POTTER TOWNSHIP NEWS

A quarterly publication of Potter Township, Beaver County Fall 2015

REGULATIONS FLOOD MUNICIPALITIES

Very few Potter residents or businesses are found in the township's official flood plain – areas mainly along Raccoon Creek that are prone to regular cycles of high water and its accompanying damage. Flooding, however, is a major problem in most municipalities in Pennsylvania and around the country. While local governments often protest the intrusion of state and federal regulations, there is a growing movement, especially by the federal government, to regulate water runoff and water uses related to WOTUS, the "waters of the US", in part to prevent unnecessary and costly flooding that results in loss of property and life. Stormwater concerns at the federal Environmental Protection Agency have spawned an increase in state Dept of Environmental Protection policies that permit and regulate runoff from residential and commercial properties alike. Even small local governments are now expected to be at the forefront of management and compliance efforts. For the current 5-year permitting cycle, Potter is under a low-population waiver that allows us to bypass these regulations, but soon every community of any size will be required to implement them.

By 2018, Potter is likely to be designated an "MS4 Community" – MS4 is short for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System – which means that we will be liable to map, measure, test and manage every discharge in our township that could eventually reach Raccoon Creek or the Ohio River, both high-value watersheds, or face penalties: these typically begin at $50k and can reach the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Already, Potter has enacted ordinances to address sewage and septic issues, stormwater management and floodplains. Our new zoning ordinance designates land along Raccoon Creek as a Natural Heritage District, which will help preserve a natural filter for runoff before it approaches the waterway. We are learning how to maintain road and public works operations in a compliant manner and will share information with the public to help individual property owners control discharges from downspouts, limit the area of impermeable surfaces on the property, develop effective "rain gardens" to filter stormwater, and prevent chemicals and petroleum from reaching streams.

This summer, our township took a giant step into the future by using GIS technology to do some mapping and to spot trends for planning purposes. GIS will be a valuable tool when we apply for our first MS4 permit and are required to identify every roadside catch basin and each river or stream discharge point. Expect to see officials, volunteers, and township staff making use of technology to solve the stormwater dilemma!

Phone Numbers

Potter Township Office	724-495-6220
Potter Township Fax	724-495-3222
Emergency	**911**
Police—non-emergency	724-774-0271
Fire - non-emergency	724-495-3364
Animal Control	724-775-5801
Central Valley School District	
Central Valley Office	724-775-5600
Central Valley High School	724-775-4300
Central Valley Middle School	724-775-8200
Todd Lane Elementary	724-775-1050
Center Grange Primary School	724-775-8201
Latch Key Program	724-774-7020
Utilities	
Duquesne Light Co.	412-393-7100
Peoples Natural Gas	800-764-0111
Center Township Water Authority	724-774-7960
Municipal Water Auth of Aliquippa	724-375-5525
PennDOT	724-774-6610

Township Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	10am—4pm
Thursday	10am—2pm
Friday	10am—1pm

Real Estate Tax Office hours

Thursday 8am—10am
During discount periods

Board of Supervisors

Rebecca Matsco, Chair
Earl Shamp
Al Cwynar

Work Sessions:
1st/3rd/5thWednesday, 6pm
Regular Meetings:
2nd/4th Wednesday, 6pm

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Potter Township Trick or Treat

Saturday, October 31st
5:30 pm — 7:30 pm

Drivers:

Please drive slowly and watch out for the kids trick or treating!

Trick or Treaters:

Fasten reflective tape to costumes & bags to help drivers see you!
Always WALK and don't run from house to house!
Look both ways before crossing the street!

The Potter Township Recreation Board will host its annual

Golden Fifties Dinner on Saturday, November 7th

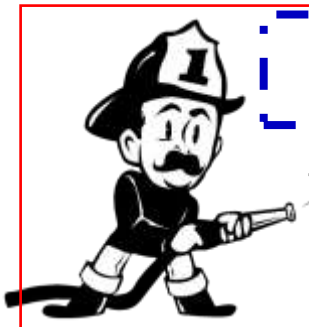
at the Potter Township Municipal Building!

