



# Allegheny Township

WESTMORELAND COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

WESTMORELAND

2016 Newsletter

## In This Issue:

Light the Season is  
November 18, 2016

Board of Supervisors  
Meeting:  
November 9th, 14th  
December 7th, 12th  
at 7:00 P.M.

## Township Officials:

Kathryn Starr,  
*Board of Supervisors*

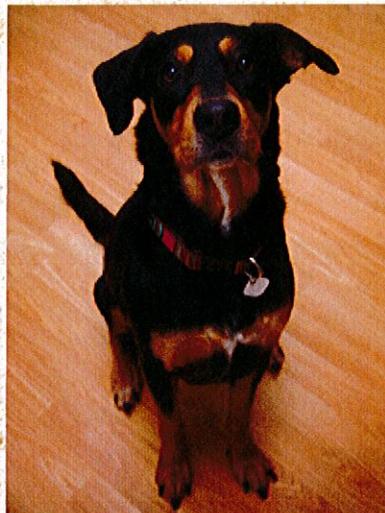
Ren Steele,  
*Board of Supervisors*

Joseph Ferguson,  
*Board of Supervisors*



## Share the Love: Make Sure Your Dog is Licensed

Dogs have often been referred to as man's best friend. They are the first ones to greet you at the door and are happy to sit next to you while you read or catch up on the daily news. They are more than companions. They become members of our families. That unconditional love is something they always give, and one way we can show that same love in return is by having them licensed. The State Department of Agriculture and its Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement reminds Pennsylvanians that the best way to protect your dog is by ensuring that he has a current license. In fact, a license increases the likelihood that, if separated, you'll be reunited. Therefore, licensing is not only the right thing to do, but it's also the law.



Pennsylvania's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement says that a current license, worn all the time, is the best way to protect your dog. In fact, a license increases the likelihood that, if separated, you'll be reunited.

Continued>>

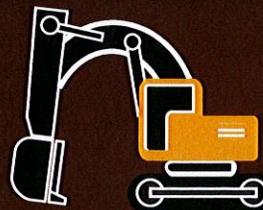
# Public Works

The Public Works Department filed for Storm Damage Reimbursement from the State for the Winter Storm Jonas, and has been awarded \$21,000.

Most of the work completed this spring and summer took place on Indian Hill and Bagdad Roads for pipe and base repair using the full depth reclaim method. The cutting of trees, removal of the steep banks and installing storm drains and inlets on Indian Hill Road and a small distance on Bagdad Road has been completed.

Teakwood Drive was upgraded with new storm drains and inlets followed by a new wearing surface of asphalt. After the removal of the rubber mulch that had been contaminated with glass, a new surface of rubber mulch was installed, Fynnin Park is open again.

School Road has been paved now that the Kiski Valley Water Treatment Plant project has been completed.



## Wanted

Unwanted, unused & expired prescription and over-the-counter medications

**1 in 5**  
high school students  
have abused  
prescription drugs.

Every day  
**2,500**  
kids abuse prescription  
drugs for the first time.

**75%**  
of people who abuse  
prescription pain relievers say  
they got them from friends or  
relatives.

Don't let unwanted or expired medicines add to the startling statistics. If you have prescriptions or over-the-counter and other unused medicines, PA MedReturn drop boxes are a safe, effective and environmentally-friendly way to dispose of them.

### FREE AND ANONYMOUS

#### Products Accepted

Prescription and over-the-counter solid medications, tablets and capsules, liquid medications, inhalers, creams, ointments, nasal sprays, and pet medicines

#### Products NOT Accepted

Intravenous solutions, injectables and needles

[www.ddap.pa.gov](http://www.ddap.pa.gov)

A project of the

Westmoreland County District Attorney's Office



The Police Department is a participating location for the MedReturn Drug Collection box. The box is located in the Police Department lobby and is available to the residents during normal lobby hours. The collection box was provided through a grant from the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association and the Police Department was chosen for this valuable resource to our community.

## LIGHT

## THE SEASON

is Friday November 18, 2016  
at the Community Building.

Tree lighting is at 6:30pm  
with music throughout the event.





## SEPTIC SYSTEMS – PROPER CARE AND COMMON CAUSES OF SYSTEM FAILURE

The Pennsylvania Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers has provided the following helpful information to help keep your septic system working properly.

