



# Leet Township Newsletter

198 Ambridge Avenue  
Fair Oaks, PA 15003  
724-266-2280  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday -Friday

Summer 2019



Visit our website: [leettownship.org](http://leettownship.org).

## Leet Township Commissioners

**Gary L. Bradel**  
President  
**John J. Stephansky**  
Vice President

Donna Adipietro  
James Janaszek  
Jeff Besong

## Leet Township Contact Information

Betsy Rengers, Township Manager, Right to Know Officer 724-266-2280, ext. 1

Cindy Phillips, Treasurer 724-266-2280, ext. 2

Bill Wanto, Chief of Police Non-emergency: 724-266-6141

Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire Department: Mark Brooks, Fire Chief Non-emergency: 724-266-6133

Leet Township Public Works: Andy Wanto, Foreman: 724-266-8072

Leet Township Municipal Authority (sewer): Elaine Macurak, Assist. Secretary: 724-266-8516

Cindy Wanto, Tax Collector, 724-266-2280, ext. 3

Building Inspector, Brain Hill 412-766-2565

Code Enforcement Andy Wanto: 724-266-8072

Leet Township Emergency Management Coordinator Dave Volk: 412-225-6177

## Thanks to Gary Bradel and the Sewickley VFW for War Memorial



Thank you to Gary Bradel and the Sewickley VFW for a generous donation, in the amount of \$10,000.00, to be used to build a new War Memorial. The Township is in the process of collecting names and creating a design for the new memorial.

## Leet Township Honor Roll Throughout the Years



Dedicated on October 6, 1946, the first Honor Roll was built and maintained by the Woman's Club along with the Fire Department.

In the early 1980's, a movement began to update and repair the memorial. As fate would have it, in 1982, a van crashed into the memorial and it was destroyed. A committee was formed and plans for a new memorial began.



On November 11, 1982, the new Honor Roll was dedicated. The Township held a parade and it included the Police car, Fire Truck, Quaker Valley High School Marching Band, and Veterans whose names appeared on the Honor Roll. This Honor Roll was torn down when the Township Building was renovated in 1992.

Today's Honor Roll is in desperate need of repair and the names need to be updated. The Township has started a War Memorial Fund with the donation from Mr. Bradel and the Sewickley VFW and will continue to take donations. The Township is currently in the design phase of this project.





**Leet Township Police Department**  
**Non emergency: 724-266-6141**

Chief William Wanto  
Lieutenant Robert Simmons

Officer Ron Wilson  
Officer Angel Moore  
Officer Shawn English  
Officer Nate Swierkosz

Officer Mike Molinaro  
Officer Barry McQuaid  
Officer Mike Pzenny

### Formation of the Leet Township Police Department

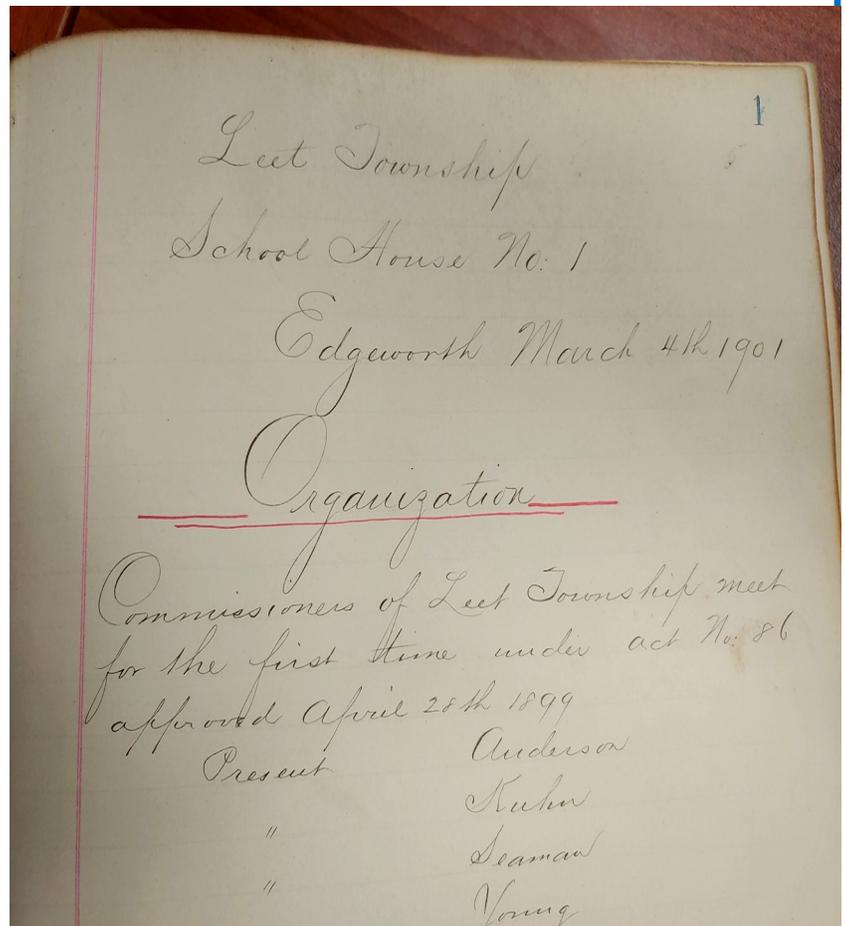
Recently I've had an opportunity to conduct a great deal of research for the Township's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One of my research topics was the Police Department. I came across many facts through the years. I was completely glued to a 118-year-old book of Leet Township Commissioners meeting minutes dating back to 1901 through 1929. This was a time when Edgeworth and Leetsdale were neighborhoods in Leet Township along with Fair Oaks and Quaker Valley. As a matter of fact, the Commissioners meetings were held in School House #1 in Edgeworth. That building is still standing and visible from Beaver St.

