

VOLUME 2,
WINTER

West Pottsgrove Informer

Important Dates

- 11/4 Daylight Savings Ends
- 11/6 Election Day Office Closed
- 11/7 Board Meeting
- 11/8 Zoning Meeting
- 11/8 Town Watch
- 11/12 Veterans Day Ob. Ofc. Closed
- 11/15 Bagged Leaf Pickup
- 11/15 Planning Commission
- 11/22 Thanksgiving Office Closed
- 11/23 Recycle
- 12/5 Board Mtg.
- 12/6 Recycle
- 12/13 Town watch
- 12/19 Board Mtg.
- 12/20 Recycle
- 12/25 Christmas Office Closed
- 1/1 New Years Day Office Closed
- 1/2 Board Mtg.
- 1/3 Recycle
- 1/10 Town Watch
- 1/15 Planning Commission
- 1/17 Recycle
- 1/21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1/31 Recycle
- 2/2 Groundhog Day
- 2/6 Board Mtg.
- 2/14 Recycle
- 2/14 Town Watch
- 2/18 Presidents Day
- 2/19 Planning Commission
- 2/28 Recycle

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Patricia Warsheski - President

Well, the summer is over and as we move into the fall and winter seasons I want to thank everyone who made our Community Day Celebration, Community Band Concert, Halloween Parade and House Decorating contest a success. Community Day was attended by over 500 residents and a great time was had by all. The Community Band Concert was held on a beautiful evening, with excellent music and refreshments. The Pottsgrove Community Band presented a variety of show tunes, classic music and patriotic music, which was a real crowd pleaser, as the band recognized all veterans in attendance. The Halloween Parade and House Decorating

contest, organized by Commissioner Diana Gulotta, proved to be a great success.

I would like to thank all the businesses that contributed to our Community day celebration for their thoughtfulness. The support of our business community is another reason why West Pottsgrove Township is a great place to live.

The Board of Commissioners is presently working with the Township Manager to prepare the 2008 budget. With the closing of the landfill in 2005, we have to take a closer look at all our operations. Our goal is to hold the line on taxes and fees while still providing a good level of

service to our residents. The budget should be completed by the end of November, when it will be on display at the Township Building.

We are looking for additional members to serve on the Planning Commission. Two members are needed to replace two members who can no longer serve due to other commitments. If interested, contact the Township Office at 610-323-7717.

As usual if there are any questions feel free to contact the Township Office for assistance.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Edward Whetstone - Township Manager

There are certain things we take for granted; such as when we flip the light switch and we have light or when we turn on the faucet and there is water. One other thing we take for granted is our local volunteer fire department. A recent tragedy made me realize how important a fire department is to a community. In another community that has three separate station houses, one of the stations experienced a fate that was never imagined. An hour after fighting a structure fire they returned to a call of fire at their own station. What followed was a major loss into the millions of dollars. All equipment was lost, including trucks, turnout gear and every thing needed to run the fire station. What had been a

center for local community gatherings now was a total loss with charred remains of fire engines and apparatuses to vast to mention.

Although this station will be out of service for some time the community support and out pouring of generosity has been overwhelming. When I think of this support it makes one wonder, do we do enough to support our local volunteers during normal times, when we take for granted that they will always be able to respond in an emergency.

In West Pottsgrove we have a dedicated group of volunteers that protect our community and respond to any emergency that happens. From my personnel observation

they have always been there for us when we need them. Whether it is in the middle of the night, five in the morning or even on a Sunday the West End fire Department stands ready to respond. As a community we should also be ready to respond to the fire department and help them out in any way we can, whether it is a monetary donation or joining the department as a volunteer. Lets take care of and support what we take for granted, for we never know what we have until it's gone. For more information about the Fire Department or to volunteer services contact Chief George Hums.

Township
Phone
Numbers

- Township Office
610-323-7717
- Police
610-323-2090
- Tax Collector
610-326-4603
- Public Works
610-323-7717
- Township Engineer
610-323-4040

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Earl Swavelly - Chief of Police

Greetings from the West Pottsgrove Police Department.

