

Dallas Township

Home of the Mountaineers



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Delays, Delays, Etc.

From a traffic standpoint, this year's Spring Clean-up may bring about its share of impatience and even a touch of agita. After much thought and discussion, the Board of Supervisors made the decision in February to move forward with plans for the annual week-long event with the knowledge that there might be delays or even days when the Township facility could be shut down completely.

PennDOT's Dallas 5-Leg Intersection Improvement Project has begun, and Back Mountain residents may have already noticed signs that progress, however slow it may be, has begun. In the center of Dallas, the old Sunoco gas station is missing from the townscape, and utility work is presently underway in both the downtown, and near the Dallas Township Municipal Building for the Upper Demunds Road diversion. While several years of traffic woes loom ahead, a number of early delays have already had a ripple effect that will touch us all. Among the ripples may be our annual Spring Clean-up. Residents should anticipate that there may be road construction involving the Township site, which may cause delays.

Spring Clean-up is scheduled for the first full week in May - this year that will be May 1-6. The hours will remain: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Residents can bring unwanted items to the back of the Township building, located at 2919 SR 309 Highway. Road department personnel will be available to assist. The Township's Road Department will be available to assist in emptying vehicles. Proof of residency will be required at the time of drop-off.

Pick-Up trucks and trailers will be charged accordingly, depending on the amount and size of the items brought. Residents will be charged a fee for bulk items, such as carpets, overstuffed chairs, couches, dressers, stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters, etc.). Each household is permitted to bring tires to dispose of with the understanding that there will be a \$2.00 fee charged for each tire. The following items will not be accepted for disposal under any circumstances: freezers, refrigerators, air conditioners, hazardous wastes, chemicals, brush, tree stumps, cinder blocks, animal or human waste, shingles, sheet rock, or other building materials, leaves, grass, garbage, or newspapers.

Please note that there will be NO electronics recycling this year.

For more information, contact Nancy Balutis at 570-674-2000, ext. 2007, or nbalutis@dallastownship.com.



Dallas Township News & Views

In an effort to keep our residents abreast of news and current events in our community, we urge you to read our quarterly newsletter. Don't forget to sign up for future issues via our website, at www.dallastownship.com. If you don't have access to a computer, copies are also available at the Dallas Township municipal office.

If there is a topic of local interest that you would like to see featured in a future issue, please contact Dallas Township Supervisor Liz Martin (Newsletter, Website & Social Media Editor), at (570) 674-2000, ext. 2008 or via email, at lmartin@dallastownship.com.

Don't forget to visit our Facebook page!

Increased Accessibility

The Dallas Township Municipal Office is accessible to our residents 24/7.

By calling (570) 674-2000, a voice-directed system will instruct callers how to reach the party they seek. A list of extensions can be found on the back of this newsletter.

For those wary of automated systems, simply hit "0" when the system answers and your call will be directed to the office during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Stormwater & Your Lawn

Stormwater, rain that runs off hard surfaces and eventually into local waterways, is a major and fast growing source of pollution that affects every watershed. This runoff may carry sediment, nutrients from lawns, waste from farms and pets, oil and litter from streets, and other contaminants into streams or storm drains.

A “stormwater-friendly” lawn is one that can absorb rainwater and does not harm local streams due to the over-application of chemicals. Likewise, a “stormwater-friendly” garden is one that uses organic compost as fertilizer to amend soil and minimizes or eliminates the use of chemicals.

Reducing chemical applications and encouraging infiltration will help stabilize local water flows and also maintain natural nutrient levels in streams. Stormwater-friendly lawns and gardens will help you save money on fertilizers and time on upkeep once they become established.

Bicentennial Events

Plans for this year’s Dallas Days Bicentennial Celebration continue, with a host of events beginning with a month-long History & Art Display in May at the Back Mt. Regional EMS Building on SR118, near the Luzerne County Fairgrounds. On May 10, there will be a brief presentation and an area showing of WVIA’s “Our Town Dallas” at the same location, from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. The display will be open from 6:00-9:00 p.m. that evening. Display hours will be announced at a later date.

On Saturday, June 24, and again on Saturday, August 19, Dallas Days Movie Nights will entertain the little ones with an age-appropriate movie in the Dallas High School Amphitheatre. Stay tuned for times and movie titles.

The Dallas Days Bicentennial Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show will be held on Sunday, June 25th outside Dallas High School, noon-6:00 p.m. This big show will feature vintage and custom vehicles. Good eats with Pigmester, and an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social for the seniors, 2:00-4:00 p.m. inside the Commons.

Watch your mail for our Bicentennial Schedule of Events brochure to see more events planned to commemorate our 200th birthday year!

Township Chatter Q&A

Welcome to our new quarterly **Township Chatter Q&A** feature. If you have a question for the Supervisors, please email them to Supervisor Liz Martin, at lmartin@dallastownship.com. Answers will appear in a future newsletter.

Question #1: Before the Supervisors made the decision to purchase the new building, did they look into other options?

Answer: Research actually began more than two years ago when the Supervisors realized that the present municipal building - a rehabbed Township garage - was becoming increasingly cramped and difficult to secure (from a safety standpoint); and preliminary discussion about the combination of police services with Dallas Borough meant possible expansion of our police department, which is also cramped for space. Since then, the Supervisors have looked at other buildings, inquired about the cost of purchasing land and building, and even considered renovating the present building. The option to purchase the former Hildebrandt building was, and remains the most cost effective. A very low interest, 40-year fixed rate loan from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) will enable a very affordable payment, with no penalty for early payback.

Question #2: Did Supervisor Bill Grant recuse himself from voting to purchase the building? Does he still have any financial interest in the building?

Answer: Mr. Grant divested his interest in the partnership that owned the business and building in May of 2015. Even though he is no longer an interested party Mr. Grant read an abstention memorandum into the record during a Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, January 26th, 2017. During that same meeting, Supervisor Wagner made the Motion to sign the agreement of sale; Supervisor Martin seconded, and Supervisor Grant abstained.

Question #3: Were the Dallas Township Road Department employees denied overtime during the recent spring snow event?

Answer: During the event in question, on March 14-15, 2017, Road Department employees worked through the night and were paid at 1.5 times their normal rate for overtime work. This has always been the policy in Dallas Township.



Administration

Administrative office:

(570) 674-2000 (extensions below)

Email: nbalutis@dallastownship.com

Frank Wagner - Supervisor, Chairman
Liz Martin - Supervisor, Vice Chairman
Bill Grant - Supervisor

Nancy Balutis - Secretary-Treasurer (x2007)

Liz Martin - Assistant Secretary (x2008)

Tammy Miller - Clerk/Zoning & Planning
Commission Secretary (x2012)

Carl Alber - Zoning/Code
Enforcement Officer (x2013)

Robert Jolley - Police Chief (x2001)

Holly Daubert - Tax Collector (x2005)

Martin Barry - Road Master (x2006)

Atty. Tom Brennan - Solicitor

Douglas F. Trumbower & Associates -
Tom Doughton, Engineer Representative

Alan Pugh - EMA Coordinator
Harry Vivian - EMA Deputy/BM Regional
Fire Chief/BM Regional EMA Chief
Jack Dodson - EMA Deputy/Kunkle Fire
Chief

Dallas Township Meetings & More

Dallas Township Offices Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
(varies during holidays)

NEW Tax Collector hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Lunch, 12:00-1:00 p.m., except during deadlines.)
Check out your tax bill for special hours!

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer is in Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Dallas Township Supervisors Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board Meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., as needed (agenda items are due 3 weeks in advance).

Planning Commission Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. (Agenda items need to be in place 3 weeks in advance.)