- \*Inspect and Pump Your System Frequently—at least every three years by a septic service professional. “Alternative” systems that have electrical float switches, pumps or mechanical components need to be inspected generally once a year.
  
- \*Use Water Efficiently – this can not only improve the operation of your septic system but also reduce the risk of failure. The EPA’s Water-Sense Program has information on water-efficient products.
  
- \*Proper Waste Disposal – remember everything you flush, grind in the disposal or pour down the sink, shower or bath flows into your septic system. Grease, chemicals, paints and anything other than toilet paper will harm your septic system.
  
- \*Maintain Your Drainfield – do not park or drive on your drainfield; avoid planting trees too close to prevent tree roots from growing into the septic system; and keep roof drains, sump pumps and other rainwater drainage systems away from the drainfield area as they slow down or stop the wastewater treatment process.

The proper care and maintenance of your septic system is critical to ensure your system’s proper function. System failure can occur from common activities!

- \*Garbage disposals, while convenient, significantly increase the accumulation of sludge and scum in septic tanks which can lead to more frequent pumping.
  
- \*Household chemicals can destroy the living collection of organisms that digest and treat the waste in the system.
  
- \*Leaking appliances and toilets and water softeners can send hundreds of gallons of unnecessary water into the septic system which causes agitation of solids and excess flow to drainfields.
  
- \*Hot Tubs – emptying a hot tub into the septic system stirs the solids, pushing them to the drainfield, causing it to clog and fail. It is best to drain a hot tub onto turf or landscaped areas far away from the septic tank and drainfield. Use the same caution when draining swimming pools.
  
- \*Improper Design or Installation – These are essential for the septic system to function correctly.

**ANY TIME THAT YOU INSTALL A NEW SYSTEM OR REPAIR AN EXISTING ONE  
YOU NEED A PERMIT FROM THE TOWNSHIP**

For additional information about these topics please go to <http://www.pa-seo.org/wp1/consumer-info/septic-systems-101/> or <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/SepticSystems/Pages/default.aspx>



## Share the Love: Make Sure Your Dog is Licensed (Continued)

### Licensing makes sense

The dog license application is simple to complete and only requires owner contact information and details about the dog being licensed, such as name, age, breed, and color. County treasurers, state dog wardens, animal control officers, and shelters use this information primarily to identify lost dogs and get them home safely. Some counties in Pennsylvania do not have a shelter where lost dogs can stay, which means that these pets are transported several counties away, a situation that makes it even more difficult to reunite the dog and owner. While county treasurers can share lots of happy stories about reuniting licensed dogs with their families, it's disheartening to think that a number of dogs can't make their way back home simply because their owners haven't taken this important step.

Throughout the spring and early summer months, dog wardens complete compliance checks by visiting homes to check for your dog's current license and rabies vaccinations. Some may wonder why these checks include the vaccination check. The reason is simple: Rabies is a fatal viral infection of the central nervous system that infected animals can spread. The virus can also be spread from animal to human. Dogs can easily come into contact with such rabies carriers as raccoons, bats, cats, skunks, and foxes. Therefore, all dogs and nonferal cats (three months of age and older) in Pennsylvania must be vaccinated against rabies. These vaccinations must be administered periodically to maintain lifelong immunity.

### Licensing requirements

Under Pennsylvania law, all dogs three months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year and should wear their license on their collar at all times. The licensing fee is \$6.50 for each spayed or neutered dog and \$8.50 for other dogs. Older adults and people with disabilities may purchase a license for \$4.50 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$6.50 for others.

When you purchase a dog license, you're helping dogs throughout the state by supporting the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. The bureau enforces regulations, including licensing individual dogs and licensing and inspecting kennels, managing dogs that are running at large or classified as dangerous, and processing claims for livestock damage that has been caused by dogs and coyotes. Part of your licensing fee also is returned to your county. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs.

Licenses may be purchased through your county treasurer or a registered issuing agent. For more information, visit [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com), a consumer-focused website that provides contact information for county treasurers and dog wardens and inspection data for kennels and shelters. Remember: Licensing your dog is the right thing to do — it's the right thing for your pet, and it's the law.



