



## ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

Greetings and welcome to 2025! What better way to bring in the new year than by reaching out to our residents and business owners to update you all on happenings within the Township departments! While the last few years have been somewhat challenging to all, the Township continues to see growth. Please take the time to read the updates included in this newsletter from the various departments within our township, which serve you - our residents and business owners.

As we reflect back on 2024 and look forward to 2025, we think about the leadership of Allegheny Township. Joe Harteis was an asset to Allegheny Twp Board of Supervisors, sadly he passed before being able to complete his first term as an Allegheny Township supervisor. Joe loved giving back to the community. It was his life's mission to make a positive impact regardless of what and where he was dedicating his time. When Joe's health began to fail, the serving supervisors Fred Imler and myself made accommodations, making it possible for him to continue to give the time and the energy he had to his community. Joe Harteis has been greatly missed.

Since Joe's Passing, Arthur Martino (Art) has stepped up, in a time of need. He has proven to be a great addition to the Allegheny Township Board of Supervisors. Allegheny Township is one of very few Pennsylvania Townships not operating in a deficit. He understands careful planning, cautious spending and continuous leadership is what has made Allegheny Township great. Art has worked intensely with myself, Dave Burchfield, and Fred Imler II to maintain this high standard for our township. Art has served two years prior as an elected Auditor for Allegheny Township. He has a vested interest in it and is learning more every day so in conjunction with myself and Fred Imler, we are able to better serve the needs of the residents and businesses in our community.

*Dave Burchfield, Jr., Chairman, Township Supervisor*

Inflation has affected everyone over the last few years, even the Township. However, with careful planning and cautious spending, we have closed each year under budget.

The presiding Board of Supervisors strives to save residents and local businesses money by maintaining the same real-estate tax rate for the last twenty plus years.

Moving forward, the Board of Supervisors and Township employees, will continue to be committed to stretching every dollar as far as it will go.

*Shelley Berry, Treasurer*



*Pictured Left to Right: Arthur Martino, Township Supervisor 2024 to present, David E. Burchfield, Jr., Township Supervisor 2000 to present and Fred N. Imler, II Township Supervisor 2002 to present*

As we head into 2025 there are many uncertainties in day-to-day life. As a Supervisor, but more importantly a resident of Allegheny Township, I feel fortunate to be where I am. Our taxes have not changed much over 25 years with the exception of one very slight increase. Due to increasing demands in regulations, we have added a modern addition and remodeled the original municipal building while maintaining its historical features. The addition houses our office staff, police department and sewer department while the original building contains a meeting room where the Township Supervisors and Sewer Authority hold their public meetings along with valuable storage space.

Losing seasoned employees through retirement is an ongoing struggle and Allegheny Township has not been immune to this. Over the last several years our road crew lost 113 years of experience due to three employees retiring and one moving from the road crew to the position of sewer inspector. We feel we have a great crew in place and they are up to any challenge which may arise.

I could not close without mentioning the loss of board member Joe Harteis. He was a true patriot and loved our township as well as our Country. He was a very devoted Supervisor and is severely missed. With the absence of Joe, we are fortunate to have filled the vacant seat with a very qualified individual, Art Martino. Art previously served the Township as an elected auditor and has been very involved since assuming the position of Supervisor. We welcome him to the Board!

*Fred N. Imler, II, Township Supervisor*



## POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

As we look forward to another new year here at the Allegheny Township Police Department, let's take a brief look back at our accomplishments and recent events.

In the spring of 2018, we moved into the new municipal building addition. Over the past few years, we have obtained the following for the police department: four new cruisers utilizing the Local Shares Account grant money, four ballistic shields— two purchased by the township and two at no cost, two sets of entry tool kits at no cost to the township, two AEDs utilizing grant money, NARCAN, body-worn cameras and in-car cameras, along with new handguns. Replacing outdated and used equipment, while costly, is essential not only for the safety of our officers but the public as well. To help keep costs down, we are constantly seeking and applying for any applicable grant programs. These successful grant applications have saved the Township hundreds of thousands of dollars which in turn helps save residents and businesses tax dollars.

We created a Field Training Officer program, and officers are attending more trainings to better serve and protect the community. The department also continues to attend various community-oriented events. Out of necessity to better serve, we have added an additional patrol officer position. It was found there was also a need for the position of detective. This position was created to allow for the individual assigned to concentrate on investigating the more complex cases and permit the patrol officers to effectively patrol the Township.

Lastly, it is always a goal here at the police department to provide quality service and protection to the Township businesses, residents, and guests. Working hand-in-hand seamlessly with the Township Supervisors helps to enable the Department to achieve this goal on a daily basis.

