



POTTER TOWNSHIP NEWS

Spring 2020

WHERE ARE YOU?

This quarter’s newsletter is all about finding our place – or our places. Potter Township has a new driveway marker program to help residences be identified by the mail carrier, emergency services or visitors to your home. Beaver County is launching its property reassessment and the federal government will start the once-every-10-years census next month!

Driveway markers on their way



In the dark – when many emergencies occur – or in poor visibility conditions, it can be a challenge for first responders to find the people or structure that need their attention. Police, postal service and emergency services have long sought to make the use of 9-1-1 numbers more commonplace and Potter Township, like many communities, has an ordinance requiring them. With the support of our police services and fire department, Potter Supervisors want to help homeowners to identify their property, so we are supplying an attractive, highly-reflective and easy-to-move address stake that to be placed at the roadside for maximum readability.

AJD Designs is working with us to produce a two-sided black & white stake that will even include the Potter logo at the top! It will be both usefully visible and unobtrusive, made to fit easily next to a driveway or in a roadside flower bed. It can be staked next to your mailbox or at the corner of your property – anywhere that will enable you to be found in an emergency. We only ask that you take care to keep it about 24” off of the roadside, so that it isn’t an obstacle for our plows or sweepers. We hope you like them! This is a health and safety initiative, and there is no charge to homeowners.

Beaver County ordered to reassess all properties

Most property owners in Beaver County are aware that the County was ordered to undertake a reassessment for 93,000-some parcels on the tax rolls. That means that County-appointed assessors, hired and trained by Tyler Technologies, will make the rounds of every piece of property at some point this year and next, to establish their taxable value. Beginning in the next few weeks, a schedule will be rolled out to alert each municipality when assessors will be in the neighborhood. They will be looking at property location, condition of the neighborhood, the kind of structures on the property and their use, among other factors; homeowners will not need to present. Penn State Beaver is offering training to real estate professionals about the impacts of assessments and will also hold at least one community forum to get more information to the public. Beaver County Regional Council of Governments will hold a staff training event in March to help municipal officials to be well-informed about the impacts in their community. We’ll use our Facebook page to help keep you informed.



Continued on next page...

Potter Township Municipal Building
206 Mowry Road
Monaca, PA 15061

Township Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 10 am—4 pm
Friday: CLOSED

Municipal Office 724-495-6220
Fax 724-495-3222
Email linda@pottertwp.comcastbiz.net
Secretary/Treasurer Linda McCoy
Road Department Justin Cwynar
Zoning Officer David Hagen
Website www.pottertwp-pa.gov
Facebook Potter Twp Beavercountypa

Emergency 911
Police—non-emergency 724-774-0271
Fire—non-emergency 724-495-3364
Animal Control 724-775-5801

Schools

Central Valley School District
Central Valley Office 724-775-5600
Central Valley High School 724-775-4300
Central Valley Middle School 724-775-8200
Todd Lane Elementary 724-775-1050
Center Grange Primary School 724-775-8201
Latch Key Program 724-774-7020

Utilities

Duquesne Light Co. 412-393-7100
Peoples Natural Gas 800-764-0111
Center Township Water Authority 724-774-7960
Municipal Water Auth of Aliquippa 724-375-5525
J. Young Refuse 724-495-6199

Real Estate Tax Collector

Victoria Leininger 412-759-9184
taxcollector@pottertwp.comcastbiz.net

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Rebecca Matsco, Chair
Earl “Butch” Shamp
Al Cwynar

Work Sessions:

1st Wednesday 6pm
3rd/5th Wednesday—if needed 6pm

Regular Meetings:

2nd Wednesday 6pm
4th Wednesday—if needed 6pm

PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meetings—if needed:

Thursdays 7pm

continued...

You count! Census 2020 kicks off next month



Did you know that April 1st – April Fools Day most years – is also Census Day in 2020? The Constitutional requirement to count our population was important to our Founding Fathers, who wanted citizens to be the backbone of democracy. The decennial count ensures that our federal House of Representatives has the appropriate number of representatives from fairly-drawn legislative districts. By participating in the census, you ensure a fairer vote!