Doors open at 4:30 pm and dinner to be served at 5:00 pm

All residents 50 and over are invited!

Mark your calendars and make plans to have a fun dinner with all your neighbors.

Holiday Bingo
December 4th
6:30pm



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Thanks to the Shell Corporation, the Potter Township VFD has a wonderful newly paved driveway!
Special thanks to Maxxco for doing the prep work!
Awesome job by everyone and greatly appreciated!!!

Thanks and congratulations to **Zach Pfaff** on his **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**! He an his crew reclaimed the hillside behind the fire department building and made us a picnic area complete with a personalized fire ring and picnic tables!

Our Fund Raising efforts continue with the **"HAPPY HOLIDAYS"** ticket now being sold. The ticket is $5.00 for two numbers based on the PA Lottery Pick 3 - 7 pm drawing on November 10, 2015. Tickets are available from any fire department member or the township office.
We will also be having a soup and bake sale on Election Day. Any donation of baked goods is appreciated. Come down to vote and buy some goodies!!

TOT Finder and **Pet** stickers are now available from the Fire Department. Give us a call or stop in to get them. Fire safety is important—have a **FIRE DRILL** with your children—teach them to **STOP, DROP & ROLL**—teach them how to call **911**!

Trick or Treat is Saturday, October 31 from 5:30—7:30pm. Your fire department members will be patrolling the neighborhoods to keep you and your family safe. Do not hesitate to stop and say "Hi" - **we like candy too!!!!**

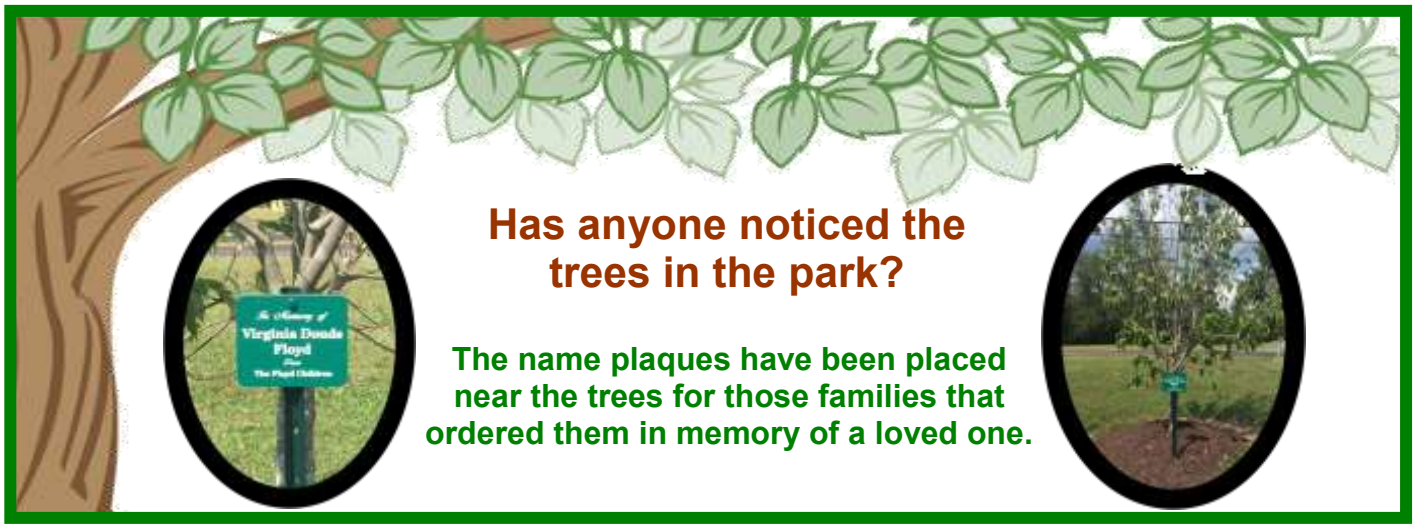
As always, we are looking for people interested in serving their community. We are volunteers and give up a lot of our time training and fundraising, but we are proud to be part of the Potter Township Community! **TUESDAY NIGHTS** you can usually find us at the **FIRE STATION** — so...
STOP ON DOWN and visit us!

