



Leet Township Newsletter

194 Ambridge Avenue
Fair Oaks, PA 15003
724-266-2280



Summer 2022

Visit our website: leettownship.org.

A Message to Residents from the Leet Township Board of Township Commissioners

In our previous Newsletter Message to you earlier this year, the new Board's goal was to re-evaluate many aspects of our local government to increase efficiency and accountability. We wanted to take a fresh look at various aspects of how the Township operates and not just rubberstamp what has been traditionally the norm. We will continue to uphold *the Rule of Law* and make decisions in the best interests of the majority of our residents and not any particular person or group. It is our responsibility to provide transparency of Leet Township's local government. We recently were faced with having to investigate a serious personnel matter. It's taken longer than anticipated due to circumstances beyond our control. We hope this matter can soon come to closure. It's the unanimous decision of the Board of Commissioners that your tax dollars are spent wisely and with accountability.

At the March 14, 2022, regular meeting, the Leet Township Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to begin an independent investigation into Police matters brought to their attention. To preserve the integrity of that investigation, it was necessary for the Board to place Chief Michael Molinaro on paid administrative leave at a duly advertised Special Meeting held on Friday, April 15, 2022. This action was not for disciplinary reasons. At the same meeting, the Board appointed Stephen Panormios as interim Chief. The residents of Leet Township will not experience any reduction in services.

Upon the completion of the independent investigation, the Board of Commissioners will review the results and take any actions that may be required. The Board is always committed to protecting the interests of Leet Township and all of its residents.

We have been very busy in the last six months and so far we have:

- Appointed a new *Civil Service Commission* and adopted new updated rules and regulations on hiring and disciplining of police officers according to State Law. The old rules and procedures were antiquated and out of compliance for years.
- Interviewed a number of individuals and firms for the positions of Zoning Officer, Building Code Official and Occupancy Permit Inspector. As of July 1st, the current inspection firm of Building Inspection Underwriters (BIU) will be replaced by: The *QV COG Zoning Technical Assistance Program – Chris Rearick*, who has 20 years of experience in municipal planning, will serve as the zoning officer. *Professional Code Services, Inc.* will serve as the building code official. Independent contractor *Dan Burns* will conduct the annual residential rental unit safety inspections. The Board of Commissioners eliminated the occupancy inspection at the time homes are sold as this was in most cases a duplication of other inspections and it is a private matter between the buyer and seller.

A Message to Residents from the Board of Township Commissioners

- Interviewed a number of computer firms to upgrade and secure the Public Safety and Administrative Computers. Leet Township had no professional IT support or person qualified to design a system and to keep anti-virus software up to date, ensure proper back-ups, encryption of data and protect sensitive data from cyber- hacking. The current computer system would not pass any IT compliance audit. ***Up and Running Computers. Inc.*** of Beaver, with extensive experience with municipal Administrative and Public Safety computer systems has been retained.
- Interviewed a number of civil engineering firms and appointed ***Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering (LSSE)Engineering (LSSE)*** of Coraopolis. LSSE is a full service engineering firm that consists of specialists in roads and pavement including traffic engineering, storm water management, developer reviews, parks and grant administration. LSSE has over 90 municipal clients of all sizes and a staff of over 100 with 16 Professional Engineers and 14 Engineers-in-Training with an emphasis on quality and client satisfaction. LSSE has a proven track record in having an excellent relationship with Federal, State, County and Local Agencies. LSSE replaces Nichols and Slagle Engineering as the Township Engineer.
- Reviewed proposals from several accounting firms to conduct the annual independent audit of the Township's finances and produce the yearly financial report. ***Mark C. Turnley, Certified Public Accountant*** of New Brighton who has over 30 municipal clients was appointed to replace O'Connor, Pagano and Associates. Also reviewed several proposals for banking services and decided to retain the ***First National Bank*** as the Township depository.
- Appointed ***Jordan Tax Service*** to be the collection agency for Real Estate Tax collection. This enables the Township to receive taxes timelier as well as more economically and efficiently as they are already collecting the School District Taxes.
- Continuing work on employee performance evaluations; planning long overdue capital equipment purchases and projects by the development of a multi-year capital budget with a depreciation schedule; and a long range space plan for municipal buildings.

