

# Leetsdale Newsbytes

Jennifer Simek, Editor

Join us on **Saturday, April 22nd** for our **Annual Clean Up Day!**

We will meet at the Leetsdale Borough Building at 9:00 A.M. Coffee and pastries will be provided. T-shirts, gloves, vests, and bags will be passed out. You will be assigned areas throughout the Borough to clean-up. After our productive day, we will meet again at the Borough Building



for hamburgers, hotdogs and refreshments.

Please call Mayor Pete at 724-624-4521 and provide him with your T-shirt size and willingness to participate in this worthwhile community project. Together, we can make a difference!

I look forward to seeing everyone there!

*Mayor Pete*

April 2017  
Spring Edition



*Hello Spring*

MOHASAURUS

**Borough of Leetsdale**

**373 Beaver Street  
Suite A**

**Leetsdale, PA 15056**

**Phone: 724-266-4820**

**Fax: 724-266-7530**

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

**Jennifer Simek**

**Secretary /Treasurer**



A Special *Thank You* to the Leetsdale Curves for their recent collection of 750 lbs. of food and a very generous monetary donation to the Leetsdale Food Bank

## Easter Egg Hunt



**Sunday, April 9th at 2:00**

**Henle Park**

**Hosted By: The Leetsdale Recreation Board**

## From My Porch...Leetsdale Council President, Wes James

I love local history, reading and listening to stories about how things “used to be”. In elementary school our class did a special program on Sewickley History. I wasn’t so interested in what happened in Sewickley, as I was in my hometown of Leetsdale. I was able to use my family’s collection of old glass photos that were taken in and around Leetsdale around 1915. I was most fascinated with a photo of a small passenger train. The train is stopped on a siding track that was located about where Route 65 is, just in front of the entrance to the “Mike Maruca” overpass. Amazing stuff. The small Leet Street Bridge can be seen in the distance behind the train. The bridge was moved here and re-erected in 1904. The same year Leetsdale Borough was incorporated. I believe 2017 will be its last year. One thing you learn by looking back in old photos is how much things have changed. Some for the better, some for the worse. Our Leetsdale Industrial

Park has grown from the brownfields of what was once Bethlehem Steel, but you’ll notice the number of residents has dropped over the years. Just like the boroughs location attracted the new business growth, how do we attract new housing, residents and families to our community? How do we grow and go forward?

While you ponder that question, here is another. Think of your community. What can you do to get involved? You will read articles in this newsletter from both the fire department and the Leetsdale VFW. Both are looking for community help and support. Please read what they have to say. The mayor sponsors a yearly Spring Cleanup day, always looking for extra hands, keep that in mind. See what you may be interested in. Please be sure to come out and vote in the May Primary Election.



Leetsdale Borough is inviting all candidates to participate in a **“MEET YOUR CANDIDATES NIGHT”** on Monday, May 1st at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Borough Office. **Residents are encouraged to attend!**

**PRIMARY ELECTION**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017**

**Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.**

**Your vote counts!**



**The 4th of July Committee will be holding a Bake Sale on Election Day** at the Borough Building. If you would like to bake for this fundraiser or help by donating your time, please contact **Phyllis Belcastro 724-266-6493**. All proceeds for the 4th of July Celebration!





The Public Work's Department Office is located at 30 Ferry Street. Our primary functions include; the over-all maintenance of borough streets, parks, borough owned sidewalks, storm sewers, snow, leaf collection, solid waste removal and recycling pick-up. **If you would like to report a problem, please call us at 724-266-6069.** Simply leave your name, address, telephone number and the location of problem, along with as much detailed information as possible.

**Trash Collection**—Regular Garbage Collection is on Tuesday, cans should be placed at the curb no earlier than 6pm Monday evening. Please keep your garbage area clean and not scattered so that the Borough Workers can pick it up in an orderly fashion. We are no longer accepting televisions. Please contact Evolution E-Cycling, 412-390-3450 Address: 2235 Mary Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. A Hard to Recycle Event will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2017. More Information on this event can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.



**Recycling**—Recycling is **EVERY OTHER THURSDAY!** A 2017 Recycling Calendar is included in this newsletter for your reference.