It was a beautiful day for Potter Township's 4th Annual Family Reunion Picnic!

The theme this year was Augustfest with loads of delicious German foods, desserts, drinks and music! The kids enjoyed hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy and a bounce house!

Ann Simmons was acknowledged for her 40 years serving the Township with a memorial bench in the park.

Ann & her family enjoying her bench!



WINTER WEATHER TIPS

- Check your mailbox now to make sure it is firmly secured in the ground and can withstand the weight of snow being tossed from a plow. The Township is not liable for damaged mailboxes.
- When winter weather is predicted, if possible, do not park on the road so the snowplow can get through safely and do a thorough job.
- Do not plow or shovel snow on the road. Place the snow on the side of your driveway opposite the direction the plow will travel. This way, the plow will carry snow away from your driveway rather than back into it.
- If possible, wait until the road has been completely plowed before cleaning out your driveway to avoid the plow closing your driveway.

SLOW DOWN—DEER SEASON

Deer are very active in the fall, as this is their breeding season. When driving, keep in mind that a deer could **jump out in front of your vehicle at a moment's notice.** Be watchful of this and slow down so you can stop safely if this occurs.

PENNSYLVANIA LAWS FOR ATVs

The state of Pennsylvania allows residents to own and operate all-terrain vehicles. Pennsylvania requires all ATV drivers to limit their riding to areas where ATV driving is permitted by law. Pennsylvania has numerous trails located on state property that may be enjoyed by registered ATV drivers.

— OPERATION —

All-terrain vehicles are prohibited from operating on public highways, streets and roads. Pennsylvania allows ATVs to be used on trails found on state-owned property as long as the trail is clearly marked for such use. Specific highways and roads may be used for ATV operation if designated for such use by the governing authority in the area. All-terrain vehicles may be used on private property with consent from the property owner. All ATVs must be titled and registered. Every ATV must have its own numbered plate, and you must renew the registration every two years.

— ROAD CROSSING —

ATVs are permitted to cross streets and two-lane highways, but must follow specific guidelines to do so. The ATV must cross at a 90-degree angle to the direction of the street. The driver must cross at a place that is free from obstruction and allows for safe and quick passage to the other side. The ATV must be brought to a complete stop prior to crossing. Oncoming traffic maintains the right-of-way on the road if such traffic constitutes a driving hazard. If an ATV driver crosses a two-lane highway, the crossing must occur at an intersection between the highway and another road or highway.

— FINES & ENFORCEMENT —

All law enforcement officials in the state of Pennsylvania have authority over ATV operation. Local and municipal authorities oversee ATV use on private property. First offense fines for violating ATV laws are subject to penalties of $50 to $200 plus the cost of prosecution. Fines of $100 to $300 plus the cost of prosecution are applied to second offenses.

Potter Township

Potter Township Municipal Office
206 Mowry Road
Monaca, PA 15061

Phone: 724-495-6220
Fax: 724-495-3222
Email: christie@pottertwp.comcastbiz.net
Website: pottertwp-pa.gov.org

Corn Shock Walk

Saturday October 24 — 2 - 4 PM
at Potter Township's

Tank farm

FREE

Follow the Loop Trail from shock to shock!
Hike down to Alum Rock!
Cider & donuts reward your walk!

Coming soon:

- the Raccoon Creek Greenway
- Rocky Bottom Public Access Area
- Tank Farm Recreation Area

Find out more at the Corn Shock Walk!

Call 724-316-3417 or 724-495-6220
to volunteer

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Sponsored by Independence Conservancy and Potter Township

Independence Conservancy