



A word from our new Zoning /Code Enforcement Officer Karl Horman:

I am a Ligonier Borough resident and have lived in the area for about 15 years. My expectation is that I will live here for the duration of my career as a full time project superintendent in the Pittsburgh Area. The main reason I applied and accepted this position of Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer is to maintain the historical value and small town feel of Ligonier. Since my appointment by Ligonier Borough Council I have been told that I am very transparent in my position but still firm and fair. I would like to touch on a few subjects that come to mind that I feel would be educational to residents of this beautiful town.

The **zoning ordinance** in Ligonier Borough is in place to keep Ligonier historical and beautiful. The ordinance helps keep Ligonier from losing its charm and maintain uniformity. Concerns are heard about sections of the ordinance such as fences. The ordinance helps clarify what is acceptable in the borough and what is not. Personally I wouldn't want to look at a 10' or 12' privacy fence that my neighbor put up.

After hearing numerous times that the application process for building can be quite time consuming, I am working on new means and methods to help ease this process. I encourage the public to share their ideas and look forward to hearing your feedback.

The other half of this job is **Code Enforcement** which is completely separate from the zoning ordinance but just as important. There is a large handbook of code which I am to enforce. Listed below is a few that stick out and may serve as a general reminder.

Abandoned vehicles - no vehicle which does not have a current inspection or current registration shall be kept on any property in the borough. This was one of the first codes I started with when first appointed. In the first 3 months I wrote 18 "Courtesy Notice of Violation" letters to multiple property owners in the borough. Since that time every property owner notified has been in a compliant status.

High Grass - the code states grass over 6" is out of compliance. I have written a handful of letters for this violation and they always seem to be taken care of.

Sidewalks - sidewalks are to be maintained in the summer months along with the winter months. In the summer months I have noticed that some property owners are not trimming their trees to allow for the needed height of 7.5 feet clearance. I know there is always some talk about who really should be doing it. This responsibility lands on the property owner in the summer, just as it does in the winter for snow removal. Also a side note for sidewalks; if there is substantial lifting, sinking, or cracking, it is the responsibility of the property owner to fix or replace said sidewalk.

Zoning /Code Enforcement Cont.

Blighted Properties - These are the properties that I get calls about on a weekly basis. Unfortunately, when properties have been in this condition for such a long time it takes time to get them back into compliance. I personally read every complaint, and every email. I do not take these complaints lightly. I notify the property owners in a timely manner with respect after I have all the facts pertaining to each individual complaint. Understand that while on the surface it may look like nothing is being done, in reality behind the scenes phone calls are being made, emails are sent and many people are looking at ways to gain compliance with these blighted properties.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns, comments, or questions.

Karl Horman
724-259-0226

Public Works Department

Residents are asked to clear the sidewalks from low hanging limbs, shrubs, flowers & plants.

Compost and Woodchips:

Free for Borough residents – free delivery within Borough. Please call the Borough office to schedule. 724-238-9852



Leaf Collection has begun and will continue until Friday, December 3rd. Please place your leaves on the curb and not the streets.

Stormwater Management Ordinance

Residents filing building permits within the Borough for projects with a total impervious area over 1,000 square feet must now comply with the Stormwater Management Ordinance adopted June 2020. Please see the Borough website for Ordinance #576.

Ligonier Valley Police Department Chief John Berger



LVPD has hired two new full-time police officers.

Ryan Hall, who recently graduated from the police academy and Tate O'Barto who also just graduated from the academy and is a US Marine Corp. reservist.

The department completed its certification and will now be carrying Narcan© in the cruisers. Narcan© is used to help (when needed) for various types of overdoses.

Officers will be equipped with body worn cameras thanks to a grant that was awarded to the department, and final monies will be dispersed this week.

On January 1, 2021, Chief Berger was elected as president of the Westmoreland County Chiefs of Police Association and will serve in this term for the next two years. This comes after serving on the board of directors for the association as well as serving as Vice President of the Westmoreland County drug task Force for the past 15 years. In addition, Assistant Chief Mike Matrunic accepted the role as secretary/Treasurer for the association. Chief Berger would like to make residents aware of fraudulent phone calls, an activity that has been occurring throughout the valley. Be vigilant of all accounts you may have.

A word from the Secretary-Treasurer

In this edition of the newsletter you will see a survey pertaining to Fort Ligonier Days. Every year Ligonier Borough officials receive many comments from our residents concerning the festival weekend. Because of these comments; Ligonier Borough Council's Fort Ligonier Days Committee decided to create a survey. The survey is for **all** of the residents of the Ligonier Valley, not just those in Ligonier Borough, to gauge what their thoughts are on Fort Ligonier Days.

We're hoping the responses we get will be beneficial to not only the Borough but also FLD, Inc., the Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce, and of course, Fort Ligonier.

Fort Ligonier Days has an impact on so many facets of Ligonier including traffic and detours, fund raising, family gatherings, and people leaving the area for the weekend. Because of this huge impact, Ligonier Borough Council believes it's vital to hear how those impacted feel about the weekend long event.

We encourage you to take the time to complete the enclosed survey. You also have the option of taking the survey online by going to our website: **ligonierboro.com**.

We also ask that you help us spread the word to others in the valley and let them know we have paper copies at the Borough office in Town Hall as well as the web version available.

Janette Shaw

**Tax Collector
Robin Roberts
724-238-5700**

**1st Floor in Town Hall
Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
9 am – 4 pm**

Borough Tax Collector Robin Roberts states that the School Real Estate Taxes are currently due at the face amount by 11/30/21. A 10% penalty will be added 12/1/21.

If paying by installments; the third payment is due by 11/30/21.

The unpaid Local and County Real Estate taxes are currently at the 10% penalty amounts.