## Need Flood Insurance?

### New Website Helps Homeowners Find Affordable Options

Mike Megoulas has lived in a Dauphin County Township for more than a decade and never thought twice about flood insurance. In October 2012, however, he received a letter from his mortgage company notifying him that his house was in a flood zone.

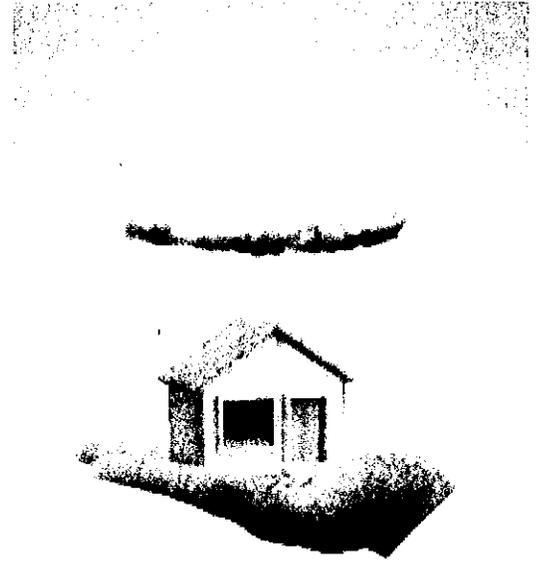
Flooding at Megoulas's house has been rare. For instance, there was the time in 2011 when Tropical Storms Ivan and Lee hit the county and left several inches of water in his basement. "When I bought my house," he says, "I never even knew I was in a flood zone — and now I need flood insurance."

#### Plugging a financial drain

Many homeowners in Pennsylvania and elsewhere are finding themselves in a similar situation. "For most Pennsylvanians trying to buy individual flood insurance coverage, especially for their homes, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) run by the federal government was thought to be the only option," state Insurance Commissioner Teresa Miller says. However, now that Congress is mandating that federal subsidies end for NFIP coverage and that premiums based on the property's actual risk, costs for this coverage are rising and may become difficult for many homeowners to afford. "In addition, redrawn Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps are placing many properties in flood zones that had not been there before. That's why my office is committed to finding ways to help consumers identify lower-cost coverage."

The agency, for instance, has created a new one-stop shop at [www.insurance.pa.gov](http://www.insurance.pa.gov), where homeowners and renters can find information about available insurance. (Note: To access the page, click on "Flood" under "Top Pages.")

For decades, Miller says, the National Flood Insurance Program kept its premiums artificially low, but an unprecedented number of claims following Hurricane Katrina sent the program into billions of dollars of debt.



**Eventually, a little rain is going to fall into your life. Be prepared. A new web site hosted by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department can help homeowners in high- and low-risk flood zones find affordable insurance.**

**Continued >>**



The result? Large premium increases.

The good news for Pennsylvania consumers is that these rapidly rising NFIP premiums are making flood insurance more attractive for private market insurers, which are in many cases offering coverage at substantially lower costs just ask homeowner Mike Megoulas.

"In 2012, my property was remapped into a flood zone, and I was told I had to buy flood insurance to keep my mortgage," he says. "NFIP insurance would have cost me \$2,700 a year, but I was able to find private coverage for only \$718 annually."

### **Pinpointing insurance options**

Most private-market residential flood insurance in Pennsylvania is sold by "surplus-line" insurers, which are licensed in other states or countries and offer the higher-risk coverage that other companies tend to shy away from.

The State Insurance Department's new one-stop online shop has links for these and other insurers providing flood coverage. In addition, the page has a link to the NFIP and lists the coverage written by each licensed insurer. For example, some insurers only offer contents coverage for renters, while others offer coverage for both the dwelling and its contents, for homeowners.

"My goal is to make sure Pennsylvanians can find good coverage at affordable prices, and this one-stop website will help homeowners and renters be able to do this," Miller says. Recently, Miller testified before a congressional subcommittee in support of proposed federal legislation that would facilitate the entry of additional carriers into the private flood insurance market and provide consumers with additional options. The proposal would also require mortgage companies to accept qualified private insurance in addition to NFIP policies.