The Leet Township Police Department was formed in September of 1902. A motion was made by M. Cague and seconded by W. Kuhn to create the department. George W. Foulks was appointed Chief at a salary of \$70.00 per month. Two additional Policemen were hired at that time. Officer Elleman and an Officer to be named later were paid \$50.00 per month. One noteworthy reason for the Police Department's creation was the number of vagrants and crimes committed by them. Other reasons cited included dog control (rabies was a problem then) and one prime mission of the department was to light the gas street lamps at dusk.

In Dec. 1902, the department added another Officer (Henson) bringing the total to four. In 1903, due to lawlessness in Leetsdale and Fair Oaks, three additional special police were added. As you can see in the photos of minutes, the police reported several intoxicated individuals hit by trains at crossings. In another report in 1904, Police reported illegal sales of liquor, firearms violations, and two "highway" robberies. Another photo shows the hiring of a Jail keeper in October of 1903. The candidate could not be a family man and was paid \$40.00 per month. At that time the jail was located on Broad St. in Leetsdale.

When Edgeworth and Leetsdale separated from Leet Township in 1904, both municipalities petitioned Leet Township to continue providing police service until 1911. An interesting fact...in 1903, if you needed a policeman, you had to find them or have them summoned from the station as there was no other means of communication. Policemen were also reimbursed for horse feed and livery charges. I could go on about this history forever and I'm only at 1911! If you're a history buff feel free to stop at the Township building and read the minutes. You will be intrigued. I will have more in the next newsletter.

~Chief Wanto





**Fair Oaks Fire Department**  
190 Ambridge Avenue  
Fair Oaks, PA 15003  
Non-emergency:  
724-266-6133  
[www.fovfd.org](http://www.fovfd.org)  
Fire Chief: Mark Brooks



Join us for

### Pizza with the Police!

Leet Township Police Department will host a pizza party for Township Residents. Learn about your Police Department.... This is a great opportunity for residents to meet with the Police and let them know your concerns. Also, become updated on any crime trends.

Thursday, July 25th at 6 p.m.  
at the Leet Township Municipal Building  
198 Ambridge Ave  
Fair Oaks, PA 15003

## Leet Township Honors Gary Bradel for over 40 Years of Service

The Leet Township Team would like to thank Gary Bradel for his dedication to the Township with over 40 years of service. Gary's immense knowledge of Township history is unsurpassed. Gary was instrumental in building the Township into what it is today. Gary's daughter Kerilee Bradel –Medwid is following in her father's footsteps and is running for Township Commissioner. She will be on the ballot in November.

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

### *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Gary L. Bradel is retiring at the end of his term on December 31, 2019 as President of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners after more than 40 years of dedicated service to the residents of his community as an elected official; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Bradel, who grew up in Sewickley Hills, has made an enormously positive difference throughout his distinguished life; he served as a Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class Corporal in the Army Artillery and protected the border during the Berlin Crisis of 1961; he is Vice Commander of the Sewickley VFW, a Master Mason, a Shriner, an usher at Sewickley United Methodist Church, and an elder at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Sewickley; and

**WHEREAS**, since Commissioner Bradel began on the Leet Township Board, he has worked tirelessly to improve his community; he was instrumental in building the township's Public Works Department from a single resident repairing roads to two full-time workers, two part-time workers, and a foreman with a backhoe, two dump trucks, and a pickup truck; he also transformed its Police Department from one officer and an old car to a chief and four full-time officers; and

**WHEREAS**, when Commissioner Bradel retires, he will leave behind a legacy of service, cooperation, and friendship, and his impact on Leet Township will be felt for generations; as a testament to the esteem in which he is held by other local leaders and members of his community, they are celebrating him during the community's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House on June 26, 2019; and

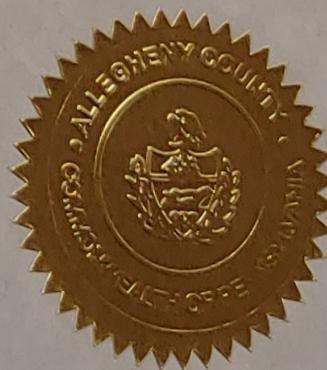
**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is immensely grateful to Commissioner Bradel for his incredible leadership and passion for bettering the lives of those in his community; we thank him for his service to Leet Township, this region, and this nation, and we wish him health, happiness, and all the best as he begins to enjoy the fruits of his well-earned retirement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim June 26, 2019, as "Gary L. Bradel Day" in Allegheny County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019.