It's time to talk about snow. As much as we don't want to see the beautiful fall weather go away, the calendar marches on.

First, let's learn a little about the term "Snow Emergency" and how it affects you.

The Township Ordinance, Section 18-49 reads: "(a) When, in the opinion of the emergency director, the actual or expected precipitation of snow will create hazardous or dangerous highway conditions for vehicular or pedestrian traffic, he shall have the authority to declare a "snow emergency." (b) The emergency director shall immediately inform the public of the snow emergency by issuing a press release to the local radio and news services. (c) The snow emergency shall continue in force and effect until the emergency director declares it to be over in the same manner as provided for in subsection (b). (d) One hour after a snow emergency has been declared and during its existence: (1) No vehicles shall be parked on a snow emergency route."

Our emergency director is Township Manager, Edward Whetstone. Our local radio/news service is WPAZ 1370 (AM radio). Channel's 3, 6, 10. KYW 1060 AM 102.5 FM Radio.

Snow Emergency Routes:

Berks Street from Glasgow St to Grosstown Rd

Vine Street from Berks St to Grosstown Rd

Center Street from High St to Grosstown Rd

Township Ordinance 18-50

Enforcement – 18-51 – "Towing," which reads as follows:

"(a) All vehicles parked, stalled, incapable of moving under their own power or left unattended on the streets in violation of the provisions of this article are hereby declared to be public nuisances, obstruction the necessary and required snow plowing and clearing of the streets of the Township, contrary to public interest, convenience and safety. (b) The Police Department is hereby directed to secure and immediately tow away and remove any and all vehicles parked in violation of this article, to notify the registered licensed owner within 24 hours of the removal of his vehicle and to collect the cost of such towing and any necessary storage, together with a penalty of twenty (20%) percent as provided by law in the case of nuisances, before releasing the vehicle to the registered owner. The cost and penalties shall be payable in addition to the fine imposed in this article."

Second, let's talk about shoveling snow

from sidewalks and driveways.

Township Ordinance Section 16-1 "Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks – Time Limits" reads: "The owner, occupant or tenant of every property fronting upon or alongside of any street in the Township, is hereby required to cause a path with a minimum width of two and one-half (2 1/2) feet along the paved sidewalk of their respective premises to be cleared of snow, ice and other obstructions when, and so often as, the same shall fall or appear on said sidewalks, within twenty four (24) hours after the same shall have ceased to fall or to form. The snow and ice shall not be placed upon the traveled cartway of the adjoining road or street. The property owner has a continuing responsibility to keep the required minimum path of two and one-half (2 1/2) feet free of snow and ice."

Township Ordinance Section 18-52 "Snow Shoveling" reads:

"No individual shall be permitted to shovel snow into any street after the street has been plowed."

Now that all the "snow" responsibilities have been explained, let's be good neighbors and help each other with these duties, especially our elderly neighbors. A little kindness goes a long way.

Township Emails
WestPottsgroveTWP@comcast.net
WPTManager@comcast.net
WPTSecretary@comcast.net
WPTUtilityBilling@comcast.net
WPTEmergencyManagement@comcast.net
WPTFireMarshal@comcast.net



PREP AND COOK TIME:
30 MINUTES

RECIPE CORNER

MAKES 6 SERVINGS, 1
CUP EACH

Bacon, Cheese, and Potato Chowder

INGREDIENTS

INSTRUC-

- 3 cups fat-free milk
- 1 can (10 3/4 oz.) condensed cream of potato soup
- 2 cups frozen Southern-style hash browns
- 1 cup 2% Shredded reduced fat, sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 slices bacon, crisply cooked, drained and crumbled
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions

Mix milk and soup in large saucepan. Stir in hash browns. Bring to boil on high heat, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer 10 min. stirring frequently.

Ladle into six soup bowls.

Top evenly with cheese, bacon and onions.

Per Serving: 190 calories, 6g fat (3.5g sat.), 24 g carbs, 2g fiber, 870 mg sodium, 12g protein, 6g sugars, 20mg cholesterol

WEST END FIRE CO. George Hums - Chief

Greeting Friends

We are now getting ready to go into the winter season, and we again ask you to practice Home Fire Safety. As always, keep your smoke detectors updated with a fresh battery, along with your carbon monoxide detectors.

