

VOICE OF SEWICKLEY

YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has seen many changes in the Township; services to the residents through improved communications, personnel changes, Recreation, Crabapple Park and Pool as well as revenues for the Township.

Improved Communications:

The Township now has its own website, www.sewickleytownship.org. This was accomplished in house by the Township Recreation Director, Janet Schork at a minimal cost. This site contains information regarding township business, such as ordinances, zoning, job applications, recreation and much more. The website is always being upgraded to give residents the most current information.

We also have, thanks to the hard work of our Recreation Board, an electronic message board located at West Newton/Lowber Road. The board is used to inform residents of events and programs offered in the Township.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS:

The Township received \$150,000 last year and \$100,000 this year from Westmoreland County CDBG Grant Money. This money has enabled us to pave the following roads due to damage by the sewage lines:

Church Street Alley

8th Street

Library Alley

South 2nd Street

Part of Main Street Alley

We have a balance of \$67,696.69 to enable us to continue paving in the Spring.

Liquid Fuel money was used to pave Rillton Guffy Road and a portion of Fire Hall Lane.

Millings were used to repair Brunazzi Road.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

The Township has implemented an annual evaluation of all non-union employees.

The Road Crew was increased by one full time employee, Robert Kardos. Bob is an outstanding addition to our team bringing with him mechanical skills as well as operator of the various equipment.

Janet Schork was appointed Recreation Director, performing many duties that include managing Crabapple Park and Pool, as well as website management. She is doing an outstanding job and we appreciate all her hard work.

RECREATION

The Recreation Board has provided many activities for the community this last year, where do we start! They sponsored five dances at the Recreation Center throughout the year, Christmas Party, Movie Nights, Swim Nights, Fishing Derby, Easter Egg Hunt and many other events. They are now in the process of planning a New Summer Event for late July that I'm sure everyone will enjoy. Watch for more information coming soon. Up coming Dances will be held Feb. 23rd, March 30th and April 27th 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Grades Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. Admission \$5.00.

CRABAPPLE PARK & POOL

The Park & Pool area looked great last year with the new improvements. The lounge chairs and umbrellas that were added were a great success. Attendance and concession sales hit new highs. We are hoping to build on that success in the upcoming year. At the close of the swim season ,we replaced the pump house roof which was in bad shape.

REVENUES

Sewickley Township was able to balance their budget and maintain a cash reserve while holding taxes at their current rate. (Bottom line no tax increase, balanced budget and money in the bank.) None of the revenues listed below had to be used to balance our budget.

Marcellus Gas Fund (Act 13) arrived in 2012. Sewickley Township received approximately \$142,000. This money has been set up in a dedicated account. The state permits us to use this money in several different ways. We have not disbursed any funds from this account.

The Township entered into a "No Drill Lease" agreement with Chevron for over 100 acres of Township property. The Township received \$105,000 for this lease.

Another source of revenue was a tax abatement provided by Westmoreland County Economic Development that will provide \$614,000 over the next few years. Because the Township was owed back payment on this money we received this year approximately \$196,000 in 2012. We will receive in May of each year approximately \$46,000 for the next several years.

SUMMATION

With a balanced budget and adequate Cash Reserve, the Township is in a position to make improvements in our Township without raising taxes.

The Supervisor's goal is to make our community a better place to live and raise our families as well as attracting new businesses.

CHANGES FOR 2013

The Board of Supervisors discussed in an executive session on Thursday, January 3, 2013 replacing the full time Roadmaster position with a Part-Time Public Works Director and Wanda Layman as Part-Time Coordinator in the office. We also brought the Union Stewards into the meeting to offer the Public Works Director's job to one of the workers first before hiring from the outside. We would have tried to work this out so the employee could have remained in the union if they were interested in the position. On January 7, 2013, Supervisors voted 2 to 1 to replace the full time Roadmaster position with a Part-Time Public Works Director. They also voted 2 to 1 for Supervisor, Wanda Layman to work as Part-Time Coordinator in the office at the Township at \$10.00 an hour at a maximum of 25 hours. She will donate all remaining hours. This move will save the Township approximately \$20,000 a year.

