

West Pottsgrove Township



SPRING 2023

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President's Message

Since our last edition of the newsletter, the Township has changed trash carriers. The current carrier is J.P. Mascaro and Sons. The trash along with the recycling will be picked up every week. There are two toters, a large (96 gallon) for trash and a smaller (64 gallon) for recycling. All trash and recycling toters have been delivered throughout the Township. The Township has been receiving inquiries about the trash and recycling pickups. J.P. Mascaro and sons have three types of trucks running through the Township on collection day - one is strictly trash, one is strictly recycling, and the third handles both trash & recycling. We know that some residents were concerned that the trash and recycling were being mixed together. If you have any concerns or questions about your trash pickup, please call the Township and we will be happy to reach out to Mascaro.

It has come to our attention about the parking on streets in residential neighborhoods. Roadway is the portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic. It is a public roadway, unless otherwise designated, a person can park on the roadway. The road in front of your residence is public, meaning anyone can park a legally registered vehicle there. Some exceptions are: (1) in front of a public or private driveway, (2) within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, (3) within 20 feet of a crosswalk or intersection, or (4) within 30 feet of any flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign or traffic control signal located at the site of the roadway.

The weather is turning warmer which means that the grass will be growing as well as trees and shrubs. We ask that you maintain your property and keep your grass as well as any shrubs or trees trimmed. This applies to both the front and back of your residence. This also applies to junk vehicles, tires, and garbage on your property. This will prevent you from receiving a warning or citation if the violation is not corrected.

We are working on community events and programs for the Township. If you

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610-327-0717

www.CreativeMinds.org

Infant – 6 weeks - 20 months

Toddler – 20 months – age 3

Pre-K (ages 3-5)

Elementary Full day Kindergarten – 3rd Grade

Before/After Care – Pottsgrove School District

Summer Camp – Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Licensing: OCDEL -
PA Dept of Education

Get Noticed

Our newsletter is supported by local businesses like yours that recognize the value of reaching households in the Township.

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To Place An Ad
Call Peggy Kucipak at
Hometown Press 215-262-3617
or email peggy.cbn@gmail.com

Manager's Report



So since my official start in October, there has been a lot going on and a lot of new challenges for me to pursue in an effort to continue seeing the Township grow. Our goal, and mine personally, is to create a safe and enticing environment for all of the current, and future residents, to want to live, raise their children, participate in community events, and potentially retire in a small town community you are proud to call home.

Back in December of 2022 we entered into a three-year contract with J.P. Mascaro to become the municipal trash and recycling collection provider for the Township. This transition got off to a bumpy start once it became apparent that the list of residences the previous provider had used was missing approximately 350 addresses. Since then the trash toters and recycling toters have been placed throughout the township. We would like to thank the residents for their patience through this transition. Mascaro regularly checks in at the township, and we continue to pass along any issues or concerns brought to our attention by residents. We would like to thank Mascaro for enduring the chaotic transition and doing their due diligence to see that all of the residents were accounted for and continuing to promptly address any issues that may arise.

We are continuing to make updates and improvements to the Township facilities so that we can offer more efficient options and services to the residents. We recently added more security cameras at the municipal complex for a more secure environment for anyone utilizing the recreational facilities at the building. The sound and video equipment in the Township meeting room has been upgraded to provide better meeting presentation and the potential for virtual meetings if needed. The Township recently went live with a new and improved website which allows the Township to update regularly and keep the residents better informed on Township activities. We are also looking to provide access to online payments for licenses, permits, etc. through the website.

We have started moving forward with a few of the capital projects. A town hall meeting was held in April for the residents that will be affected by the Anthony Wayne Drive Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project. This project was awarded a Montgomery County CDBG grant in 2022 in the amount of \$200,000 towards construction costs. The project will include the replacement of the sanitary sewer mains within Anthony Wayne Drive and Von Stueben Drive, and related improvements. The project will be placed out for bid in mid to late May, with an anticipated start date of July or August.

The East Vine Street and Quinter Street Roadway Paving project is in the design process. This will mainly be a roadway mill and overlay project. We will also be addressing storm sewer, curb, and sidewalks in need of repair or replacement on East Vine Street between Quinter and Monroe Streets. Improvements to the intersection of Quinter Street and East Vine Street related to grading and ADA ramp placement will also be included. This is the first phase of this project. The remaining phase will be completed at a future date from Monroe Street to Center Street. The timing for this project will depend on the progress of the CDBG project. The paving portions of both projects will be placed out for bid as a joint contract in an effort to receive the most cost effective pricing. Liquid Fuels funding will be utilized for the paving project.

