

MOON TOWNSHIP Messenger

The Official Newsletter of Moon Township • www.moontwp.com

WINTER 2014



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- Moon Township Government Launches Facebook Page
- Township Awarded for Sustainable Practices
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- 2014 Moon Parks Pavilion Rental Changes

MOON TOWNSHIP Messenger

Moon Township Administration

1000 Beaver Grade Road
Moon Township, PA 15108
412-262-1700

www.moontwp.com

Moon Township Board of Supervisors

Marvin Eicher
John Hertzner
Andrew Gribben
Jim Vitale
Joe Wise

Moon Township Staff

Jeanne Creese, *Township Manager*
Jeffrey Ziegler, *Assistant Township Manager*
Lisa Lapaglia, *Finance Director*
Jim Henkemeyer, *Public Works Facilities Manager*
John Scott, *Public Works Operations Manager*
Dave Meinert, *Building Inspector*
Lora Dombrowski, *Code Administrator*
Malcolm Petroccia, P.E., *Township Engineer*
Charlie Belgie, Jr., *Fire Marshal*
Leo McCarthy, *Police Chief*
Greg Seamon, *Police Captain*
Lance Welliver, *Parks and Recreation Director*
Amy Ottaviani, *Assistant Parks and Recreation Director*
James Koepfinger, *Director of Communications and Technology*
Alexis Sergeant, *Communications Director*

Other Moon Township Contact Information:

Call 911 in an emergency

Moon Township Police Department
412-262-5000

Moon Township Fire Department
412-262-5004 (non-emergency only)
412-262-5005 (emergency)

Moon Parks and Recreation
412-262-1703

Moon Community Access Television
412-269-1191

Moon Township Municipal Authority
412-264-4300

Moon Township Public Library
412-269-0334

Elected Property Tax Collector:
Catherine Tress – 412-299-7446

Earned Income Tax Collector:
Jordan Tax Service – 724-731-2300

Moon Township welcomes feedback on the
Moon Township Messenger by email

moontwp@moontwp.com or call **412-262-1700**.

Township offices will be closed in observance of the upcoming 2014 holidays:

- New Year's Day: Wednesday, January 1
- President's Day: Monday, February 17
- Good Friday: Friday, April 18

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On the Cover:

Visit Coventry Log Cabin in Robin Hill Park to experience how life was lived in the 1800s. Learn about the new QR code located at Coventry Cabin on page 3.



Moon Township Awarded Gold Certification for its Sustainable Practices

The Township of Moon is among the first municipalities to become certified through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Sustainable Community Essentials Certification program. Moon Township is recognized at the gold level of certification for meeting the program's rigorous performance criteria which tracks 131 policies and practices that define a sustainable community. The Sustainable Community Essentials Certification, developed by Sustainable Pittsburgh, is designed for municipalities that are working to save money, conserve resources and serve vibrant communities. It applauds municipalities for their demonstrated commitment and sustainability performance.



In earning the gold certification, Moon Township is acknowledged for its progress in addressing such areas as community design and land use, energy efficiency, health and wellness, mitigating blight, intergovernmental cooperation, recycling and waste reduction, fiscal controls and internal management and operations. Details regarding how Moon Township is addressing these areas can be found on the certification program's website sustainablecommunityessentials.org. Code Administrator Lora Dombrowski completed the certification application with the assistance of Green Initiatives Coordinator Rebecca Kiernan and Moon Parks Assistant Director Amy Ottaviani.

Experience the History of Coventry Log Cabin with its Newly Developed QR Code

Coventry Log Cabin was built in 1825, about 12 miles southwest of its present location. The cabin served as a home for John Coventry, a Revolutionary War Veteran, farmer and weaver. Coventry and his family lived in the cabin for 50 years before it became home to the Doehre family for three generations. When abandoned around 1975, the cabin was acquired by the Old Moon Township Historical Society. It was disassembled and every log was tagged. The pieces of the cabin were hauled to Robin Hill Park where, after eight years of repair and rebuild by many volunteers, it was dedicated to Moon Parks on August 28, 1983.