Respectfully,

Martin C. McDaniel, President

Carolyn Verszyla, Vice-President

Rody Nash

Daniel Peluso

John Stephansky

Board of Commissioners Recognize Leet Township Volunteers

We would like to continue to recognize volunteers and organizations in the Township and thank certain residents for their continued service and contribution to the community. Please consider volunteering. Volunteer opportunities will appear on the Township web site from time to time.

Civil Service Commission

Members: Tom Weber, Chair; William Bubb, Vice-Chair; Don Birnie, Secretary; John Mook, Alternate 1; Katherine Longwell, Alternate 2

In Leet Township, the main function of the CSC is to formulate rules and regulations for the testing of all police officers to be hired and promoted on the basis of professional merit according to State law. Another responsibility of the CSC is to serve as the appeal board in the event of disciplinary action by the Township against a police officer.

All the current CSC members were recently appointed for the first time. Their task was to get organized and develop updated application and testing procedures. They have retained their own independent Solicitor for legal advice and a testing consultant to insure impartiality in the hiring process. The first round of physical agility and written testing will take place in July. Oral examinations conducted by a panel of municipal police chiefs will follow as well as thorough background investigations.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Commission members for the tremendous amount of effort and hours spent over the few months by stepping up to the task at hand to preserve the integrity of the civil service process.

Join our Notification System: Swift 911

Go to <http://leettownship.org/> to add your contact information to Leet Township Swift 911 to receive emergency notifications and announcements from the Township.



Leet Township War Memorial

The Leet Township War Memorial Committee has been working towards the design of the new War Memorial, the layout, and the location. The Committee is working on the Budget and are still seeking donations. If you would like to donate to this fund, please make your check payable to Leet Township and mail it or drop it off at 194 Ambridge Ave, Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Be sure to put "War Memorial Donation" in the memo line. Thank you!



Leet Township Police Department
194 Ambridge Avenue
Fair Oaks, PA 15003

Interim Chief Stephen Panormios
Sr. Officer Ron Wilson

Officer Charles Galzarano
Officer Jimmy Lema
Officer Nick Vigliotti

Officer Barry McQuaid
Officer Mike Pszeny

How to Recognize Phishing and Scams

Scammers use email or text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information. They may try to steal your passwords, account numbers, or Social Security numbers. If they get that information, they could gain access to your email, bank, or other accounts. Scammers launch thousands of phishing attacks like these every day—and they're often successful. The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center reported that people lost \$57 million to phishing schemes in one year.

Scammers often update their tactics, but there are some signs that will help you recognize a phishing email or text message.

Phishing emails and text messages may look like they're from a company you know or trust. They may look like they're from a bank, a credit card company, the IRS, a social networking site, an online payment website or app, or an online store.

Phishing emails and text messages often tell a story to trick you into clicking on a link or opening an attachment. They may

- say they've noticed some suspicious activity or log-in attempts.
- Claim there's a problem with your account or your payment information.
- say you must confirm some personal information and include a fake invoice.
- want you to click on a link to make a payment, say you're eligible to register for government refund or offer a coupon for free items.

Four Steps to Protect Yourself From Phishing

1. **Protect your computer by using security software.** Set the software to update automatically so it can deal with any new security threats.
2. **Protect your mobile phone by setting software to update automatically.** These updates could give you critical protection against security threats.
3. **Protect your accounts by using multi-factor authentication.** Some accounts offer extra security by requiring two or more credentials to log into your account. This is called multi-factor authentication. The additional credentials you need to log in to your account fall into two categories:
 - Something you have—like a passcode you get via text message or an authentication app.
 - Something you are—like a scan of your fingerprint, your retina, or your face.

Multifactor authentication makes it harder for scammers to log into your accounts if they do get your username and password.

4. **Protect your data by backing it up.** Back up your data and make sure those backups aren't connected to your home network. You can copy your computer files to an external hard drive or cloud storage.