Completion of these projects will continue to improve the function of our sanitary sewer, storm sewer and roadway systems which benefits the residents in providing safe roadway travel, proper collection and conveyance of storm runoff, and conveyance of sanitary flows to the treatment plant, in addition to reducing inflow and infiltration into the sanitary systems which helps maintain the capacity of that system. Refer to the Parks and Recreation section for updates on our park and recreation area improvement projects.

We continue to work with the Board of Commissioners, the Public Works department, the Administration, our Engineers, and other municipal managers to identify and prioritize the greatest infrastructure needs within the Township. We will look to find the most cost-effective way to approach these projects in a timely manner whether it be through local, state, or federal grant funding, partnering with adjacent municipalities, our annual budget, donations, fundraising, or a combination. We recently submitted a grant application through the Montgomery County CDBG program requesting funding to complete Phase 2 of the Sylvan Drive Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project. If awarded, this project would be set for construction in the Summer of 2024.

As the warmer weather approaches, everything begins to grow and bloom. This means grass will need to be mowed, trees and shrubs will need to be trimmed, and weeds will need to be pulled. We ask that everyone properly maintains their

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Manager's Report *continued from page 3*

property throughout the pending growing season. Our Township Codes department will actively be monitoring property maintenance. Refer to the Code Enforcement section for what is expected in the township and what may trigger a Notice of Violation and/or citation.

We encourage all residents to attend monthly BOC meetings which are held on the First and Third Wednesday of each month at the Township Building at 7pm. This allows residents the opportunity to comment on Township events and decisions. Participation at meetings will deter misinformation spread on social media platforms. In addition to the monthly meetings, we will continue to utilize the Township website and Facebook page to upload meeting minutes, meeting agendas, meeting schedules, upcoming events, road closures, weather advisories, etc. We are working to continually update the website to provide a user-friendly tool for residents to obtain or view pertinent Township information. Refer to the Emergency Management section for information on receiving Township and County-wide notifications through ReadyMontco.org.

Thank you to the Board of Commissioners, Police Department, Public Works Department, Township Administration for working with me on various township items. In my first six months I have met, emailed, or talked with many members of our community and I look forward to meeting more of you as my time with the Township moves forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out or stop by the Township Building, we are here to assist as best we can. Enjoy your spring and summer!

Debi Roesener, *Township Manager*

Pottstown Regional Public Library



500 E. HIGH ST, POTTSTOWN PA 19464
610-970-6551 pottstownregionalpubliclibrary.org

The Pottstown Regional Public Library is proud to be your local community library. We offer programs from early literacy to senior interests, social gathering space, and community education. We are proud to celebrate over 100 years of community service.

The Pottstown Regional Public Library is open from 10 am to 8 pm Monday through Wednesday, 10 am to 6 pm Thursday-Friday, and 9 am to 4 pm on Saturdays. We are closed on Sundays.

The Pottstown Regional Public Library will launch registration for our Summer Reading Program for children and adults in May, 2023. This year's theme is "All Together Now!" Be sure to stop in and check out the challenges and prizes available for participants!

We are happy to offer many programs and services for our patrons, including public computers, faxing and scanning services, passport and notary services (by appointment), and printing services.

Regular adult programs include: Fiber Arts Circle, Adult Book Clubs, American MahJong, Pottstown Writer's Group, and Afternoon Crafts. We regularly have featured events and outside speakers.

Regular Children's Programs include: Teen Time Book Talk, Middle School Monday Trivia and Game Nights, Maker Space Times, Switch Saturdays, DART Dogs, Bilingual Story Time, Mother Goose Baby Lap-Sit, Lego Club, and Friday Story Times.

**For more information about the Pottstown Library,
please call us at 610-970-6551, email at pottstownlibrary@mclinc.org,
or visit us at 500 E. High Street, Pottstown, PA, 19464.**



President's Message continued from cover

wish to serve on a committee, please notify the Township.