Visit the Coventry Log Cabin in Robin Hill Park and scan the QR Code with a smartphone, electronic pad or notebook to access the wealth of information about John Coventry and the cabin. The Coventry Log Cabin QR Code and experience of history was developed by Old Moon Township Historical Society President Earl Edwards, MCA-TV and Moon Parks.



CONNECT WITH TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS ON FACEBOOK

"LIKE" THESE MOON TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS ON FACEBOOK TO LEARN WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY AND SEE PHOTOS FROM PAST EVENTS.

- "Moon Community Access Television"
- "Moon Parks & Recreation"
- "Moon Township VFC"
- "Moon Township Public Library"

"Moon Township Government" Launches Facebook Page

Like "Moon Township Government" on Facebook, a new source for residents to stay connected to the community. Be the first to learn about news, updates, programs and events going on in the township and never miss out on an opportunity to get involved. The township plans to expand its communication to other social media channels in the near future.



FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN MOON

Chevron Corporation and Speedway LLC came before the Moon Township Planning Commission at the August 21, 2013 meeting. Since then, both corporations have presented development plans before the Moon Township Board of Supervisors during their regular public meetings that were held this past fall. Check back to the spring 2014 *Moon Township Messenger* and moontwp.com for updates on the progress of these developments and information on the Roadway Inn.

PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMUNITY SAFETY AT ITS BEST

1000 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township | 412-262-5000 | www.moonpolice.us

SAFE PRACTICES FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

A MESSAGE FROM THE MOON TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF



Police Chief
 Leo McCarthy, M.A.

Many vehicles today are battery powered; some in the form of scooters, skateboards, bicycles and go-carts. Similar vehicles are powered by gas engines as well. The question is what are the requirements for riding these vehicles upon a public roadway?

Any vehicle other than one solely powered by human power may not be driven on a public roadway unless it is registered, (inspected, some exceptions), insured and the operator has a driver's license. It is unlawful to operate any vehicle, except a human-powered vehicle upon any sidewalk. The amount of horsepower, size of engine and age of the operator is most often not relevant. Pennsylvania has a motor vehicle code known as Title 75, this code works in conjunction with PennDOT regulations known as Title 67. These statutes and regulations can be found online at dmv.state.pa.us.

The Pennsylvania Juvenile Act prohibits citations and physical arrests of persons who are less than ten years of age. Generally, officers warn children and their parents when observed operating one of the noted motor vehicles on a public roadway. Naturally, citations may be issued to children age 10 and above and any parent may be cited for 1575 of Title 75 known as: Permitting Violation of a Title: (a) No person shall authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by him or under his control to be driven in violation of any of the provisions of this title.

The Moon Township Police Department issues hundreds of bicycle helmets every year to children through the funding of grant programs. The Police Department is also a national child safety seat fitting station. Officers are certified to install, inspect and issue free seats to children in need every week.

Many states have adopted relaxed laws regarding electric bicycles and scooters with small engines, these states do not require registration, inspection or even a license to operate some of these vehicles. Residents of Moon Township must keep in compliance with Pennsylvania law and follow these safe electric vehicle standards.

SIGN UP FOR SWIFT 911 AT MOONPOLICE.US

Stay informed with Moon Township Police Department's Swift Reach Program. Swift 911 is a system that calls registered home and cell phone numbers in the event of an emergency or when sharing important information.

SUSPECT A CRIME; CALL THE HOTLINE 412-264-5202

Contact the Moon Township Police Department's Crime Tips Hotline to leave an anonymous message regarding the suspicion of criminal activity or with information on a crime, person who committed a crime or victim of a crime. Call the hotline at any time, day or night, at 412-264-5202 or email crimetips@moonpolice.us. Many times the assistance of others saves someone from becoming a victim or helps current victims of crimes.

