

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

March 2017

From the Supervisors: We would like to thank the many citizens that attended the two public hearings for the Spring Run conditional use application and the impact fee committee meetings in February. Even though we do not often respond directly back to your comments at the meeting, we are listening to all comments and we consider all comments before we make a decision on the subject at hand.

We believe receiving comments for or against a subject is what makes local government the most relevant government for the residents of our area. So please check our webpage at www.washtwp-franklin.org and/or the Record Herald for future meeting dates with subject matter that interests you. Your comments either written or in person at one of our meetings are always welcome.

Police Department Matters: This addition of our newsletter will provide information on a number of police matters that our Police Department would like to keep the public informed about, especially with recent scams.

Scams: Washington Township Police would like to remind our community to be aware of the many scams that have been reported to our department in the past few months. We have received multiple calls regarding individuals who have been contacted by a “sweepstakes or prize patrol”, the caller tells the individual that they have won a prize, but in order to receive the prize, the individual will need to send the sweepstakes company some funds up front to help pay for taxes or services or fees (or all of the above). The caller will generally ask the individual to purchase iTunes cards or some other type of gift card and then either text or send a photo of the card and pin numbers to the caller, or the caller will ask the individual to wire them money up front. This is a SCAM, please do not send money up front to collect a prize or money, you will not receive anything in return and you will lose the money or funds that you are sending to the SCAMMERS.

Another scam we have seen in the area is where an individual will make contact with someone (usually via the internet or social media) with regards to some type of purchase or maybe a side job. The scammer will speak with the individual and explain that they are going to send the individual a check (usually for more than the purchase price of an item or expected salary), the scammer will have the individual cash the check, tell the individual to keep a small amount to cover costs or such and ask the individual to send the remainder of the check back to the scammer, by way of gift cards or wiring the money. A day or two after the check has been cashed, and the money has been transferred to the scammer, the individual will usually receive notification from their bank that the check was no good and now the individual owes the bank the entire amount of money back. Usually these scammers are a large group of individuals that are in another country and there is no way for the victim to recover their funds.

Tax Scams: It is Tax Season too, and this is around the time the Tax Scams start showing up. In the past we have had reports of individuals receiving a telephone call from someone who claims they are with the IRS and they have a warrant for the individuals arrest if the individual does not send them funds immediately. This is a scam... The IRS will always contact you by mail and make you aware of any outstanding debts or issues with your taxes.

Identity Theft: Our Police Department has received at least 6 reports in the last two months with regard to identity theft. The victims have received notification from multiple companies that they have an unpaid bill for a credit card or account that has been opened in their name, using their identity. Washington Township Police cannot remind you enough how very important it is to safeguard your personal information. Please be sure to shred and destroy any mail or old papers that have your personal information, do not give out your personal information to anyone that you

do not know and check your credit report regularly to ensure you do not have any fraudulent activity.

Reach Out for Help: Our Officers and Office staff are available to answer your questions if you think you are a victim of a scam or maybe just not sure if the phone caller or person contacting you is of a legitimate nature. Keep in mind the old saying, “if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.” If you don’t want to ask an Officer or call our Police station, at least ask someone else you trust what they think before you send your money to anyone that you do not know. We don’t want to see you be a victim.

Free Gun Locks: The Washington Township Police Department is distributing free gun locks to encourage safe handling and storage practices of firearms. The distribution project is supported by a grant from the United States Department of Justice and managed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation in a program called “Project Child Safe”. The locks may be used on various types of firearms including rifles, revolvers, shotguns and semi-automatic handguns. Stop by the Police Station while the supply lasts to get your free gun locks.

Aggressive Driving: Washington Township Police, along with over 230 other municipal agencies and the Pennsylvania State Police, will again be participating in a campaign to target aggressive driving with a new wave beginning March 20, 2017 and running through April 30, 2017. The Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Project aims to reduce the number of aggressive driving related crashes, injuries and deaths on roadways throughout the state. Any aggressive driver stopped by police will receive a ticket. The enforcement focuses on speeding, following too closely, keeping right – passing left, and other unsafe behaviors such as driving too fast for conditions. The aggressive driving enforcement is a part of the Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Project and is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Please visit www.justdrivePA.com for more information.

Contact Information: Washington Township Police Station Administrative Office is open Monday – Friday 8-4:30, 717-762-1447. We are located at 13013 Welty Rd, Waynesboro, PA 17268. If you need to contact an Officer after hours or need to make a police report, please contact our NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH 24 hours a day at 717-762-1145 or dial 9-1-1 for an EMERGENCY.

Social Media: The Washington Township Police Department strives to constantly be engaged with the communities we serve throughout the Township. We have partnered with NIXLE, Facebook and Twitter to help keep our communities informed of important public safety and police activity information.

The NIXLE system, Washington Township Police Department Facebook page and Twitter account are used to alert our community for important public safety and police activity messages. In the past we have used these systems to inform our community about crime alerts, traffic alerts, crime prevention tips, missing/wanted persons and subjects we may be trying to identify, just to name a few of the alerts. By using these forms of social media, we are able to get the information out quickly to as many community members as we can.

NIXLE subscribers can sign up to receive instant updates via text messages and/or emails directly from Washington Township Police, no need to be logged into a computer somewhere to receive information. To sign up for NIXLE using a smart phone, text your zip code to 888777. You can also register and receive notifications online at NIXLE’s website at www.nixle.com.

Did you know even if you don’t have a Facebook account, you can still access the Official WTPD Facebook Page to see what is going on within the Township. Look us up at

www.facebook.com/washingtontownshippolicedepartment, or search Facebook for Washington Township Police Department. If you are a “tweeter”, follow us on Twitter, our handle is @WTPD_Franklin.
www.nixle.com
www.facebook.com/washingtontownshippolicedepartment
https://twitter.com/WTPD_Franklin

Blue Ridge Lions Club: On February 6, 2017 the Lions Club Park off of Charmian Road became a Township Park. If you are interested in renting the pavilion please contact the Township Office at 717-762-3128 to make reservations. When you see a Blue Ridge Lions Club member thank them for keeping the park open for the public to enjoy for years to come.

Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries: It is recommended by fire companies that people change batteries in their battery-powered smoke detectors twice a year when the time changes. Since the time changes on March 12th, we would like to once again remind individuals to change the batteries in their smoke detectors.

If you need help checking your batteries, or if you would like additional information, call your local fire company. Each fire company in our area is willing to come to your home to assist you with your smoke detector.

Tax Collector News: The 2017 Franklin County/Washington Township real estate notices (bills) will be mailed on March 1st, 2017. Anyone who has not received notice for his or her property by the end of the first week of March should contact the tax collector, Don Ambrose at 762-1760.

Please keep in mind that the tax collector’s office is in the gray administrative building directly behind the white building where the police officers are located on Welty Road. The tax office door is located on the south facing side of the gray building and is marked with a sign. There is a night deposit box by the door for after-hour drop offs. In March Mr. Ambrose’s office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until noon or by appointment, which can be set by calling the tax office at the above listed number.

Extended hours in **APRIL** are as follows:

Tuesday & Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm

Thursday 9 am - 1 pm and 5 - 7 pm

Saturday 9 am - noon.

March Dates to Remember

6 & 20: Supervisors Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

7 & 21: WTMA Meetings – 7:15 p.m.

13: Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

15 & 29: Supervisors Workshop – 7:00 p.m.

27: Zoning Hearing Board (if needed) – 7:30 p.m.