*Rich Fitzgerald*  
RICH FITZGERALD



## LEET TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

ANDY WANTO, Foreman

724-266-8072

Department Hours: Monday –Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Leet Township Awarded \$65,000 Sidewalk Grant

Leet Township applied for and was awarded a \$65,000.00 grant from the Community Development Block Grant. The grant will be used to replace sidewalks along Ambridge Avenue from Willow Street to Bell Acres. Residents whose sidewalks will be effected where notified and a meeting was held with the Township Engineer to discuss the design of the project. Once the design is complete, another meeting will be held to discuss any issues the residents may have.

### Code Enforcement in Leet Township

Leet Township requires that all complaints regarding code enforcement are made in writing. Once a complaint is received, the Township responds by contacting the property owner to discuss the issue. Contact may be made by knocking on the door and talking to the resident in person, sending a letter through the mail or making a phone call. The Township tries to work with the homeowner to correct the problem before issuing a citation. The Township responds to every complaint. If an agreement cannot be reached with the home owner, the Township will file a citation with the Magistrate.

### Happy 150th Birthday Leet!



**Be the solution...**



**...to water pollution!**

Please be aware that our storm sewers drain directly into our local creeks and waterways! Pesticides, fertilizers, dirt, soap, and debris has an adverse effect on water quality.



# 2019 Vacant Property Recovery Program

For a limited time only, applicants to the 2019 Side Yard and Blighted Structure program living in Leet can acquire vacant lots and structures at a discounted cost through Allegheny County's Vacant Property Recovery Program.

The county is accepting applications from individuals, businesses, non-profits, or government entities for the program. Only one application will be accepted per applicant or household. Applications will be accepted in the order in which they are received and are limited to five per municipality and 60 total. The Redevelopment Authority may increase those limits at its discretion.

No payments are required at the time of application. Please do not submit the Good Faith Deposit or any other payment with your application.

The following items must be submitted with an application for it to be considered complete:

- ✓ Application Form: Must be signed and dated by all applicants. Must be fully completed, including the proposed re-use plan and estimated costs to acquire and develop the property.
- ✓ Proof of Financing: Can include a bank statement, letter from a bank, letter of credit/line of credit, etc. Must be sufficient to cover the estimated costs to acquire and develop the property.
- ✓ Photographs: A minimum of two color photographs of the exterior of the property.
- ✓ Conflict of Interest Form: Must be completed, signed, and dated by all applicants. The Municipal Official does not need to sign at the time of application.
- ✓ All Information Required in Parcels with Existing/Future Structures Policy (if applicable).
- ✓ Proof of 501(c)(3) Status (if applicant is a non-profit organization).
- ✓ Proof of Programming for General Public (if applicant is a Faith Based Organization): Must submit proof that programming is available to the general public that does not proselytize.

Applications must be postmarked by **September 30, 2019** and mailed to:

Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program – Applications  
One Chatham Center, Suite 900  
112 Washington Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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For additional information, or to request an application, please call **412-350-1090** or visit the Vacant Property Recovery Program's webpage at **[www.alleghenycounty.us/VPRP](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/VPRP)**

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the program, applicants:

- Must be current on taxes, water, sewage, and refuse bills on all properties owned in Allegheny County;
- Must not have any outstanding code violations or municipal liens on properties owned in Allegheny County; and
- Cannot have acquired or be in the process of acquiring a property through the 2017 Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program.

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## PROPERTY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applications are subject to all requirements under the program policies. Property eligibility will be determined on a case by case basis based upon consideration of a variety of factors related to blight. To be eligible for the program, a property must at a minimum meet all preliminary eligibility requirements, including:

- Be a vacant lot or vacant structure;
- Have at least three years of tax delinquency; and
- Be located in a participating municipality that has submitted the required program marketing plan.

Applications may be subject to additional eligibility requirements.

## BUILDING AND OCCUPANCY PERMITS

A Zoning or Building Permit must be obtained from the Building Inspector before any existing or proposed building or alteration is made. This includes changes of **grade, walls, fences, swimming pools, driveways, decks**, etc.

Occupancy Permits are required with each and every change in occupancy and annually if you are a landlord.

For building or occupancy permits or if you have a question pertaining to either, please call Leet Township Building Inspector Brian Hill at (412) 766-2565.

## Upcoming Events

**Movie Night: July 18th at Quaker Heights Park.** Join us for a movie and refreshments.  
Bring your chairs/weather permitting

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**Pizza with Police**  
Thursday, July 25 at 6 p.m.  
Leet Township Municipal Building  
198 Ambridge Ave.  
Open to residents.

# Looking for a way to conveniently dispose of your household hazardous waste safely, easily and responsibly?

## Residents have access to Waste Management's At Your Door Special Collection Service

This service is in addition to your waste and recycling service from Waste Management. No additional cost to participate. Visit [www.WMAYourDoor.com](http://www.WMAYourDoor.com) or call 1-800-449-7587 for more information.