NEVER FEEL ALONE WITH HOME ALONE MONITORING – CALL 412-262-5000 TO REGISTER

Moon Township Police Department's Home Alone Monitoring system automatically telephones a resident once or twice a day depending on their needs. If the resident does not answer the phone or responds that they are in need of assistance an emergency contact is called.

In the event of an emergency or to report an occurring crime or threat always call Moon Township Police Department's Dispatch Center at 412-262-5000 or dial 911 for *immediate* assistance. Citizens may also call the Dispatch Center to speak with a Moon Police official regarding information related to a crime or victim of a crime and still remain anonymous if they choose to do so.

Moon Township Dispatch Center
 412-262-5000

Emergency Services
 911

Crime Tips Hotline
 412-264-5202

Callers may remain anonymous

Prescription Drug Drop Off

The Moon Township Police Department now offers prescription drug disposal in its lobby that is open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The disposal box is made from a large old fashion mailbox where residents can drop off unwanted or expired prescription drugs. The project is sponsored by the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. The DA has received assurances from local hospitals to assist in the destruction of unwanted medications. The disposal area is video monitored and under the control of police staff around the clock. Moon Police will continue to participate in the Drug Enforcement Administration National Take Back Prescription Drug Collection program held semiannually.



HOLIDAY SAFETY CHECK LIST



Fire Marshal Charlie Belgie Jr.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MOON TOWNSHIP FIRE MARSHAL

Lights, decorations and toys are a wonderful part of the holidays; however, each year in hospital emergency rooms there are more than 8,000 injuries related to seasonal decorations. Here are some special precautions and expert tips to ensure a holiday season that is happy, healthy and hazard free.

SAFE TREES AND DECORATIONS

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label that reads “fire resistant”.

Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly. When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, the needles are hard to pull from the branches and when bent between your fingers the needles will not break. The trunk will be sticky with resin and when you tap it on the ground the needles should not fall off. When setting up the tree at home place it away from fireplaces, radiators or any portable heating device. Heated rooms dry out live trees rapidly. Be sure to keep the tree stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block the doorways. Cut a few inches off the trunk when setting up, this will help the tree to absorb the water better. Use only noncombustible/flame resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded material. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children. Never use lighted candles on or near a live or artificial tree. Read package instructions when using angel hair or canned snow sprays.

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR LIGHTS

Indoors or outdoors, always use lights that carry a safety laboratory sticker that indicates conformance with safety standards. Check each

strand of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections by visibly checking each light. Throw any set of lights out that shows any of these indicators. Use no more than three strands of lights per single extension cord. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, the tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted. Check the labels of lights to see if they are certified before using them outdoors; attach them securely to avoid wind damage. All outdoor cords used should be plugged into an outlet with ground fault protectors to avoid shock potentials. Turnoff all light when going to bed or leaving the house.

FRIENDLY FIREPLACES

Use care when using fire salts that produce colored flames when thrown in the fireplace, these salts contain heavy metals that can cause severe gastrointestinal irritation if eaten by children. Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace, this can cause a flash fire because this type of paper ignites suddenly and burns rapidly and intensely. Do not burn any pine needles or branches in the fireplace, these also burn very fast and intense.

GENERAL RULES FOR HOLIDAY SAFETY

- Keep lighters and matches away from children.
- Avoid smoking near the tree and flammable decorations.
- Make emergency plans to use if a fire occurs in the home, practice the plan.
- Avoid wearing loose fitted clothing near open flames such as the fireplace, stove, candles or portable heating devices.
- Never burn candles near evergreens or flammable decorations.
- Always use glass candle holders and never let a candle burn all the way down, throw it out when it reaches one inch in height.

Plan for safety, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots associated with holiday decorations and have a safe holiday season. Fire Marshal Charlie Belgie, Jr. can be reached at 412-262-5004 to assist in the answering of all fire safety needs.