Census data is used to determine the level of state and federal aid a community can receive, how local development decisions are made, and how marketing is targeted to consumers. Just like the address stakes, the data even help emergency services get delivered. School districts, governments at every level, as well as nonprofit service providers and business enterprise use these data every day to direct resources to the right projects, in the right places, to people who will benefit the most.

Residents will have secure means to respond to the census online, by mail and by phone. If none of these work for you, a census-taker will visit you at home to help you complete the form accurately. Your data are confidential; they may be used ONLY to produce statistics, not to identify you or your household. Looking for extra income this year? Check out 2020census.gov/jobs and help America count!



COMMUNITY AND COVID-19

Dear Neighbors,

In looking back at the headline on our first page – chosen before we were very concerned about a global pandemic – it’s easy to answer “Where Are You?” with, well, *we are probably home*. We are sequestered in places that are familiar and hopefully comfortable, waiting for the viral storm to pass. Potter Township officials have made a few changes for these uncertain days, to protect township personnel and our citizens:

At least until April 13th and, very likely, for some time after, only authorized personnel will have access to the municipal building; it is otherwise closed for public use and gatherings.

Township officials and staff are practicing hygiene protocols and social distancing through limited staff hours and meetings: business is still being conducted by telephone and email. Please call the office if you need to submit or receive paper documents.

We want to encourage residents to reach out to Potter Township officials if you have a need that can be met locally. Many of us stand ready to help! Please follow the very best guidelines to protect your health and loved ones – and we will all look forward to seeing one another soon.

*Thank you for allowing us to serve you,
Rebecca, Butch & Al; Justin, Linda, Kalyn & Dave*



NEW OFFICE HOURS

The Township Municipal Office is *no longer open on Fridays*. The Office hours are:

Monday - Thursday from 10 AM - 4 PM

(However, due to the spread of COVID-19, the office is closed to the public until April 13th. This may be extended if necessary.)

MEETING



CANCELLATIONS

The following meetings have been cancelled as a precaution due to COVID-19:

Work Session: April 1st

Board Meeting: April 8th

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE (<https://www.pottertwp-pa.gov/>) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UPDATES FROM PEMA AND INCOME TAX FILING DEADLINES DUE TO COVID-19

SAVVY CITIZEN INFORMATION

To receive real time updates of what is occurring in Potter Township, download the free [Savvy Citizen App](#). If you do not want the app, you can sign up [for text or email notifications](#). The app will display both emergency notifications and community events.



FOR APP USERS

Download the “Savvy Citizen” app from the App Store or Google play. Open the app and put in the requested information if you would like to create an account OR skip all steps until it asks for your zip code. Type in 15061 and select Potter. Complete the setup by choosing if you want information from surrounding communities (check mark the communities you want to receive information from). When asked about Push Notifications, click ALLOW to receive notifications.

FOR TEXT OR EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Go to the Savvy Citizen website. Click “sign up” to create an account. Put in your zip code (15061) and select Potter. Then, as prompted, type in your cell phone number for text notifications and/or your email address for email notifications.

If you have a neighbor or loved one who is not tech savvy, please help him/her set up these notifications. Contact the Township Office (724-495-6220) with any questions.

For more information, visit SavvyCitizenApp.com

POTTER TOWNSHIP REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR NOTICE

REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS

The Tax Collector, as advised by the state, will not be taking any “in person” payments at this time. Until further notice, tax payments need to be mailed to the Tax Collector.

DISCOUNT PERIOD PAYMENTS

As the Township office may still be closed to the public in April, the Tax Collector **may not be able** to be available in person during the discount period to collect your taxes on April 18th & 25th as stated on your tax bill. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you mail your payments should this occur.

Payments can be mailed to:

Victoria M. Leininger,
CPTC – Real Estate
Tax Collector

105 Mowry Road

Monaca, PA 15061

Please mail real estate bill with self-addressed stamped envelope if you desire a dated receipt.

Thank you for helping us honor the Commonwealth's suggestions on “safe distancing” during this period.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM COVID-19?