Please remember as the weather turns warmer, more people will be outside. This includes children playing. Be observant to anyone who may run out into the street.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, enjoy the warmer weather, and enjoy the Township's parks, trails, and recreation areas.

Steve Miller, *President, Board of Commissioners*

WEST POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



980 GROSSTOWN ROAD, STOWE, PA 19464
Phone: 610-323-2090 Fax: 610-323-9338

The police department welcomed **Officer Andrew Slavin** to its ranks last December. Officer Slavin graduated the Philadelphia Police Academy in December 2018, and was employed as a Philadelphia Police Officer. Officer Slavin has been active in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard since 2012.

Officer Slavin was hired to replace a vacancy created by the retirement of **Sergeant Steven Ziegler**, who retired in April with 22 years of service to West Pottsgrove Township.



The West Pottsgrove Police Department was awarded funding from several PCCD grants. The grant money will be utilized to stand up a body watch camera program, to fund consulting services to create a complete department policy/procedures manual, to fund the transition to an updated version of the data management software system, and will be used to purchase an electric-assist patrol bike and to reinstitute the bike patrol program.

Chief Joseph Sokolofski participated in this year's Law Enforcement Memorial Run (LEMR) with a team of other runners. During National Police week, it is a 3 day, 150-mile relay style race from the Philadelphia Navy Yard to the Washington D.C. National Police Memorial, leaving Philadelphia on Friday May 12th, 2023, and arriving in Washington DC on Sunday May 14th, 2023. The run honors law enforcement officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the communities they serve, and to also honor their survivors. Runners also participated in the Candlelight Vigil, along with approx. 100,000 survivors and law enforcement officers, as the names of the fallen officers are formally added to the Memorial.

The police department continues to warn residents about potential fraud/scam activity. Telephone scammers often try to hook you with enticing offers, appeals for charitable causes, or claims of being associated with the government. They won't allow time for you to think through their pitch. They will pressure you to make a decision. Warning signs include the use of high-pressure sales tactics, reluctance to answer questions about the business or the offer, requests of payment by means other than a credit card, and the use of threats if you don't comply – even the threat of arrest. If you receive a suspicious call, **prior to taking any action**, hang up and call a close friend or a family member for advice or, better yet- call the police!

Getting away this summer – Vacation checks are provided by the West Pottsgrove Township Police at no charge to residents. Police will conduct periodic property inspections while you're away. Let the department know when you will be away and enjoy your vacation with one less worry.

ROCKET CAR WASH AND DETAIL CENTER

A BIG shout out to Rocket Car Wash & Detail Center for keeping our police fleet so clean!!
Thank you for the excellent service!



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CODE ENFORCEMENT – Property Owner Tips For Maintaining West Pottsgrove Townships Beauty, Walkability, And Charm

Walkability is one of the many cornerstones which makes West Pottsgrove Township a desirable place to live, work and play. Sidewalks exist on most all the streets within the Township and those connections are a vital part to the Township's pedestrian-oriented small-town environment. Walkable communities such as West Pottsgrove lead to both economic and natural benefits of more social interactions and encourage physical fitness. Maintaining these resources is a community wide effort. Property owners should be mindful and take notice of the following:

- Inspect your sidewalks to make sure that any tripping hazards such as broken or raised sidewalks are repaired or replaced to avoid any possible injuries to pedestrians.
- Maintain any plants, flowers or trees along sidewalk edges so that they do not hang low or inhibit pedestrians passing by or site triangles.
- Cut or trim areas along curb lines where weeds or grass maybe become overgrown. This area maintenance is the responsibility of property owners.
- Property owners are encouraged to work with their neighbors to maintain sidewalks throughout the Township. If you see any of the above violations, feel free to contact the West Pottsgrove Township's Code Department to investigate. Working together we can all do our part to provide and maintain safe, clean, attractive, and walkable neighborhoods.

FIREWORKS - LEAVE IT TO THE PROFESSIONALS

As summer celebrations approach, residents are reminded of the following Pennsylvania restrictions for fireworks. Fireworks and/ or sparklers can cause fires, burns, dismemberment or death if handled improperly. Pennsylvania residents are permitted to purchase and use consumer grade fireworks that contain a maximum of 50 milligrams of explosive material. M-80's, cherry bombs, quarter sticks and any other explosive or incendiary devices with more than 50 milligrams of explosive materials are strictly prohibited. Furthermore, the use and discharge of all display fireworks is prohibited on all Township property and parks.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

All Code Dept. permits applications are available online. Please be aware the Township does issue a resale Use and Occupancy Permit for single family residential properties. The Township tries to make the permit process as simple as possible for both homeowners and contractors. Please feel free to contact the Code Dept. with any and all property maintenance, rental, zoning or permit related questions.