**Clean-up Day**— We will be meeting at the Borough Building on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 9:00 AM

**Street Sweeping**—The Leetsdale Borough Street Department will begin street sweeping on **April 19, 2017.** Many of our streets are or will be newly paved, please move your vehicles so we can clean up in front of your house.

**Leaf Mulch**—Leaf Mulch is available for all residents at the borough garage, located at 30 Ferry Street and can be picked up between the hours of 7 AM—3 PM, Monday—Friday.

**Deer Ticks**—After a very warm winter the deer ticks may already be present in the community, no longer in only high weeded or wooded areas. Residents have spotted them very close to their homes, so please check your pets and yourself to make sure you have none.



*Street Commissioner, Doug Ford*

## A call for action from the Leetsdale Veterans of Foreign Wars

The Leetsdale VFW has long been a part of the Leetsdale community. The original property was the Atwood Estate, and once acquired by the VFW, the rest of the property was purchased by Leetsdale Borough. It would become the beautiful Henle Park.

The VFW has been experiencing difficulties. Membership is down and costs are up. Renewal of the state liquor license went from \$280 to \$980, a \$700 increase! The VFW has been working hard to move in a positive financial direction. Help has come in many forms; several residents have made donations, members have assisted with fund raising dinners and gun and gift basket raffles.

Needless to say, we still have a way to go and the toughest time of the year is around the corner; Summertime. Bar patronage drops off and it is the main source of income. This loss is what almost brought us to our knees last year and it may again this year.

We are always looking for new members. If you are a veteran please stop and pickup an application. For non-veterans we offer a social membership. Our Tuesday night bingo is open to ALL; we would love to have you join us. Keep an eye on the sign at the top of the driveway for upcoming events.

Closing the VFW in Leetsdale would be a terrible loss to the community, Henle Park and the residents.

Please, if you have some suggestions or would like to help by volunteering time or making a donation, please contact the post at 412-741-5331.

*Thank you-*  
Wally Beitsinger, Commander  
Thomas James, Quartermaster





## PROTECT YOUR PETS

The flea and tick season is upon us. Because of our mild winter, these pesky little critters did not die. Ticks carry Lyme Disease, a debilitating condition for your pets and humans also. The percentage of positive Lyme Disease tests is on the rise and Allegheny County's cases are three times the national average. If your pet ventures outdoors for any reason, they are susceptible to a tick attaching itself to any part of the body and becoming imbedded. Lyme Disease is approaching epidemic proportions for both animals and humans. It is imperative that precautions be taken.

### Check your pets daily!

Fleas are also a nuisance to your pet and to your home. Don't wait to see your pet scratching because it may be too late to stop a total infestation of your home and yard. Use a flea comb and run it through their coat on a regular basis. If you find your pet already has fleas, your first step is to eliminate them on your pet and then treat your home and their bedding. Prevention for fleas and ticks begins with a visit to your veterinarian. They will advise you which product and method is best for your individual case and those that will be safe for children and adults. Products which have proven to be most effective in our area are topicals, orals and the Seresto collars. There is no set time to start treating your pets and that is why it is critical to consider year round methods to protect them and your family.

*Phyllis Belcastro*



We are off to a great start, and 2017 is going to be a blooming year!

Watch for the daffodils and other spring flowers brighten our Borough.

Members will soon be readying Henle Park and other areas to look their prettiest.

Get ready, Leetsdale Garden Club members will be viewing home gardens for our yearly "Garden of the Month" summer selections; your garden might be chosen!

Our first ever "Little Gardens of Leetsdale" tour will happen on June 24th, from 11-2 pm.

Make plans to join us, and see beautiful gardens created by residents in the Leetsdale area. Our first tour will conclude with a dessert social, location to be announced.

We are always looking for new members to share, learn, and enjoy the love of flowers and gardening. The bonus is a beautiful Leetsdale and the rich friendships your sure to make.

With questions about our events, planting, or joining our club, please call Susan Montgomery at 724-506-3625.



Leetsdale Borough is a proud sponsor of the Fern Hollow Nature Center, located at 1901 Glen Mitchell Road in Sewickley. As members, all Leetsdale residents will receive free admission to the Summer Celebration Community Event in June! Come out and enjoy the music, picnics, Sewickley confectionary, and family fun. Visit their website for more information at: [www.fhnc.org](http://www.fhnc.org)



# LEETSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Daniel P. Raible*

Chief of Police

*Pete Ponínsky*

Mayor

373 BEAVER STREET  
LEETSDALE, PA 15056

OFFICE 724-266-1397  
FAX 724-266-6319

## A special message from the Chief of Police

Finally, *spring* is here which means rain instead of snow! Although winter hasn't subsided yet, we're looking good. So with nicer weather more children will be out playing so use caution while driving around town.



With that said, street sweeping will begin again this year, but not until final paving is complete on Broad Street. As you know, the police department hasn't issued street sweeping tickets due to so many construction projects taking place throughout town but now that there's light at the end of the tunnel, we will start to enforce parking on the street during designated hours for street sweeping. So please remember to move your vehicle on all roadways within the borough requiring no parking and avoid being issued a ticket.



Also, anyone with a designated handicapped parking spot throughout the borough will need to renew your application this year. Failure to do so will result in the elimination of your handicapped parking spot.

As always, if you see something suspicious or need to report a crime, **DO NOT** call the office line, **DIAL 911**. There's not always an officer on station to field your call. The police department has been able to make several felonious arrests due to quick responses from residents calling **911** and reporting such activities.



Lastly, we've fielded several complaints about phone scams this year from various organizations. Remember; NEVER give out personal information about yourself or others to strangers over the phone. If you think you're being scammed advise the caller you will be contacting the local police department to verify, or just hang up. Most scammers will hang up on you upon telling them you're calling the police. And don't forget, solicitors within the borough are required to have a permit and you can request to see it. If they fail to produce the permit, call us. An officer will respond and inform them of the violation and requirements necessary to solicit within the Borough of Leetsdale.

*Chief Raible*



In our efforts to provide more reliable communications with Residents [and Businesses] in the borough, we utilize Swiftreach Networks, as our Emergency Notification service provider. Sign up for alerts on the Borough Website.  
[www.leetsdaleboro.net](http://www.leetsdaleboro.net)



For your convenience a Med-Return box has been placed in the Borough building. Simply, stop by the office between the hours of 8:00 and 4:30 to dispose of your old, expired, or unwanted medications.





**Fire Officers**

**Fire Chief – Ernest Logan**  
**Asst. Chief – Jim Ivancik**  
**Captain – Marty Davis**  
**Lieutenant – Andy Plese**

**Executive Officers**

**President – Jim Ivancik**  
**Vice Pres. – Michael Scimio**  
**Secretary – Ernest Logan**  
**Treasurer – John Biteler**

**T**he Leetsdale Fire Department is in desperate need of YOUR help. There are so many ways that you can help this valuable, all volunteer, community resource.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Consider becoming a member of your local volunteer fire company. There are numerous levels of membership:

**Interior Firefighter** – These are the men and women that gear up and go inside to confront the fire or other emergency. They are highly trained and very well equipped. You need no prior training or experience. All of your training is free to you.

**Exterior Firefighter** – These volunteers are trained and geared up but are either not qualified yet, or interested, in going inside. They fight fires and deal with other emergencies from the street. Again no prior experience or training is needed. You will be trained to the level in which you are comfortable performing.

**Fireground Support** – These members fill vital positions on the fireground. They fulfill non-

firefighting positions that allow more highly trained personnel put out the fire or deal with the emergency. These positions include Safety, Accountability, SCBA Control, Traffic Control and others as needed. These positions are extremely important to the success of our organization.

**Support Member** – These positions are non-firefighting positions. These positions conduct fundraising efforts, administrative duties, community relations, pursue grants, and other assorted duties. Again, these positions free up firefighters to do what they need to do to protect the public.

**Junior Firefighter** – The Leetsdale Fire Department accepts applications from 16 and 17 year olds. They perform non-interior operations and are closely monitored by Senior Firefighters.

If you are interested in filling any of these positions, please contact any Leetsdale Firefighter or come to the Fire Station on any Monday evening. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

**FUNDRAISING** – There is another way that you can help the

Leetsdale Fire Department. You can participate and support your volunteer fire department in our ongoing fundraising efforts.

Each spring during Lent we hold our Annual Fish Fry at the Leetsdale VFW.

Each quarter we also hold a boot drive at intersections throughout the Borough.

Other fundraising efforts are going to be initiated in the near future. We ask that you support any and all of these efforts. It is only through community support, that we can continue our service to the community.

Your volunteer fire department and its dedicated members stand ready to serve the community at a moments notice 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

As a reminder, you can follow the Leetsdale Fire Department on Facebook and also on our website **leetsdalefire.org**

*Ernest Logan*  
 Fire Chief  
 724-333-4759  
 LFDCHIEF@comcast.net

## Hard to Recycle

Saturday, June 24, 2017

9 AM—1 PM

Quaker Valley High School

625 Beaver Street



Presenter: PRC &  
Quaker Valley COG



## ITEMS COLLECTED

Electronics (including TVs), small Freon containing appliances, Polystyrene Packaging Material, tires, batteries and more



Monitors.....\$20

TVs.....\$30

Console &

Projection TVs.....\$40

Car Tires.....\$3.50 off rim

\$8 on rim

Batteries.....\$1 per lbs.

Visit [prc.org](http://prc.org) for more information



## From the office of the Code Enforcement Officer Jim Ivancik . . .



Spring is just around the corner and soon it will be time to get outside and spruce up your property. The International Property Maintenance Code, along with other Borough ordinances is used to ensure *all* properties in the Borough of Leetsdale are maintained in a livable and enjoyable condition. The office of Code Enforcement is here to make sure Leetsdale is maintained to a livable level that we can be proud of. If you receive a violation notice from the Code Enforcement Officer, you are required to act on that notice within the stated period of time to abate the violation. If no action is taken to alleviate the violation, you will receive a ticket or a citation will be issued at the District Magistrate's office.

### Blighted and Abandoned Properties

If you have any concerns over the condition of a structure in the Borough, feel free to call the Borough office or email me at [jivancik@leetsdaleboro.net](mailto:jivancik@leetsdaleboro.net) and I will be happy to look into it for you. We continue to work on some problem properties that we have been informed of. Some issues are easily resolved with a violation notice and then compliance but some issues are more difficult, with the owners no longer in the area or they are deceased. Rest assured that I will do my best to resolve these concerns.



### Grass Cutting Time is Around the Corner



Please be reminded that the Borough ordinance mandates that grass can not grow higher than six inches. Please maintain your lawn on a regular basis. And, if you see that your neighbor is unable to cut their grass due to age or disability, be a good neighbor and take an extra few minutes and cut their lawn. Hey, you got the lawn mower out anyway – and it will make you feel better to know that you helped out a fellow neighbor.

### Rental Property Information

The Borough of Leetsdale has a rental property registration program in place to ensure that rental properties are maintained in a habitable condition for the tenants living there. This program requires all rental properties to be registered each year and each rental unit be inspected for compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code on an annual basis. When letters are sent to the landlords to schedule inspections, they need to contact the code officer to schedule an inspection as soon as possible. Rental properties cannot be legally occupied without a current Rental License certificate. As a tenant, please be sure your landlord is aware of these requirements. For your convenience, I have created a checklist of the most common items I look at during an inspection. Go to our web page at [www.leetsdaleboro.net](http://www.leetsdaleboro.net) and click on "Forms and Applications" and then click on "Rental Inspection Checklist - IPMC" to view the checklist.



Also, be advised the Borough of Leetsdale has updated the rental property registration ordinance changing when the rental registration applications and fees are due each year. The applications and fees will be now due by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Since this ordinance was adopted in February of this year, 2017 rental registrations will be due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your cooperation with this.



**BOROUGH OF LEETSDALE**

373 Beaver Street  
Suite A  
Leetsdale, PA 15056

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

Borough Office  
Leetsdale, PA 15056

**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.



**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**