PRACTICE GOOD HEALTH HABITS



WASH YOUR
HANDS OFTEN



COVER COUGHS
+ SNEEZES



DON'T TOUCH
EYES/NOSE/MOUTH



CLEAN SURFACES
FREQUENTLY



STAY HOME
WHEN SICK



AVOID SICK
PEOPLE



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

POTTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



Vicki Carlton - Chief

Lois Podnar - Treasurer

247 W. Mowry Road

Fax: 724-709-7074

James Gabel - Asst. Chief/Pres.

Ray Maylone - V.P./Trustee

Monaca, PA 15061

Email:

Sue Nash - Captain/Secretary

Phone: 724-495-3364

PotterTwpVFD@yahoo.com

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all of the residents who responded to our 2020 fund drive. Your generous donations are going directly to our loan payment for the new SCBA's (air packs) we bought and put into service at the end of last year!

PRESIDENTIAL PICTURE

Our Chief, **Vicki Carlton**, was able to attend a meet and greet with **President Trump** on August 13th, 2019, when he was speaking at the Shell plant.



LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Fire Department meets every **Tuesday night** for training nights and meetings. Come on down and check us out! We are always looking for new members.

FUNDRAISERS

The Fire Department associate members have some exciting fundraisers coming up... please try to attend!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 437

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Nate Given, Life Scout, is working on his Eagle Project which is a permanent Gaga pit at Mt. Pleasant Church located on SR 18.

Nathan Cheslar, Life Scout, is also obtaining the needed approval for his Eagle Project which will occur at the **Potter Township Fire Department**.

Troop 437 appreciates all the Potter Township Community support!



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS NIGHT AT THE RACE



~~Sat., Mar. 28th, 2020 at Capital Stage~~

~~Doors open at 5:00 PM, Dinner is at 6:00 PM,
Races start at 7:00 PM~~

*For questions or tickets, call Carrie Maylone (724-312-2421)
or Lois Podnar (724-407-3304)*

SPRING FLING "FOOD BASKET"

The Potter Twp. VFD has tickets that go off **Tuesday, April 7, 2020 (7 PM PA daily Pick 3)**

We are unable to go door to door now, but would be happy to reserve a ticket for you!

\$5.00 TICKET

*Please call Sue Nash (412-974-3754) or
Lois Podnar (724-407-3304) for tickets*

| Spring Fling "Food Basket" | | Tuesday, April 7, 2020 |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | | \$200.00 CASH PRIZE and the following: |
| One \$100 for \$100 Cash | One \$50 for \$50 Cash | Assorted Prizes |
| 1 Beef Roast | 10 lbs. Potatoes | Assorted Condiments |
| 1 Turkey | 10 lbs. Chicken | 2 Cases Soft Drink (Soda) |
| 1 Ham | 10 lbs. Chicken Wings | 2 Cases Soft Drink (Soda) |
| 1 Pork Loin | 10 lbs. Chicken Breast | 2 Bunches of Green Beans (20 lbs) |
| 10 lbs. Hamstrings | 10 lbs. Hot Wings | 10 lbs. Potatoes |
| 10 lbs. Ground Beef | 10 lbs. Ground Beef | 10 lbs. Potatoes |

Winning number based on PA Daily Pick 3 at 7:00 PM.
If shared is available, each day a number will apply.
All prizes belong to the winner at the time of the draw.
Prizes are the property of the Potter Township VFD.
Benefit the Potter Township Fire Department.

BBQ, BOURBON, AND MOONSHINE

Friday, June 5th, 2020

at the Potter Township Municipal Building

Barbecue Meal at 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM; Bourbon & Moonshine Tasting: at 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

\$20 per ticket (100 available)

NOTICE

CANCELLATION OF THE BUNNY BREAKFAST



The **Bunny Breakfast**, scheduled for April 4th has been canceled as a precaution with the spreading of COVID-19.

PROJECTS AND PERMITS



WOW, Spring is in the air!
What a great time to think

about new projects. Let's talk about structures. Structures require Zoning Permits. If they are not habitable and do not have utilities, like sheds, garages & pole barns (under 1000 sq ft) they each require Zoning Permits ONLY. However, if they are dwellings, or have State requirements like pools, handicap ramps, or buildings over 1000 sq ft (except agricultural buildings which are exempt) they also require a UCC permit so State requirements are met & inspected by a qualified inspector (MDIA for Potter Township).