HIGH WEEDS AND GRASS

With the increased awareness of mosquitoes and the diseases they potentially carry it has become critical to maintain a well-groomed lawn at a certain height, six inches or less. Excess weed and grass growth promotes an atmosphere that mosquitoes and other unwanted insects thrive in. Let's help keep West Pottsgrove beautiful and safe by maintaining lawns at acceptable heights. Homeowners whose lawns exceed six inches are subject to violations and fines.



CURB YOUR PETS

Remember to curb and clean up after your dog / pets.

YARD / GARAGE SALES

A permit is not required to have a yard / garage sale. Signs are permitted for the event on residents' property. However, signs are not permitted on utility poles or public property.

Residents are encouraged to cooperate with one another in a friendly manner to resolve minor concerns before contacting Code Enforcement for assistance. Working together we can provide and maintain safe, clean and attractive neighborhoods.

This list contains only general information for specific Code Information. Please contact the Township Code Department for any additional information.

Joe Chrisman, Code Enforcement Officer

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From The Tax Collector



The County/Township Real Estate Tax bill is generally mailed out March 1st and the School District Tax bill is mailed out July 1st. These are taxes levied by the Township, County and School District. There is a discount period of 60 days, followed by a face period of 60 days. The penalty period is applicable for the remainder of the year. Some owners may have their taxes escrowed in their mortgage. It is the home owner's responsibility to ensure their bank knows the current amount due.

In 2024, the Township is considering moving the mail date for tax bills up to February 1st of each year to allow residents more time between tax bills (County/Township and School).

At the same time as the School District Real Estate bills comes out, there is a Per Capita Tax that is mailed out. This is a \$15.00 tax levied against ALL residents of the Township ages 18 or older, regardless of whether they rent or own a home. There are some exemptions for this tax such as being a full-time student, active military, deceased, or no longer residing in the Township.

For your convenience, there is a locked drop box located in the Township building lobby to leave your payments if you are not available to pay in person during collection hours. Collection hours are posted on the Township website and printed on the tax bills. Tax bills can also be mailed to the address below.

Direct any tax related questions to taxcollector@westpottsgrove.org or by calling the **direct tax line at 484-300-4910**.

Jeff Kazmierczak
PO BOX 3095
Stowe, Pa 19464

When it Rains, It Drains

Understand Stormwater Runoff & Water Contamination

The first inch of rainfall is responsible for the bulk of the pollutants in stormwater runoff.

When it rains, surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent storm water runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.

Stormwater runoff carries pollutants into your waterways.

Runoff Picks Up:

- Pet Waste
- Fertilizers
- Motor Oil
- Detergents
- Chemicals
- Trash

Runoff from Roof and Gutters

Runoff from Street and Driveway

10 Things You Can do to Prevent Water Contamination

1. Recycle your used motor oil and other auto fluids.
2. Fix oil, radiator and transmission leaks in your car.
3. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the toilet or in the trash.
4. Wash your car in the grass or at a car wash that utilizes a water reclamation system.
5. Dispose of hazardous home chemicals, unused medications and oil based paint products at your local hazardous waste site.
6. Use pesticides and other lawn chemicals sparingly
7. Pick up and properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings.
8. Install a rain garden, use a rain barrel and reduce impervious surfaces around your home.
9. Plant trees and plants that serve as natural filters.
10. Always use a trash can to dispose of waste and recycle reusable materials.

Parks and Recreation

The spring weather is upon us and we encourage our residents to get out and visit one or all of our park and recreation areas. Take a walk along the trail or sit by the creek and enjoy the relaxed environment at [Murgia Park](#), or take the kids to the playground at the Vine Street or Howard Street parks. In the near future, residents will also be able to enjoy the upgrades to Old Timer's Field, and within the next year or so, the newly created Veterans Memorial Park.