### **Flood Facts**

- In the past 5 years, all 50 states have experienced floods or flash floods.
- Homeowners' insurance does not cover flood damage.
- If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or high-risk area and have a federally backed mortgage, your mortgage lender requires you to have flood insurance.
- Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage.
- Flash floods often bring walls of water 10 to 15 feet high.
- A car can easily be carried away by just 2 feet of rushing water.
- Hurricanes, winter storms, and snowmelt are common — but often overlooked — causes of flooding.
- New land development can increase flood risk, especially if the construction changes natural runoff paths.
- Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest.

For a \$50,000 loan at 4-percent interest, your monthly payment would be around \$240 a month (\$2,880 a year) for 30 years. Compare that to a \$100,000 flood insurance premium, which is about \$400 a year (\$33 a month).

- A preferred risk policy provides both building and contents coverage for properties in moderate- to low-risk areas for one low price.
- You are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- In most cases, it takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect so it's important to buy insurance before the storm approaches and the floodwaters start to rise.
- In a high-risk area, your home is more likely to be damaged by flood than by fire.

Note: Information courtesy of [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov)

# Allegheny Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

## BE AWARE AND BEWARE

Four out of five fires occur in the home and the **leading cause is cooking**, often in the first fifteen minutes. There is no safe amount of time to leave a pot unattended. Grease spills, dish towels too close to a burner and malfunctioning appliances also are risk factors.

The **number one cause of fire-related deaths** is lighted tobacco products. Everyone has heard that no smoking should ever be done in bed. However, most of these fires begin in the living room or den when a butt or ashes ignite upholstered furniture.

If a fire occurs in your home, generally there are only **TWO MINUTES** to get out safely. The former Fire Chief at Allegheny Township VFC #1, Don Nickels, has talked about how fire-fighting has changed during his 59 years of volunteering. In the beginning, most structures were wood and contents were made of natural fibers. Today, plastics and chemically-treated surfaces make up most things in the home and the air during a house fire immediately becomes toxic. Most fire-related deaths don't come from burns; they come from the results of the exposure to smoke and fumes. Breathing in even slightly contaminated air can result in mental confusion and in the disorientation, the person is not able to find a way out. Stronger fumes render a person unconscious in a very brief amount of time. Get out of the house, then call 911.

To protect yourself and your family, **take these critical steps now:**

1. Have **working** smoke alarms, particularly outside the bedrooms (and inside the bedroom if you are a heavy sleeper or are hard of hearing), at the top of stairs-including the basement stairs, and outside of the kitchen. They should be placed on the ceiling or high on the wall.
2. Have an escape plan from each room that everyone in the house knows with two ways out.
3. Practicing fire drills are essential, particularly if there are small children who might hide under the bed or in a closet, when scared. If they are trained how to react to the sound of the smoke alarm, a tragedy is less likely to occur.
4. Keep escape routes clear of objects, especially the stairs. In the panic and confusion that occurs with a fire, tripping over things adds to the risk of falls and adds to the time it will take to get out. It also creates difficulty for the fire-fighters that may need to stretch a hose through the house to get to the source of the blaze.
5. Stay under the smoke, crawling if necessary, to get out.
6. If you are in a room and there is smoke coming from under the door, the door is hot, or the doorknob is hot, **DO NOT** open the door. Stuff something at the bottom of the door to prevent the smoke from coming into the room. Go to a window and open it wide. Go out the window if you can do it safely. Otherwise, call and wait for help.
7. Have a meeting place away from the home-down at the mailbox, in a neighbor's yard, etc. It is very important that all members of the family know to go directly to that spot. You will be able to tell the fire-fighters that everyone is or is not accounted for, saving unnecessary risk to the first responders if they are, and saving precious time if they are not. Recently, at a fire in southwest PA, a father went back into the burning house looking for a missing child. The child was found safe in the backyard. The father died inside.

(Additional information on fire safety is available at NFPA.org and Kidshealth.org.)