If you are not sure, please call the Township office for clarification, or, if you have any questions or concerns, also, please do not hesitate to call the office at 724-495-6620.

*David Hagen, Zoning and Code
Enforcement Officer*

HOLIDAY GARBAGE

COLLECTION GUIDELINES

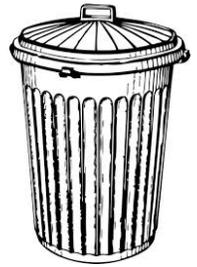
They are CLOSED for: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day

- We will collect the *following day* for all customers whose collection day falls on or after these three holidays.

They are OPEN & COLLECT on: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day

F A Q ' S...

UPDATE ON GARBAGE PICK-UP



- **When should we put our garbage can(s) out?**
 - Pick-up is Friday morning - Don't put garbage can(s) out more than 24 hours before, or leave them out more than 24 hours after the morning pick-up. (If you are going to be away, please arrange with a friend or neighbor to move the can(s) next to your house.
- **What if we're not sure if our garbage has been removed?**
 - This will require you to check the container. If empty, you can then return to your home with it.
- **Who do we call if the container is not empty and it's late morning?**
 - Call J. Young Refuse – (724) 495-6199
 - This number is also the one to call if you have any other issues with the garbage pick-up. They are the company contracted to do this service. Therefore, they should be made aware if things are not 'right'.
- **Why is my lid placed back onto my can?**
 - The garbage company will now place lids back on garbage cans after emptying them. If you suspect that your garbage was not emptied, *please check your cans before calling J. Young Refuse.*

Visit the Township website for more information. View the potterwp-pa.gov/residential-3/garbage-set



*Dave Hagen,
Potter Township Clerk*

IT'S NOT A BALD EAGLE BUT ANOSPREY

The osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, is a large, eagle-like hawk found throughout North America and in the Eastern Hemisphere. It inhabits seacoasts and the areas near large rivers and lakes. In Pennsylvania, it shows up along the major rivers and their tributaries and around lakes, ponds, reservoirs and wetlands. The osprey prefers shallow water and requires an abundant supply of fish within a reasonable distance from its nest. Nests are usually nearby food sources, but occasionally up to about 12 miles away. Ospreys are not as likely as bald eagles to nest near flowing fresh water. Ospreys also are more likely to nest in clusters at a lake or reservoir, and usually on an artificial structure.



Photo Credit: Jacob Dingle

Osprey plumage is dark brown above and white below. Adults and juveniles are colored similarly except juveniles show buffy-white spots on their backs, a buffy shading on their necks and chests and reddish-orange eyes. Adults have yellow eyes. The osprey's head is largely white, with a black patch across each cheek. A conspicuous crook to the wings, creating a characteristic "M" shape, and black "wrist" marks are good field identifiers.

Ospreys typically migrate south in winter and return to Pennsylvania in late March and early April to nest. They can be seen migrating south along the mountain ridges in August, September and October, with peak migration occurring around the middle of September. During fall, many migrating ospreys are also observed along Pennsylvania's rivers. Ospreys migrate to southern wintering grounds along the Gulf Coast and in southern Florida south through Central America and South America.

Like eagles, ospreys build bulky nests of sticks and twigs, lined with inner bark, sod or grasses. Sometimes they add debris (rope, fishnet fragments, cans, seashells, etc.). Nests are in living or dead trees, on the ground, or on manmade structures – cell towers, utility poles, fishing shacks, billboards, channel buoys, light standards, chimneys and platform-topped poles or towers erected specifically for osprey nesting. In Pennsylvania, most known osprey nests are on manmade structures. Since ospreys add to nests year after year, the nests can become huge and conspicuous.

The nests usually include three eggs, sometimes two and rarely four. Eggs are 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ by 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and white or pinkish-white with brown spots and blotches. The female incubates 36 to 42 days, and young leave the nest when they are 51 to 59 days old.

