)

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

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

Ligonier Township Police
Chief of Police, John Berger.....724-238-5105 or 724-238-5611

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: APRIL 19 and MAY 27

W&W
WELTY & WELTY LLP

GEORGE V. WELTY
DOUGLAS J. WELTY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

244 WEST MAIN STREET
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Office: 724-238-9645 • Fax: 724-995-8123
Cell: 724-331-4475
Email: donovanc@vt.edu

STORMWATER PLANNING

What can you do to help when it comes to stormwater planning? As a homeowner, you can help avoid the problems associated with stormwater runoff by:

- Reducing impervious areas (hard surfaces like roofs, paved areas) so that rain soaks into the ground.
- Planting native trees and plants which help infiltrate stormwater and increase evaporation and transpiration. (Not only do native trees and plants help reduce stormwater runoff, they are better adapted to the local climate and soils than non-native vegetation. They are a natural source of food and habitat for insects, animals, and microorganisms and create a healthy environment. Planting natives instead of imported plants helps prevent invasive plants from taking over. For a list of native options, visit www.lancastercountyplanning.org and scroll down to the bottom of the web page.)
- Managing stormwater on-site with rain gardens, rain barrels, and similar practices

Source: Southwestern Pennsylvania's Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater which can be found online at www.wcdpa.com/stormwater-guide-available/

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

The Ligonier Valley Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is seeking volunteers to join the following subcommittees: Community, Economy and Environment. Volunteers are needed to work on fulfilling the goals and priorities identified in the Plan. The plan can be found at www.ligoniertownship.com/resources, under the "Important Documents." The Steering Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. and alternates meeting locations between the Township Municipal Building (even months) and the Borough's Town Hall (odd months). For more information, please call Bethany at (724) 238-2725, ext 112.

<p>BEAUFORT SERVICES, INC. Plumbing, Heating and Electrical</p> <p>24 HOUR SERVICE</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>RUSTIC WOODS LLC</p> <p>Amish Made Furniture Home Décor Gifts Specializing in Custom-Made Pieces in all Styles of Furniture</p> <p>Phone: 814.703.6169 www.rusticwoodsllc.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> <table><tr><td>Ligonier Center 117 Juniper Lane Ligonier, PA 15658</td><td>Latrobe Center 326 McKinley Avenue Latrobe, PA 15650</td></tr></table> <p>Call 724-238-5556 to schedule an appointment</p>		Ligonier Center 117 Juniper Lane Ligonier, PA 15658	Latrobe Center 326 McKinley Avenue Latrobe, PA 15650
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