MTVFC LENTEN FISH FRIES



Join the Moon Township Volunteer Fire Company for a Lenten meal at an upcoming Fish Fry, held every Friday throughout lent at the Public Safety Building from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Both take-out and sit down dinners are available. Choose from fish, shrimp or chicken finger dinners, sandwiches and desserts. Dinners include fries and cole slaw.

Serve the Community as a Moon Township Volunteer Firefighter

Residents eager to learn how to become a member of the Moon Township Volunteer Fire Company should email recruiting@moontwpfire.com. Volunteer positions are available for all interests and ages that meet the following criteria:

- Current resident of Moon Township.
- Individuals who are between the ages of 16 to 18 years old interested in becoming a Junior Firefighter must attend high school and be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

MTVFC Offers Free Fire Extinguisher Training

The Moon Township Volunteer Fire Company offers fire extinguisher training to small groups and organizations. Sessions include a brief lecture and hands on training teaching each participant how to evaluate whether or not to fight a fire with an extinguisher and how to operate a portable fire extinguisher safely and effectively. Contact MTVFC Chief John Scott at 412-262-1700 ext. 501 for more information and to schedule a training session. Fire extinguisher training is free; however, donations to the MTVFC are greatly appreciated.

Residents can watch MAG-TV'S fire extinguisher training special on Comcast channel 18/Verizon FiOs channel 37. Look for “Moon Township Government Special” on the program schedule found at moongovtv.us.

The Moon Township Volunteer Fire Company thanks the community for its continuous support and wishes everyone a safe and happy new year!

911

IT CAN WAIT - DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE

Valley Ambulance Authority would like to remind and encourage drivers of all ages NOT to text and drive. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, distracted driving played a role in more than 14,000 crashes in Pennsylvania in 2010 resulting in the death of 68 people. These statistics prove that distracted drivers can cause tragic accidents which result in serious bodily injury and can be potentially fatal to not only themselves, but to their passengers and other innocent victims.

While a text may seem important at the time, no text is worth taking a life. "A Text Can Wait" is a common theme of many anti-texting campaigns. "Your most important job when behind the wheel is to focus only on driving," says PennDOT Secretary Barry J. Schoch. "Most people would never close their eyes for five seconds while driving, but that's how long you take your eyes off the road, or even longer, every time you send or read a text message. It's not just your own life you're risking, it's the lives and safety of every motorist around you."

The PA Legislature banned texting while driving on March 8, 2012 by passing a law which prohibits any driver from using an Interactive Wireless Communication Device to send, read or write a text-based communication while his or her vehicle is in motion. An IWCD is defined as a wireless phone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer or similar device used for texting, instant messaging, emailing or browsing the internet. A text-based communication is defined as a text message, instant message, email or other written communication composed or received on an IWCD.

The texting ban does not include the use of a GPS device, a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle

or a communications device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus or school bus. However, VAA encourages and reminds all drivers to not attempt to program or type into a GPS, while their vehicle is in motion. The penalty for conviction of this summary offense is a \$50 fine.

Moon Area High School has made exceptional efforts to educate students about the dangers of texting while driving. MAHS incorporates anti-texting curriculum into its student driving safety programs and has held recent Anti-Texting Days. Moon Township Police in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Police participated in this school-wide assembly which carried the anti-texting message to all students. MAHS Students Against Destructive Decisions in conjunction with VAA, Moon Township Police and the Moon Township Volunteer Fire Company also conduct an annual mock crash which demonstrates the tragic consequences of impaired and/or distracted driving. According to many experts, texting while driving is one of the most dangerous things a person can do behind the wheel, it is a serious issue and should be as unacceptable as drinking and driving. VAA encourages residents to spread the word that "A Text Can Wait" to drivers of all ages.

VAA is proud to serve as the designated community provider of emergency medical services and medical transportation for Moon Township. VAA also provides EMS services to neighboring communities including, Findlay, Crescent, Coraopolis and Neville Island. More information about the life-saving services provided by VAA is available on valleyamb.org or by calling 412-262-2620.