During the Christmas holiday season, be careful with the extension cords that you use. Those of you who will have a live Christmas Tree, be sure to keep it watered.

You may have noticed that the fire hydrants around the township have new style fittings on them. These are called Storz

fittings, are they are designed to help us with a much faster hook up if an emergency arises. We are working on getting all of the hydrants equipped with them. Right now about half the township is equipped with them. Again this year we are asking your help during inclement weather. As a favor to us, try to keep snow and ice away from them. Also, if you see someone parking in front of them, please ask them to move to another location. If you have no success with asking them, please notify the West Pottsgrove Police Dept. These fire hydrants are there for everyone's safety and protection. We are always seeking volunteers, so if you are interested, we are at the Fire Sta-

tion every Thursday evening. Feel free to stop and find out about your Fire Dept. or just stop by to say hello.

Our annual Santa tour of the township will be on December 23, 2007, starting at 1:00 P.M. There will be treats for the children of the township.

Again, thank you for your donations. If you have forgotten to send in your donation, they will be accepted any time. PLEASE HELP US. HELP YOU!

Sincerely,

George A Hums, Chief 57 and the Volunteer Firefighters of West End Fire Co. #1

PUBLIC WORKS READY FOR SNOW

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again, after the beautiful summer and fall we had. Yes the snow will soon be upon us and the Public Works Department is making sure that all equipment is in good shape and ready to go. Along with our team Paul Kulp, David Weidner and Part timer Moe Schaffer, led by Road Master Jerry Warsheski the Public works Department will do everything in their power to keep our streets as clean as possible for our residents. We also employ a sub contractor to help with snow removal so we can operate on a 24 hour basis in plowing and salting.

I would like to remind everyone that the most uncontrollable operation we face each year is the dreaded ice and snow storm. Two basic considerations come into play when completing ice and snow removal. First is efficiency and priority, some one has to be first and someone has to be last. Please be assured we will get to your area as quickly as possible.

Second it is inevitable that snow will be plowed into your driveway or onto your sidewalk. We know that this practice can be at times frustrating, but with the roads being our first priority there is no way to avoid it.

Please keep in mind the following Snow Emergency Routes; Berks Street between Grosstown Road and Glasgow Street, Vine Street between Berks Street and Grosstown Road and Center Street between High Street and Grosstown Road. All vehicles should be removed from these areas when a snow emergency is in effect.

We appreciate every ones efforts and cooperation during a snow storm and remember that "patience is a virtue". In the long run everyone has to get where they are going and the Public Works Team will do everything possible to make it happen.

REFUSE BILLING

Thanks to everyone for helping West Pottsgrove Township have a smooth transition into the refuse billing program. Because this is a new system for everyone, there have been a few problems. We appreciate everyone's help and patience while fixing these issues. There are a few items that I'd like to touch on.

If you are still not receiving a bill, please contact the Township Office as soon as possible to set up your account.

Now that we have established billing, you will be receiving your bill at the end of each quarter. You will have until the

last day of the month following the last month of the quarter to pay. If your payment has not reached us by the last day of that month, you will be charged a late fee of 15% of the quarter payment.

If your bill shows any incorrect information; such as spelling of your name, the incorrect name, or an incorrect mailing address, please contact the Township Office to have this matter corrected.

As always, if you have any other questions regarding anything, please call the Township Office.

RECYCLING

Residents are reminded of participation in the Township's curbside recycling program. Commingled items may be placed at curbside, along with newspaper. Commingled items are plastics, metals and glass. The collection is made every other week.

If a recycling bin is needed, stop by the Township office between 8a.m. and 4p.m. to receive one. If you can't make it during these hours call the office and one will be left outside for you.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to recycle. Remember that Waste Management also picks up yard waste.

Congratulations to David Koch, the winner of West Pottsgrove Township's "Name the Newsletter" competition!

Thank you to EVERYONE who entered our competition!