## Markle Volunteer Fire Department

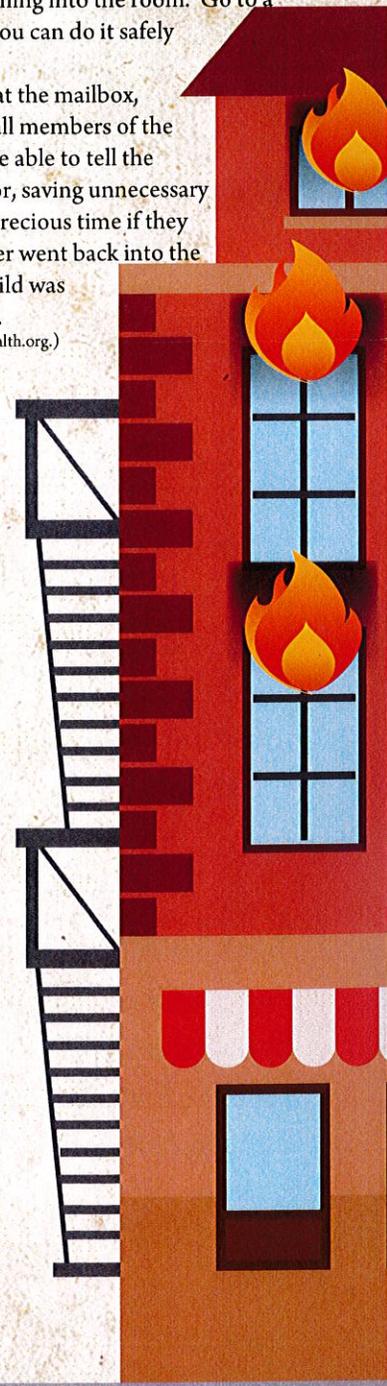
The Markle Volunteer fire Department is proud to announce several changes which have occurred over the past year. The Markle Fire Department responded to over 260 calls in the past year in Allegheny Township and surrounding communities. Members of the Markle Fire Department continuously strive to provide professional emergency response to the residents of Allegheny Township.

We were recently awarded a Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace all of our firefighting hose and nozzles. Additionally, we were able to make significant changes to our fleet in the past year: we purchased a used combination pumper and tanker truck which replaces two older vehicles and helps to streamline the fleet.

Allegheny Township donated a former police car which is used for emergency medical response calls and manpower transport. Finally, members worked to fabricate a mobile food truck and barbeque smoker trailer to use for department fundraisers.

Markle VFD has also successfully started holding "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish and Chicken dinners which occur on Fridays in lent and "All You Can Eat" Breakfasts which occur on the 2nd Sunday of every month from 8:00 to noon. We continue to have a social hall and newly refurbished kitchen available for rental. We thank everyone for their support and hope to continue into the future.

Furthermore Markle VFD is seeking new members. Members are needed to serve in various roles including but not limited to: firefighting, emergency medical response, administrative, and fundraising. Junior members can join at the age of 14 and active members can join at the age of 18. Interested members do not necessarily need to live in close proximity to one of our stations. All training is provided by the department. If you want to learn more about the Markle Fire Dept. call the station (and leave a message if no one answers) at 724-727-7114 or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Markle.vfd](http://www.facebook.com/Markle.vfd)



## GROWING OUR WAY

Allegheny Township Municipal Offices  
136 Community Bldg Rd  
Leechburg, PA 15656

724-842-4641  
724-845-9290 (fax)

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER**  
Gregory A. Primm

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT AND ZONING OFFICER:**  
Susan Teagarden

**POLICE CHIEF:**  
John Fontaine

**PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDANT:**  
Steve Kanas

Like us on Facebook and follow us on twitter at Allegheny Township, Westmoreland County

If you know of a resident who is not currently on the newsletter mailing list please, have them contact the Township office either in person, by phone at 724-842-4641 or by email at [johnston@alleghenytownship.net](mailto:johnston@alleghenytownship.net)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
VANDERGRIFT, PA  
PERMIT NO. 219



## Yard Waste Recycling

It's that time of the year again and the public works department will be providing the service of yard waste wood recycling to Township residents. All that is needed is your request for this service at the community building either by phone or in person to obtain the guide lines that need to be followed. This service will be on Mondays from October through November. The most important thing you must do is to have the branches placed along the curb line or edge of the shoulder of the road.

## Christmas Trees

The public works department will be accepting your christmas trees again at the public works building on School Road. Please place them in the grass area outside the fence. Trees will also be accepted in the side parking lot of the ambulance service station located at the old maintenance building office on Phillips Lane. You may begin to drop off your trees any time after the holiday season.