Paramedics from Valley Ambulance Authority and Moon Township Volunteer Firefighters participate in a car crash drill as part of a Students Against Destructive Decisions assembly program held at Moon High School.

ICE AND SNOW, TAKE IT SLOW

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS



The Department of Public Works has prepared for winter by ordering salt and getting their vehicles ready to take care of snow removal and winter maintenance throughout the township. Listed are a few tips and what the township is doing to keep the community safe this winter. Any citizen that does not follow these guidelines can be cited by the Moon Township Police or Public Works Department.

Moon Township residents, property owners and business owners are reminded of the following regulations and commendations for the winter weather season.

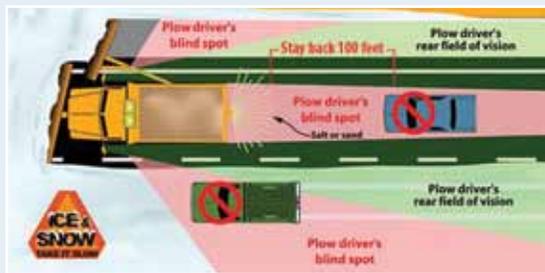
- Drivers should have good tires on their vehicle, know how to brake in slippery conditions and be aware of changing road conditions. Peak traffic problems occur between 4 - 8 a.m. and 4 - 8 p.m.
- Cars are not permitted to park on township roads during a snow event or between 2 - 6 a.m. any day of the week, year round. Vehicles may be ticketed or towed that do not obey this ordinance.
- Do not plow or shovel snow from driveways, parking lots or sidewalks onto the street; this is a violation of state law and township ordinance.
- Remove portable basketball hoops, hockey nets and any other obstructions from public roadways, cul-de-sacs and township right-of-ways.
- Trim trees so that branches do not extend beyond the curb.
- Do not allow children to build snow forts or play in packed snow along the edge of the road or cul-de-sacs.
- Never allow children to play in or on snow-covered streets or in the mounds of snow left by snowplows, it is extremely difficult for snowplow drivers to see them.

- Although maintained by the Municipal Authority, as a safety measure for the township, clear snow on and around fire hydrants in the event of snowfall.
- Pile snow near the road on the right side of the driveway (when facing the street) when shoveling to help reduce the amount of snow that is pushed back into the driveway during snowplow operations.
- Residents who live in neighborhoods with sidewalks are required to clear snow from the sidewalks in front of their home.
- Place garbage cans and recycling bins back in the driveway entrance to avoid spillage. Questions pertaining to garbage collection should be addressed to the Municipal Authority at 412-264-4300.
- Do not shovel snow in a manner that blocks the view of oncoming traffic for motorists.

Yard Damage

The goal of the Public Works Department during plowing operations is to clear the roadway of snow from curb to curb (mailbox to mailbox), this includes all of the cul-de-sacs in the township. Plow drivers push the snow up onto the grassy area behind the curb during this operation. At times, there may be some yard damage done to these areas. If this occurs, residents should report the incident to the Township Administration Office at 412-262-1700. Public Works crews will roll the sod back, if possible, and when the snow melts in the spring crews will make a permanent repair. This request also applies to any asphalt or concrete curbs along the roadways or parking lots maintained by the township.

Snowplow Safety



Snowplows maintain safe roads for drivers, but residents must also do their part to help keep the roads safe for snowplows. According to Moon Township Public Works Operators, there is never a safe time to pass a snowplow; however, if you decide to pass a snowplow, drivers should use extreme caution and be aware that every truck has blind spots. It is important to always maintain a safe distance of 100 feet, or approximately eight car-lengths, and increase stopping distance when following a plow.

Mooncrest Sidewalk Replacement

The Public Works Department completed Phase I of Mooncrest's sidewalk replacement on Juniper Drive and Oak Drive, Phase II begins in 2014. There is no parking allowed on sidewalks during this time due to construction. Residents are asked to allow themselves extra time when driving in these areas.



SAFETY ALERTS AND INFORMATION

PennDOT Road Updates

Check road conditions for Pennsylvania interstates and some limited-access highways by calling 511 or visiting 511pa.com.