Supervisors voted at the January 7, 2013 meeting for the following:

Alan Fossi Chairperson

Wanda Layman Vice Chairperson

Joe Kerber Supervisor

The Law Office of McDonald, Snyder & Lightcap was reappointed as Solicitor for 2013.

Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co., Inc was reappointed as Sewickley Township Engineers.

Mike Stack was reappointed as the Building, Sewage and Zoning Officer.

Jared Filapose was appointed to the Vacancy Board for Sewickley Township.

Richard Bosko and Alan Fossi were appointed to the Municipal Sewage Authority.

Jack Pore and Charles Wackenhuth were reappointed to the Planning Commission.

Michael Ulyan was appointed to the Zoning Board.

Christie Royer was reappointed to the Recreation Board.

Debra Costanzo, Belinda Derr and Amber Kline were appointed to the Cultural Commission.

Regular monthly meetings for 2013 will be the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Township Building.

Supervisors approved at the November, 2012 Meeting that street lights remain at the current rate with no increase for 2013.

Berkheimer, Inc. was approved at the October, 2012 Meeting to serve as the Tax Collector, replacing Central Tax Bureau.

SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP JOB OPENINGS

Part-Time Public Works Director CDL License preferred.

Part-Time Office Clerk

Part-Time Maintenance Worker for the Recreation Center and Crabapple Park & Pool

Applications are online or contact the Township Office at 724-446-7202.

EVENTS

2013 SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

Beginning Tuesday, February 26th and each Tuesday through April 9th

6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

Hooked on CSI, Law and Order and Cold Case Files? Join us in meeting Westmoreland County's own slate of characters whose real life dramas could have provided the story lines for your most memorable shows.

Each week you will spend time with amazing personalities with stories to tell and interactive activities that will draw you into the realm of criminal investigation.

Presented by Westmoreland County's Top Dogs, Crime scene investigation, prosecutions, drug investigations, domestic violence, child abuse and emergency response are only a few of the topics on the agenda.

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL CHUCK AT (724) 446-2546

Participants must be 18 years or older. Early registration is encouraged as class size is limited. Applications available at Sewickley Township Library and Sewickley Township Tax Office.

THE ACADEMY IS SPONSORED BY THE SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP CRIME WATCH AND IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

- **March Family Fun Night:**

Friday, March 8th at 6:30 P.M.

Join us as local author Kenneth Ceh reads his children's book "Nicholas and the Fruit Surprise!!" Meet the author. Hear the story. Eat something memorable.

- **Easter Party:**

Friday, March 22nd, 6:30 P.M.

An annual favorite! We'll have Easter stories, crafts, games and fun!

- **Win a Kindle Fire!**

Tickets are \$2.00, 3 for \$5.00, or 5 for \$10.00. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

- **Summer Reading Program T-Shirts**

It's hard to believe that planning for our 2013 Summer Reading Program "Dig into Reading" is underway! If you would like to purchase a Summer Reading t-shirt for just \$6.00, please stop by the Library. The shirts are orange and have the "Dig into Reading" logo on them. Available in toddler, youth and adult sizes.

- **Win Pens and Pitt Basketball Tickets!**

Tickets are just \$10.00! The winner will receive:

- **Pitt vs. Notre Dame, Monday, February 18th, 7:00 P.M. , 2 tix + parking pass**

- **Pens vs. Panthers, Friday, February 22nd, 7:00 P.M., 2 tix**

- **Pens vs. Islanders, Saturday, March 30th, 1:00 P.M. 2 tix**

- **\$100.00 CASH!**

- **Drawing is February 14th. Winning number taken from the official 7:00 P.M. Pennsylvania Daily Three Digit Lottery. Two numbers per ticket. To purchase, please stop by the Library or see any library board member.**

- **Music Together Class**

Join Lauren Whittaker of the Music Room in Irwin on the 3rd Monday of each month at 10:15 A.M.. This program is open to children ages 0-6.

- **Story Time**

Story Time is every Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. Open to all ages. No registration necessary.