FORT LIGONIER DAYS is a three-day festival that commemorates the

Battle of Fort Ligonier, a monumental affair of the French and Indian War fought on October 12, 1758. Our town of Ligonier has an incredible history; President Dwight D Eisenhower came to Fort Ligonier in September 1958 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the battle and Ligonier's Bicentennial. After the town coordinated an all-out, two-week commemoration they took a rest in 1959 and thereafter kicked off Fort Ligonier Days in 1960.

We are interested in and value your opinions and input concerning the Fort Ligonier Days Festival. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey below: **Please return the survey to the Borough Office**

1. **Where do you live?**
 Ligonier Borough Ligonier Township
 Other: _____
2. **Have you ever attended the Fort Ligonier Days festivities in Ligonier?** _____
3. **How often do you attend the event?**
 Every year Every few years Never
4. **Do most of your family and friends also attend the event?**
 Yes No
5. **What are your top two favorite aspects of the weekend festivities?**
 Bands/Performers Food Booths Re-enactments /Visiting Fort
 Craft Booths Merchant Sidewalk Sales Visiting local family & friends
 Fireworks Parade
6. **How much money do you generally spend over the weekend?**
 Under \$50 \$50 - \$100 \$101 - \$250
 \$250 - \$400 \$400 +
7. **Of the money you spend, where do you spend the majority of it?**
 Local Merchants / Shops Fort Ligonier Food Booths
 Craft Booths Local Restaurants
8. **Where do you primarily eat over the Fort Ligonier Day's weekend?**
 Local Restaurants Food Booths from local organizations Other Food Booths
9. **How much variety do you think there is between the offerings at the food booths?**
 A lot A little None
10. **Is there anything you would change about the food booths?**

11. **How much variety do you think there is between the offerings at the craft booths?**
 A Lot A Little None
12. **Is there anything you would change about the craft booths?** _____
13. **Do you visit Fort Ligonier over Fort Ligonier Days weekend?** Yes No
14. **Why / Why Not?**

15. **Do you watch the parade every year?** Yes No

16. What is your favorite aspect of the parade?

Bands

Local Floats

Shriners

Tractors

17. Is the parade An appropriate length of time

Too short

Too long

18. Is there anything you would like to see changed with the parade?

19. Do you find it easy or difficult to navigate within the festival area?

easy difficult

20. What are your thoughts about the way Fort Ligonier Days is set up for the weekend (within town)? What would you change and what would you keep the same?

21. What adjustments do you make to your daily routines during Fort Ligonier Days?

22. Are you involved in any business / organizations that benefit economically from Fort Ligonier Days? Yes No

23. If yes, how?

Parks and Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Committee recently held a public meeting to get ideas and input for the tennis court space behind Friendship Park. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. After collecting the data from the meeting, emails and letters received the committee made a recommendation that the space be remodeled for a Multi-Use Facility to hold a Tennis Court, 2 Pickle Ball Courts, 1 Multi-Use court along with a portion to be dedicated for a Skate/ Skate Park.

Anyone interested in helping with the project are asked to contact the Parks & Recreation Committee. The next phase will be geared towards seeking grant funding to design the space.



Ligonier Borough Residents... Savvy Citizen® is now available!

Ligonier Borough would like to introduce Savvy Citizen. Savvy Citizen is a free notification system for Apple and Android users that will enable the municipality to send information about important news and events directly to residents' mobile devices. Residents may access Savvy Citizen by downloading the smartphone app or visiting the website below.

For more info:
SavvyCitizenApp.com
register and activate a savvy citizen



Ligonier Hose Co. #1 Fire Chief Corey Blystone

Looking for new members. Stop by the station or see any firefighter for information. Not everyone needs to fight fire as there are many different jobs you can help with; such as non-emergency activities like fund raising, public outreach, grant writing etc. There are many ways to help the fire department and our community.

NEWS BITS

Tenant(s) needed. Town Hall is looking for civic or municipal tenant(s) to occupy offices on the 2nd floor. The area available is approximately 2460 sq. ft. and broken into 7 offices of various sizes; a reception area, a conference room & a kitchenette. The space can be utilized by one large entity or numerous small ones.

An additional office space approximately 18'x19' on the 1st floor of the Town Hall.

Interested occupants meeting the municipal or civic criteria should call the Town Hall for further information. 724-238-9852.



Through the PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Program a **medication drop off box** is provided and conveniently located inside the handicap entrance of Town Hall as you descend the stairs. Get rid of your unwanted or expired medication safely. All medication should be in their original or sealed container or zip lock bag. Needles & liquid medications are **NOT** accepted. All personal information should be crossed out with a permanent marker.



Newly elected State Rep. Leslie Rossi's office is now located at the Ligonier Township Municipal Building located at 1 Municipal Park Drive. Please call 724-238-2155.



Did you know that the numbering of buildings / houses in Ligonier Borough is a requirement? Proper numberings help identify buildings and properties during times of emergency. Ensure your property is up to local code Chapter 61.

Available now!

Ligonier Borough now offers a Meter Feeder App and Credit Card Payment option.



The Meter Feeder App allows users to pay their parking fines by credit/debit card as well as put more time on their meter. The meters will still take coins as well. The Meter Feeder App is another option and convenience for users. (Tickets issued will be white in color and placed underneath your windshield wiper. If paying by cash /checks, envelopes are provided at several locations; in front of Town Hall, in front of Abigail's, in front of the Post Office as well as in the Municipal Parking Lot by the YMCA. Look for a clear plastic box located by the yellow fine boxes.)

The Borough office is also now able to accept **credit card payments** for parking tickets, parking permits, zoning fees and Town Hall rentals. Users are charged a nominal convenience fee. Look for this convenience coming soon to our website as well.

Ligonier Borough
120 East Main Street
Ligonier PA 15658

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer