

# Leetsdale Newsbytes

Mary Adkins, Editor

## A word from Mayor Pete...

May the New Year of 2016, bring you happiness and prosperity.

My goal in 2016 will be to try and improve my part in servicing the community. This year's Spring Clean-Up, will begin on April 18th, and continue through April 23rd, just in time for Earth Day... on April 22nd!



We have scheduled a volunteer clean-up on April 23rd ..throughout the Borough. We will pick up: litter, tires, and debris. We'll meet at the Borough building at 9a.m. for coffee and pastries; there you will be provided with gloves, bags, a location, and a shirt for volunteering. Meet back at the Borough building around noon for lunch. Hamburgers, hotdogs and refreshments will be provided to all volunteers. If you would like to participate, please call the borough office, leaving your name as well as your shirt size.

Volume XVIII, Issue 1  
January 2016  
Winter Edition

## Borough of Leetsdale

373 Beaver Street, Suite A

Leetsdale, PA 15056

724-266-4820

Jennifer Simek, Secretary /Treasurer

Mary Adkins, Assistant Secretary



## Leetsdale 4th of July

**This year will be something special, we will be celebrating our 70th Year!**

We are hoping that this year's "celebration" is the "best one yet!" The Carnival will be in town from July 4th until July 9th. We will have three concerts in the park along with our traditional "Fireworks" display!

The more "volunteers" we have the "better" that we can make it! The 4th of July Committee has several fund raisers to help fund all events. We have a bake sale every Election Day as well as The Snowflake Classic 5K Race/Walk, and then...there is the 4th of July celebration itself! It's a good time for friends & families. As always, we will be welcoming home Leetsdale High School Graduates and Residents.



## Leetsdale Food Pantry

Leetsdale Borough has a Food Pantry that services limited income families. If you know someone who may qualify, please have them contact the Borough Office for an application. We deliver food to our residents once a month. Most of our food is from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank; other donation's are received from businesses and residents.



# Public Works Bulletin

From the desk of Street Commissioner, Doug Ford

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

 **Spring Clean-up:** April is our designated clean up month. The Borough crew along with the Mayor, will be looking for volunteers on Saturday, April 23rd.

 **Road Repair:** Each year, the Borough sets aside specific funds to pave a road in the Borough. Please help by listening to bulletins and moving your cars as needed to help complete these repairs.

 **Street Sweeping:** We will begin our street sweeping on April 13, 2016.

 **Leaf Collection:** There will be leaf collection through-out the winter months and continue well into the spring. You can help, simply rake leaves into piles near your home and we will be by to pick them up.

 **Should we miss you, please call us at: 724-266-6069 or 724-624-1893**

## Trash & Recycling



### **Tuesdays– Regular garbage pick-up only.**

*Please, do not put out any of your recycling items on this day, it is very difficult to sort through and separate these items.*

### **Thursdays– Recycling collection only.**

*We have made it as easy as possible for you to recycle. Simply recycle items by using a plastic bag or by using a container of your choice.*

***We ask that you make a good faith effort to keep your recycling container in good shape. Please keep the collection area cleaned up.***

# Leetsdale Garden Club

2015 was a wonderful year of spreading beauty throughout the community and awarding a Quaker Valley Scholarship as well as, our first; Quaker Valley Life skills Grant.

The Garden of the Month award was given to two homes last summer. Christmas Light Up awards, were selected in December. This was also the third year, of supplying 100 homes in Leetsdale, with daffodil bulbs. "Spring will be a beautiful sight!"

Along with September's Autumn Fest...came fantastic weather! It was a great fun-filled experience for everyone, children and adults alike!

Our year came to a close with our annual holiday party, in celebration and appreciation to our family, friends, members, and especially for all the many, loyal Borough and Garden Club supporters!

Join us this year... and get in on the fun! Our meetings will resume in March; with lots of new and exciting plans, speakers, and a community meeting.

Share your love of earth and flowers and don't forget to stay informed on our Leetsdale Garden Club Facebook page.



<https://www.facebook.com/LeetsdaleGardenClub>



## Welcome aboard!

### NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

**LAUREN JONES**—Lauren, has been a life-long Leetsdale resident, with a passion to help the people of her home town. Lauren is a 2009 Quaker Valley High School graduate. Following high school, she attended IUP where she received her undergraduate degree in Deaf/Elementary Education, with a minor in Psychology. Lauren continued her education by attending Smith College where she obtained a Master's degree in Education of the Deaf. She is employed by the Montour School District as a Deaf Education Teacher.

...from the office of Code Enforcement

### **Winter Tips...**



As the weather starts turning colder, we will inevitably start seeing our first bit of snow fly. This means it is time to prepare for the maintenance of sidewalks bordering commercial and residential premises. Please be courteous and do your part to prevent an accident from occurring.

Property owners are reminded that snow and ice may not be shoveled from sidewalks and driveways onto any portion of streets (including the gutters), or onto anyone else's private or public property.

Caution should be exercised when numerous storms are expected. The Borough of Leetsdale recommends that you remove snow as the weather breaks, when practical, but must be removed within 24 hours from the end of a snow event. Waiting too long can make snow removal difficult and very strenuous due to accumulation and snow pack. Additionally, if the weather warms during the day, thawing and subsequent freezing conditions become much more hazardous. If you have ice on the sidewalk, place some sand or ice melt on the icy areas. This will assist in melting the ice away and will allow the sand to imbed into the ice, creating a good grip for walking.

Property owners could be held civilly responsible if a person falls and injures themselves while walking on a sidewalk that has not been properly cleared of snow. The Borough of Leetsdale office of code enforcement appreciates the efforts to help make Leetsdale sidewalks safer. These codes are not only designed for public safety, but also encourage good business practices and promote neighborly care.

### **HOW TO PREVENT AND SAFELY THAW FROZEN WATER PIPES**

Un-insulated water pipes in outside walls are most likely to freeze during prolonged cold snaps with sub-freezing temperatures. To prevent your pipes from freezing, open the tap and let the water flow continuously in a small stream until temperatures rise above freezing. Opening cabinet doors to pipes under a bathroom or kitchen sink and letting in warm air can also help keep the pipes from freezing.



To thaw a frozen water pipe, open the tap and apply heat to the coldest section of pipe by carefully using a space heater, sun lamp, hair dryer, electrical heat tape, or a hot water-dampened cloth.

**Never use a torch, candle or any other open flame to thaw frozen pipes because it can create a potential fire hazard and never leave any device you use unattended.** The thawing time will vary, ranging from a matter of minutes to a few hours, depending on the length of frozen pipe and the amount of heat applied. After thawing a water line, keep the tap open and let the water flow continuously in a slow trickle to prevent re-freezing.

**James Ivancik**

Email: [ivancik@leetsdaleboro.net](mailto:ivancik@leetsdaleboro.net)

724-266-4820 ext.20

# LEETSDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

136 Broad Street  
Leetsdale, PA 15056



**The Officers and Members of the Leetsdale Fire Department hope that you had a safe and joyous Christmas and we wish you a very happy New Year.**

*As we transition from the old year into the New Year we would like to thank our past officers for their service and dedication. The new 2016 Officers for the fire department are:*

**President – Jim Ivancik**  
**Vice President – John Phillips**  
**Secretary – Ernest Logan**  
**Treasurer – John Biteler**  
**Fire Chief – Ernest Logan**



In 2015, the Leetsdale Fire Department responded to over 100 calls. Our call volume rose a little bit over the previous year. Members attended more outside training and in-house training than in previous years. The fire department received a Federal grant and a State grant to purchase firefighting equipment. These grants permit the fire department to purchase items that are desperately needed including Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), hose, nozzles, and other appliances.

Over the past year we have lost a few members and we have welcomed some new ones into the department. As always, we are looking for more volunteers. You don't have to fight fires to help us. There are numerous jobs that can be filled so that firefighters can be freed up to fight the fire or deal with the emergency. Please stop by on any Monday night if you are interested.

As you know, the Leetsdale Fire Department responded to a large fire in the Leetsdale Industrial Park on November 17, 2015. This was a very large fire that exceeded 5 alarms. Forty- five plus agencies responded to this event; there has been many discussions since.



As with any incident, there are lessons to be learned. A week after the fire the Public Safety Committee held a meeting. The fire was obviously part of the discussion. We discussed what went right with the response and also what we need to work on.

One of the key points that came out of the meeting is that the public needs to be better informed as to what to do should something like this happen again. To that end, the Public Safety Committee is putting a guidance document together that will be sent to every home in Leetsdale. Please watch for this. Once produced, extra copies will be available from the Borough Office.

Until you receive this guidance document, we ask that if there is an event of this magnitude, please shelter in place until advised to do otherwise.

In the last newsletter, I had asked for volunteers to staff the Red Cross shelter trailer. If you are still interested, we are still looking for volunteers; please contact me.

As a reminder, we hope you changed the batteries in your smoke alarms/CO detectors when the clocks changed. If not, please do so. Smoke detectors and Co detectors save lives! If your detector/alarm is 10 years or older, consider replacing it. These detectors should be cleaned out periodically and tested monthly. There should be a smoke alarm in each sleeping room and one on each level of the residence.

*Please contact me with any questions you may have.*

**Ernest Logan**  
*Fire Chief*  
724-333-4759  
[LFDCHIEF@COMCAST.NET](mailto:LFDCHIEF@COMCAST.NET)



*Working*  
**SMOKE ALARMS  
SAVE LIVES**

*Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery*

*"Dedicated To Life Safety"*

# Thank You!

Mayor Pete Poninsky, Leetsdale Borough Council, Borough Employees and the Borough Community wish to "THANK" Council President, MELANIE DUNN for her four-years of dedicated service to the Borough of Leetsdale.

*"We wish her much success in her future endeavors!"*

## LEETSDALE FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM

*The Leetsdale Food Pantry has received several generous donations.*

We would like to thank our "special resident" for having contributed an outstanding \$2880.00 last year!

We have also received \$545.00 in cash donations from North Hills Community Outreach, LG Whitney, LLC., Virginia Kellinger, Kathy Hyre, Dorothy Miller, Melva Marsillio and Lawrence Kardasz.

*"Thank you for your kindness, and support!"*

**The Leetsdale Food Pantry would like to recognize Carol Poninsky, Doug Ford and Bob Ford for their hard work and dedication!**

Carol completes necessary paperwork, arranges home deliveries, assists in distribution, coordinates food menu's, receives food orders and organizes goods in the pantry warehouse. Doug unloads orders, distributes and provides necessary clean-up at the work site. Bob assists in packing bags, stocking and receiving food orders, as well as deliveries and distribution.

**Help one another; there's no time like the present and no present like the time.**

~James Durst



# Community Awareness and Solicitation without a Permit

*Please be aware; that in our community, anyone soliciting for business, must have a license issued by our Chief of Police.* It is unlawful for anyone to sell, purchase, or solicit the sale or purchase of food, printed matter, building, and construction services. All other services; goods, wares, or merchandise, of any kind or description, or solicit contributions, gifts, pledges of money, or any other thing of value by visiting the private homes of residences or on the public streets of Leetsdale without a license. This does not

apply to persons under the age of 18 on behalf of organizations or nonprofit corporations.

The roles of conduct state: that they must carry the license and exhibit it at any time if requested. It also states: that they are allowed to operate from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday only. No one is allowed to solicit on Sunday or any holiday. They are not allowed to enter or attempt to enter any home without homeowner's permission.

If approached by a solicitor please contact the Police Department by calling 911 , so that the officers are able to verify the presence of a license.

*Please continue to help make our community safe by stepping up and alerting officers of any suspicion, so that they can continue to protect our family, friends and neighbors.*



## Red Cross Community Shelter Team Volunteers

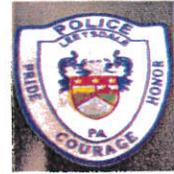
**Community Outreach is searching for Red Cross Community Shelter Team Volunteers. There will be a Red Cross class on Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 8 a.m. to 1p.m. in the Community rom at the Leetsdale Borough Building for anyone interested. You must be pre-registered for the class to attend.**

In light of the recent events that led to a fire and evacuation in November, our community is looking to prepare for the next emergency that Leetsdale may encounter. A Leetsdale Community Shelter team, comprised of individuals led by Jeff Weatherby and Joe McGurk, is seeking additional volunteers. Volunteers are needed to ensure the safety and well-being of fellow community members in an active emergency situation.

**If interested in joining the Leetsdale Community Shelter team, please contact: Jeff @ 724-462-7845 or email at: [jweat1@comcast.net](mailto:jweat1@comcast.net)**



# LEETSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT



From the desk of Acting Chief, Daniel Raible

Another summer past, a skip through Fall ... and Winter is now upon us. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

With that said, colder temperatures mean that snow is just around the corner, if we haven't seen a little bit already. Please remember to drive safely



over the next few months. Give yourself extra time to get to your destinations. Although our road department is very efficient in keeping our Borough streets clear for your safety, we can't say the same for other locations you may be traveling through. So, slow down and take your time when poor weather conditions exist.

Also, please remember as our street department is plowing the roadways, residents that park on the street, especially on the hills, need to leave enough room for the snow plows to pass by freely. Your cooperation in this matter allows your street to be properly cleared and salted.

As always, remember to dial 911 if you require police assistance or see something suspicious. I've heard a few complaints from residents that dispatchers ask too many questions when calling to report something. You need to keep in mind that although some of the questions that they ask may seem unimportant to you, they have a criteria to follow to ensure the responding officer's safety. So, please be patient with their questions.

Lastly, "Thank You", to everyone for a wonderful 2015! I look forward to what the New Year brings in 2016 here in Leetsdale! Stay warm and stay safe!

Acting Chief,  
*Daniel Raible*

## Leetsdale Police Emergency Notification

Visit the Borough's website: to sign up for free emergency alert notifications.

[www.leetsdaleboro.net](http://www.leetsdaleboro.net)





BOROUGH OF  
**LEETSDALE** *Pennsylvania*

**Leetsdale Borough Officials**

**MAYOR**

**Pete Poninsky, 724-624-4521**

**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Wesley James, President, 724-421-6822**

**Jeffery Weatherby, Vice President, 724-462-7845**

**Joseph McGurk, Pro Tem, 724-624-1887**

**Thomas Belcastro, 412-660-8556**

**Linda Michael, 412-400-8005**

**Michael Nobers, 724-462-3210**

**Lauren Jones, 724-312-2140**

**300-24. ZONING CERTIFICATES**

**A zoning certificate shall be obtained before any person may:**

- (1) Occupy or use any vacant land.
- (2) Occupy or use any structure hereafter constructed, reconstructed, moved, altered, or enlarged.
- (3) Change the use of a structure or land to a different use.
- (4) Change a nonconforming use.

***Applications for a zoning certificate shall be accompanied by a plot plan showing clearly and completely the location, dimensions and nature of any structure involved and such other information as the Zoning Officer may require for administration of the chapter, together with a filing fee in accordance with a schedule annually affixed by resolution of the Borough.***

**CONTACT JOE LUFF, BUILDING INSPECTOR, AT 412-766-2565 IF YOU HAVE ANY BUILDING OR ZONING QUESTIONS.**

**SEND E-MAILS TO:**

**[JLUFF@BUIINC.COM](mailto:JLUFF@BUIINC.COM)**



## STAY WARM AND LOOK COOL!



### A Chubby Little Snowman

A chubby little snowman  
 Had a carrot nose  
 Along came a rabbit  
 And what do you suppose?  
 That hungry little bunny,  
 Looking for his lunch,  
 Ate the snowman's  
 carrot nose...  
 Nibble, nibble, CRUNCH!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

### Mr. Snowman!

Let's build a snowman! First we need to have a really \_\_\_\_\_ snowstorm, of course on a \_\_\_\_\_ day. Watching all that \_\_\_\_\_ snow fall makes me \_\_\_\_\_ for a bowl of \_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_ it's still \_\_\_\_\_ and there's a lot of it! Let's go!

Next is \_\_\_\_\_ to go out in the cold. Once that is done, we need to get busy. We make a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ it in the \_\_\_\_\_. It gets so \_\_\_\_\_ we can't roll it anymore. Then we do \_\_\_\_\_ more and stack them on top of each other. We \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ in the driveway for the \_\_\_\_\_, eyes and \_\_\_\_\_. Mom gives us a scarf, hat and \_\_\_\_\_ to complete Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ he's done! Finally. Now the best part, \_\_\_\_\_.



**BOROUGH OF LEETSDALE**

373 Beaver Street  
Suite A  
Leetsdale, PA 15056

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Leetsdale, PA  
15056  
Permit # 22

OFFICE COPIES

**COUNCIL MEETINGS—7 p.m.**



Regular Meetings—2nd Thursday of each month  
Workshop Meetings—Tuesdays prior to Regular Meetings

All Council Meetings are open to the public.

**Borough of Leetsdale**

**DID YOU KNOW?**



Originally part of Pitt Township, it was named for three brothers from the Leet family, surveyors William and Jonathan Leet and Major Daniel Leet.

William and Jonathan Leet were the first settlers in the area in 1796. Daniel Leet bought land in the Sewickley Bottom area that is now part of Leet. Daniel Leet's daughter Eliza married David Shields, who in 1818 built a home near the Leet grist mill and another mill on west bank of Little Sewickley Creek.

Leet Township challenged the petition for Leetsdale to incorporate as a borough, saying there was no advantage for residents to incorporate and that the petition was not signed by a majority of the freeholders in the area. The state Supreme Court rejected the challenge.

Book the Leetsdale Community Room or the Henle Park Shelter for your next meeting or event!

COMMUNITY ROOM

- ◆ Resident \$75.00
- ◆ Non-resident \$200.00
- ◆ *Alcohol Permit: Beer & Wine (only) \$25.00*



HENLE PARK SHELTER

SECURITY DEPOSIT

- ◆ Resident: \$150.00
- ◆ Non-Resident: \$250.00

- ◆ Resident \$50.00
- ◆ Non-Resident \$150.00
- ◆ *Alcohol Permit: Beer & Wine (only) \$25.00*

Meetings- only

(up to 4hrs.) \$40.00 per hour

SECURITY DEPOSIT

- ◆ Resident and Non-Resident \$25.00