Old Timer's Field (*behind township building*) - Within the last year, the Township was awarded several local grants, including a private donation, to assist with improvements to the field. Improvements will include, field restoration, new fencing, storm drainage, benches, and ADA accessibility. The Township recently applied for additional DCNR – C2P2 grant funding to complete all of the field related improvements. The additional items would include- (1) retrofitting the ballfield lights to LED and bringing them up to current Little League requirements, (2) retrofitting the parking lot lighting to cost and energy efficient LED fixtures, and (3) grading & paving improvements to the parking area that services the field for games and practices. The project start date has been pushed back in anticipation of additional funding. Pottsgrove-Pottstown Little League will continue to utilize the field for practices and the Township will continue to work with them as the project progresses.

Future Veteran's Memorial Park (*former Community Pool*) - As mentioned in the Fall/Winter newsletter, the Township was awarded local grant funding to support the development of a Master Plan for this future park. Several residents, a couple of our Commissioners, and the Township Manager began holding meetings in May to discuss what amenities the Township residents would like to see included in the park. The Township also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement in February with Adventure Grove Playgrounds to include one of its "all inclusive" playgrounds within the park. If there are any other residents interested in serving on this committee, please contact the Township at 610.323.7717 x1 or via email at info@westpottsgrove.org

Vine Street & Howard Street Parks - These parks recently received more equipment and upgrades to make them ADA accessible. The township is looking to make additional improvements to further protect those utilizing the parks.

The pavilion behind the Township is available to residents and non-residents for family outings or other events. There is also a playground and basketball at the pavilion. You may reach out to the Township or go to the website for information on renting this facility.

The Township is looking to partner with local agencies and is asking for Township volunteers to participate in Community-wide cleanup events to help maintain and improve our parks for the safe use of our residents.

The Township is always open to hearing ideas from our residents for new park or recreation projects, or improvements they would like to see made at our existing park and open space recreation areas. Please do not hesitate to contact us as listed above.



A graphic with three panels. The left panel is red with the text "Smoke Alarms Save Lives!". The middle panel is white with a yellow circle containing a hand pointing to a smoke alarm icon, and the text "Test your smoke alarms once a month. A smoke alarm can save your life in a fire. Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working." The right panel is blue with a circular arrow icon containing "10 years" and the text "Replace your alarms after 10 years. Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms." Logos for U.S. Fire Administration, FEMA, and the Fire Department are at the bottom.

Emergency Management

Please consult our Emergency Management Facebook page (West Pottsgrove Emergency Management Page - West Pottsgrove Emergency Management Page | Facebook) regarding severe weather events.

Notifications include but are not limited to extreme heat advisories and flash floods. Along with the notifications, guidance will also be issued for each circumstance we are faced with. Each weather event requires a level of preparation and awareness by each resident and business owner.

Please heed the warnings issued and do not hesitate to reach out to the Township (610.323.7717) or via email to our Emergency Management team (info@westpottsgrove.org).



Residents are strongly encouraged to sign up at www.Readymontco.org to receive emergency and non-priority township-wide notifications. You can elect to receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email, text messages and more. Please note that landlines are automatically included in ReadyMontco reverse 911 emergency alerts and therefore they do not require registration through ReadyMontco.

This system allows for customization of special needs that responders may require to be informed about in case of emergency.

Take a moment to register yourself and family members for this important service at <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612338/login> or on the mobile app Everbridge. If registering on the app, when "organization" or "keyword" pops up, input Montgomery. Then click on the one that specifies Montgomery County, PA. You must complete a few sections which can be customized to the type of notification, special needs to be met, and more. For registration instructions, click here. You can also view an instructional video for assistance with registering.

**Please note that landlines are automatically included in ReadyMontco reverse 911 emergency alerts and therefore they do not require registration through ReadyMontco. However, if your cellphone is already registered it will need to be registered again.*

Lightning Safety

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike!

Indoor Safety

Turn off computers. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You **can use** a cell or cordless phone.

Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.

Outdoor Safety

- » If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.
- » **Do not go under** trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- » **Wait at least 30 minutes** after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- » **Stay away** from windows and doors. Stay off porches.
- » **There is no safe place outside.** Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used.
- » If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1. Get medical help right away.

FAST FACTS

Lightning may strike as far as 10 miles from any rain.

Safety Tips

Your Source for SAFETY Information
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SPRING 2023



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