*Police Chief Michael Robison*

## SEWER AUTHORITY NEWS

The Allegheny Township Water & Sewer Authority has been serving the Township since 1964. Our five-member board is comprised of Township residents willing to volunteer their time to oversee the operations and administration of the Authority. Currently serving on the Board are William Bryan, Jr. (Chairman), Brock Bryan (Vice-Chairman), Glenn W. Keiper (Secretary), Joseph Shoemaker (Treasurer), Christopher Garman (Asst. Secretary/Treasurer). Due to the Board's diligence with spending, sewer rates have not increased since 2013 at which time the rate increased from \$32.00 per EDU to \$35.00. There are no increases anticipated in the near future. The day-to-day activities are addressed by Tim Campolong, Sewer Inspector and Lisa George, Sewer Office Secretary as well as former sewer inspector Fred Baker. Tim performs inspections, site visits and investigations as needed for new construction and lines already in place.

Fred Baker served as sewer inspector for 28 years until his retirement in 2024 at which time he offered his services as needed/on call. Lisa receives sewer payments daily and generates the monthly billings for residents' sewer accounts as well as processing the Authority's monthly expenses, aiding in the annual audit and handling other tasks as they arise. As a reminder, sewer authority customers are now able to receive their bills via email. Just contact Lisa with your email address. One time sewer payments may also be made on our website at [www.alleghentownship.us](http://www.alleghentownship.us) with a credit or debit card. Feel free to contact the authority at 814-696-0507 with any questions.

*Lisa George, Office Secretary, Allegheny Township Sewer & Water Authority*

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the first responders of our township for their unwavering commitment to public safety. Additionally, I extend my appreciation to all of our departments for their collaborative efforts which contribute to making Allegheny Township a remarkable place to live and work.

Since my election as auditor in 2021, I have had the privilege of collaborating with the dedicated individuals in the township office, and my involvement in local government has been both fulfilling and enriching. Following the unfortunate passing of Mr. Harteis, I was honored to be invited to take on the role of Township Supervisor. I am eager to serve our community with dedication and look forward to the opportunities which lie ahead.

*Art Martino, Township Supervisor*

The Township staff strives to meet the needs of our residents and businesses alike. While unfortunately some businesses have closed or left the area, we've been fortunate to welcome some new ones. Just in the last year we've had new commercial construction including Discount Tire, Valvoline Oil and Link Heating Services just to name a few. We're happy to have them call Allegheny Township home in addition to those who have been here for a number of years.

Myself and the rest of the Township staff take pride in being available, to residents and business owners, answering questions and helping find solutions as issues may arise. If you have a question or even a suggestion which may be helpful, please don't hesitate to contact me at 814-695-9563. I will be more than happy to assist or pass the information along as appropriate.

*Silke Morrison, Township Secretary/Coordinator of Planning & Development*

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*Whatever you are, be a good one. – Abraham Lincoln*

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## ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

The Allegheny Township Volunteer Fire Department, under the leadership of Fire Chief Michael Boring and President/Deputy Chief Michael Luther, operates 8 pieces of apparatus. Last year in 2024, the Fire Department responded to 510 alarms. These alarms included structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, EMS response, police assistance, traffic control and variety of other calls. The members and firefighters of the Allegheny Township Fire Department are truly one-of-a-kind people! These men and women contribute countless hours to training and the up keep of trucks, facilities, and tools. They are ready to answer the call at any given moment day or night.

We are pleased to announce renovations on our social hall will be taking place to provide a venue for larger events such as weddings, showers, parties and our fundraisers. Also in 2025, the fire department will have a new fire hall facility at the Sugar Run Road location. We would like to thank our community for all your continued support and for the support from our Township Supervisors. Our Township residents' contributions allow us to purchase gear and tools, complete training hours and so much more. Keep an eye out for a number of fun and exciting fundraisers the Fire Department will be hosting this year! These will include chicken BBQs, bake sales, sandwich sales, raffle tickets, and don't forget about our annual fund drive. We are proud to serve and protect the residents of Allegheny Township!

*Michael Luther, President/Deputy Chief, Allegheny Township Volunteer Fire Department*

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Snowy weather and cold temperatures have kept the highway department busy to start out the new year! The Township will be working with the Blair County Conservation District taking advantage of the Low Volume Dirt and Gravel Road Grant program offered for qualifying projects. We will be replacing cross pipes and seek out other projects which meet the program requirements. Faded street signs will also be replaced throughout the Township. If you have an issue with signage in your area, please contact us and we will look into the matter to see if we are able to assist. Some of our aging equipment is also going to be replaced in order to better serve our residents' and roadways' needs. The Township has applied for grants to cover the costs of equipment purchases as well as selling old and unused equipment.

Please feel free to contact us with any issues or concerns. We will be happy to try to address the matter if it is within our realm of capability.

*Logan Hesel, Road Foreman*