Fair Oaks Fire Department
190 Ambridge Avenue
Fair Oaks, PA 15003
Non-emergency:
724-266-6133
www.fovfd.org
Fire Chief: Nathan Turner



Make a difference Become a Firefighter

*Fair Oaks Volunteer
Fire Department*

190 Ambridge Ave
Fair Oaks, PA 15003

Monthly Meetings
4th Monday at 7pm



We have Appointed a few new Agencies to work with Leet Township

Building Inspector:

Professional Code Services, Inc.

4035 Gibsonia Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724-449-2661

www.pcs-codes.com

Building permits can be found on Leet Township's website or can be picked up from the Township Building

Zoning Officer:

QV COG Zoning Technical Assistance Program

Chris Rearick

Zoning permits can't be found on Leet Township's website or can be picked up from the Township Building

Occupancy Inspections:

Dan Burns

Please contact Leet Township Administration to schedule.

Please note, beginning July 1, 2022 occupancy certificates are required for rental properties only. Leet Township no longer requires an occupancy permit for house sales.



Building Permits

Please be aware that if you are making any alteration to your home, a building permit may be required. This includes retaining walls, fences and driveways. Leet Township has several ordinances regarding this issue.

Residents who live along Big Sewickley Creek fall under the Township's Flood Plain Ordinance. The Ordinance has very strict guidelines on home improvements.

Homes located along Big Sewickley Creek fall under FEMA's FIRM (Flood Rate Insurance Map) MAP. You may look up your address to see if you fall within the FEMA flood zone at the link below:

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>

Please contact the Township office at 724-266-2280 opt. 1 for more information on the ordinances and flood zones.

LEET TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Foreman: Andy Wanto

724-266-8072

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

Ways You Can Help Keep Our Stormwater Clean

Your actions make a difference!

ROOF RUNOFF

Install a Rain Barrel

Rain Barrels help divert roof runoff. The rainwater can later be used to water your plants and lawn.

LAWN RUNOFF

Protect Marine Life

Use fertilizer responsibly. Fertilizer runoff travels through stormwater drains to our watersheds. This causes toxic algae blooms and is harmful to marine life.

FERTILIZER

Please Pick Up After Your Pet

- A single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, some of which cause diseases in humans
- Waters that contain high levels of bacteria and other pathogens from animal waste are unfit for human contact.
- As pet waste decays, it uses up oxygen that fish and aquatic life need. Pet waste contains nutrients that can cause excessive growth of algae and weeds.

PET WASTE

MOTOR OIL

STREET RUNOFF

no dumping



drains to stream

LEET TOWNSHIP

2022 Upcoming Dates

July 11, 2022 : Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting @ 7:00 pm 194 Ambridge Ave, Fair Oaks, PA 15003

July 12, 2022: Civil Service Commission Regular Meeting @ 7:00 pm 194 Ambridge Ave, Fair Oaks, PA 15003

July 28, 2022: Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003

August 8, 2022: Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting @ 7:00 pm 194 Ambridge Ave, Fair Oaks, PA 15003

Leet Township Contact Information

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

Jessica Leety, Administrative Assistant
724-266-2280 option 2

Steve Panormios, Interim Chief of Police
Non-emergency: 724-266-6141

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

Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire Department: Chief Nathan Turner
Non-emergency:724-266-6133

Leet Township Municipal Authority (sewer):
724-266-8516

Deputy Tax Collector, Jordan Tax Services: 724-731-2300

Building Inspector:
PCS: 724-449-2661

Betsy Rengers, Code Enforcement Officer,
724-266-2280 x1

Reminder: Trash and Recycling pickup is on Fridays. Please remember to place cans by 6:00am Friday

Be sure to properly dispose of your household hazardous waste.



Contact Waste Management to use the At Your Door Special Collection Service

Call 1-800-449-7587 or visit www.WMAtYourDoor.com for more information

Available to residents at no additional cost to participate.

At Your Door
Special Collection™

WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT®