



POTTER TOWNSHIP NEWS

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Winter 2014

THANK YOU, ANN! Longest-serving Township Employee Retires

Since January 1974, Ann Simmons has been a fixture at Potter Township Municipal Building, where she first hired in as Secretary-Treasurer. In January 2015, Ann will close business for 2014 as Local Services Tax Collector – and close her township desk for the last time. Married to Ted for 51 years, she looks forward to the freedom of traveling at will but insists that she will miss the people to whom she devoted so much for over four decades. Parents to four children, Ann and Ted will now have more time for grandchildren and friends.



Ann was hired by Bob Dunn in his last year as Supervisor, serving with Road Foreman Melvin “Mud” Short – who happens to be a great-uncle to *current* Foreman Justin Cwynar. She has served with 23 Supervisors, five of whom were women, and remembers processing payroll for up to half a dozen police officers and other staff on a manual typewriter before the office became computerized in the early 90’s. There was no formal training available when Ann started out with 2 days a week and \$100 per month: she relied on Raccoon Township’s experienced Secretary, Mary Ann Stickles, to guide her through the first Re-Organization Meeting and State Fund Report – all in her first week on the job! Her youngest daughter, Lori, was just 2 when Ann took the job and played under Mom’s desk while Ann worked. Ann proudly states that she missed just one Supervisor meeting in 12 years – and then only because Lori was in the hospital.

In 1984, Ann took on the additional task of collecting Wage Taxes until the state-wide system changed in 2011; by 1986, she decided to leave the Secretary-Treasurer position, but continued as Wage Tax Collector as well as collecting the Local Services Tax – **an assignment which will be turned over to Potter’s Wage Tax Collector, the Berkheimer Agency, beginning in 2015.** Ann remembers how Potter Elementary School brought the community together, and especially loved raising her family among so many other young families. She enjoyed the days of the VFD Ladies Auxiliary using the kitchen to cook dinners and make hoagies for fundraisers. Her job allowed her to know and visit with **nearly everyone in the township, a privilege she says she’ll miss** – especially around April 15th! She hopes to maintain contact with neighbors and stay active in the community.

We will all miss Ann’s gracious smile and kind service to residents. Thank you, Ann, and enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We are grateful for all who serve us



Potter Township looks back at this time of year at all that has been accomplished – from new zoning to a maturing day camp program – and owes a big Thank You to all who made it possible!

Our Employees – Thank you to Justin Cwynar, Christie Floyd-Gabel, Angelo Manoleras and Ann Simmons for giving our residents great customer service!

Planning Commission Volunteers – Thank you Victor Gurinowitsch, Joe Hall, Lenny Miller, Ron Robinson, Peter Urtz and newest volunteer Casey Harrington for helping us develop well!

Recreation Board Volunteers – Thanks to Vernon Beaver, Nicole Cwynar, Midge Conway, Linda Lerch and Barbara Nelson for keeping us socially connected!

Day Camp Committee – Thank you Brittany Bishop, Vicki Cwynar, Patty Karanovich, Linda Lerch, Deanna Miller and Sara Beth Miller for giving our kids a fun and safe summer camp!

Potter VFD – Thank you to Fire Chief Vicki Carlton and her growing team of volunteers for keeping Potter safe!

TOWNSHIP POSITION NOW OPEN

Part Time Secretary Needed in 2015

A new part-time clerical position has been created for 2015 and is open to all applicants. Though the assigned hours will be limited at first, Supervisors hope that the position grows to meet township need when our current Secretary-Treasurer, Christie Floyd-Gabel, retires after many years of faithful service. Applicants should send their resume with a cover letter expressing interest in the position to the attention of: PART-TIME SECRETARY POSITION at the Municipal Building, 206 Mowry Road, by January 15th, 2015. Interviews will likely be conducted during February, with a hire to follow shortly thereafter.

I want to extend personal thanks to Earl “Butch” Shamp and Al Cwynar for their work this year on our Board of Supervisors. This year’s Board accomplished a great many important projects through strong cooperation and mutual support. We look forward to many positive developments in Potter Township and wish all of our neighbors a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year in 2015.

Blessings,

Rebecca Matsco, Chair

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The Red Cross recommends following the below tips to help prevent home fires:



Christmas Tree Care:

1. Purchase flame retardant metallic or artificial trees.
2. If you have a real tree, make sure that it has fresh green needles that aren't easily broken. Keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water.
3. Use a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
4. Keep trees at least three feet away from heat sources, including fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.
5. Make sure that any light strings or any other decorations for the tree are in good condition and follow the manufacturer's instructions for their use. Do not use anything with frayed electrical cords.
6. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.
7. Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
8. Safely dispose of trees as they become dry and needles begin to drop.
9. Dispose of trees through recycling centers. Dried out trees should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against a house or garage.

Holiday Lights and Decorations:

1. Always unplug tree and holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.
2. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear.
3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets by not linking more than three light strands.
4. Use decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
5. Place decorations at least three feet away from fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.

Holiday Candles:

1. Always extinguish them before leaving the room or going to bed. Do not leave a room without extinguishing candles.
2. Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.
3. Keep them at least three feet away from trees and holiday decorations and other items that can catch fire like clothing, paper and curtains.

Potter Township

Potter Township Municipal Office
206 Mowry Road
Monaca, PA 15061

Phone: 724-495-6220
Fax: 724-495-3222
Email: christie@pottertwp.comcastbiz.net
Web site: pottertwp-pa.gov



WINTER ROAD CONCERNS INCLUDE PARKING New fines assessed for violations

At this time of year, residents are reminded to avoid parking on township roads, which is prohibited year-round but a particular hazard when plows are at work. Considerable fines may be incurred for each infraction and vehicles may be impounded for frequent or continuing infractions. Temporary parking permits may be obtained for special circumstances but must be applied for at the Municipal Office. Please have greatest respect for our road crew this winter and do your best to cooperate!



Another reminder is when clearing your driveway, please do not push snow out onto the street. This can cause another driver to have a serious accident when driving through the mound of snow. Please push your snow to the side of your drive. Thanks.