- Matt Kramer, PA Game Commission

THANK YOU

The Potter Township Road Department would like to THANK the residents for their cooperation this winter for not parking their vehicles on the Township roads & not shoveling snow onto the roadway!

Thanks to Justin Cwynar for keeping the roads clear!



PLEASE RESPECT WALKERS



When driving down Township roads, please be mindful of people walking along the road. Slow down and move over when passing by walkers. Many residents in our Township—young and old—walk pets, walk for exercise, and/or walk for fun. Please be considerate while driving.

HOW TO REACH THE CENTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

If contacting the police during an *emergency*, dial 911. However, to contact the police department for any *non-emergency situation*, call 724-775-0880.



CONSERVANCY CORNER

Plenty to Enjoy in the Great Outdoors

In the coming weeks, carve some time out of your busy days to spend a few hours outside. You'll be rewarded with subtle signs of Winter yielding to Spring. On clear nights, the giant winter constellation Orion is fading away toward the west horizon. As our northern hemisphere tilts back toward the sun, Orion gives way to Summer constellations like Scorpius and Sagittarius.



On bright Winter mornings, the Ohio River and Raccoon Creek valleys sometimes fill with freezing fog. Look closely as trees, branches and everyday objects are transformed in a fleeting coat of sparkling ice crystals. Here, a clump of Marsh Bulrush (*Scirpus cyperinus*), shimmers in the rising sun at Rocky Bend Nature Preserve.



Longer days bring the songs of birds by day and amphibians by night. A great place to hear the earliest music of Spring is near the beaver dam on Raccoon Creek Road, as thousands of tiny voices ring out in the wetlands and vernal pools. Take a youngster with you. Be still, and listen to these creatures' song of life. It's ageless, priceless, and right here in our own back yard for all to enjoy.

- Independence Conservancy

COMMUNITY TIRE COLLECTIONS

Need to get rid of tires/wheels from your car/light truck?

Conducted by Independence Conservancy at the following locations:

4-18-20

Independence Township Municipal Building
(104 School Rd., Aliquippa PA 15001)

4-25-20

Findlay Township Road Department
(1058 Clinton Rd., Clinton PA 15026)

5-2-20

Ohioville Borough Municipal Building
(6268 Tuscarawas Rd., Industry PA 15052)

5-9-20

New Sewickley Township Municipal Building
(233 Miller Rd., Rochester PA 15074)

5-16-20

Big Beaver Borough Building

**All events 9 AM to 12 Noon - rain or shine -
NO EARLY BIRDS**

***Proof of residency not required. ~ Individuals and small businesses welcome.
~ No limit to the number of tires you may bring. ~ Checks accepted with ID.***



Size:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Up to 18" off rim | \$3 each |
| Up to 18" on rim | \$5 each |
| Over 18" off rim (SUV & light truck) | \$5 each |
| Tractor trailer up to 22.5" (no rims accepted) | \$25 each |
| Farm tractor rear up to 75 lbs. | \$25 each |
| Farm tractor rear 75 to 150 lbs. | \$40 each |
| Farm tractor rear over 150 lbs. | \$75 each |

Your cost to dispose:

www.independenceconservancy.org



Potter Township

Potter Township Municipal Office

206 Mowry Road

Monaca, PA 15061

Phone: 724-495-6220

Fax: 724-495-3222

Email: linda@pottertwp.comcastbiz.net



Scan to go to our Website:
pottertwp-pa.gov.org



POTTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Rebecca Masco Earl 'Butch' Shamp Al Cwynar

Work Sessions — 1st Wednesday of each month — 6 PM

Regular Board Meetings — 2nd Wednesday of each month — 6 PM

PLANNING COMMISSION

Lauren Patton Lenny Miller Philip Floyd Mark Summerville Tom Ruff

(Alternates - George Barnes and Ed Kolis)

Regular Meetings — 3rd Thursday of each month — 7 PM

(as needed)

All meetings are held at the Municipal Building, 206 Mowry Road, Monaca, PA 15061

ALL TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND!