Cancellations and Delays

Watch Moon Community Access Television, Comcast channel 14/Verizon FiOS channel 35, for local cancellations and delays. Announcements and updates are also posted online at moontwp.com.

Emergency Shelter Information

The township operates a shelter during emergency situations to provide short-term relief for residents. Moon Township's emergency shelter location is the Public Safety Building located at 1000 Beaver Grade Road. Residents can find emergency shelter announcements on moontwp.com, local news reports or by contacting the Moon Township Police Department at 412-262-5000. In the event of a township-wide emergency, the Police Department will issue a phone message through the Swift Reach emergency notification system. Residents can register for Swift 911 at moonpolice.us or by calling 412-262-5000. Both home and cell phone numbers can be registered.

Moon Township Public Safety Building



Tree Limb Drop-Off

**MONDAY - FRIDAY | 7 A.M. - 3 P.M.
DOWNES FIRE STATION**

The Public Works Department offers Tree Limb Drop-Off year round. Tree branches should not exceed six feet in length, four inches in diameter and should not be bundled or tied. The township asks that residents do not discard of any materials at the composting site after hours unless special arrangements have been made. Contact the Moon Township Administration Office at 412-262-1700 to schedule a drop off during non-operating hours.

MCA-TV

MOON COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION

1700 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township | 412-269-1191 | www.mca-tv.org

MOON COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION (MCA-TV)

Comcast channel 14 • Verizon FiOs channel 35

MOON AREA GOVERNMENT TELEVISION (MAG-TV)

Comcast channel 18 • Verizon FiOs channel 37



WATCH. VOLUNTEER. PRODUCE.

Tune in to MCA-TV to view a variety of community programming. Shows feature exercise, cooking, health care, education and government. View the full program schedule and watch online at mca-tv.org. Call MCA-TV at 412-269-1191 to order a DVD or Blu-Ray of your favorite program aired on MCA-TV or MAG-TV.

Be a Part of MCA-TV's Public Awareness Weekend

Join Moon Community Access Television for Public Awareness Weekend this spring. PAW is a live television event that features Pittsburgh-area nonprofits. All nonprofit organizations in the Pittsburgh Area are invited to join MCA-TV for a 30-minute television interview that will air live on the station reaching approximately 40,000 households in Moon Township and surrounding communities.

Interviews are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Communications Director Alexis Sergeant by email asergeant@moontwp.com or phone 412-269-1191 to learn more and register for the event.



MCA-TV staff and volunteers pose for a picture in the MCA-TV studio during last year's Public Awareness Weekend.

MCA-TV History Series – Moon Township Remembers



Moon Township celebrated its 225th Anniversary on December 18, 2013. Moon Community Access Television and Old Moon Township Historical Society President Earl Edwards produced a history series of the township that can be viewed on the station. The third segment of the series titled *Moon Township Remembers* features Moon Township residents as they reminisce of their memories of the township and discuss how it has changed throughout the years. Edwards and OMTHS member, Carl Griffith, share photos with residents to trigger memories and spark conversation. Visit mca-tv.org for program schedule information.

PENNDOT'S SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM ENCOURAGES BIKE SAFETY

Instructors from PennDOT's Safe Routes to School program educate township staff about bicycle safety this past fall in a program held at the Township Administration Office. Residents can find more information on PennDOT's Safe Routes to School program by visiting saferoutespa.org.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN NEARING COMPLETION

Moon Township's Historic Architectural Review Board and Community Development Department have been working with professional consultants for the past 10 months to complete a Historic Preservation Plan. The work is funded in part by a Keystone Historic Preservation

Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. One of the main goals of the project was to determine which sites and structures in the township have historic value, as opposed to being labeled as old. The consultants undertook a comprehensive field survey over the past spring and summer and after an exhaustive evaluation 147 resources were identified as having local historic value. Examples include: log cabins, 19th century oil wells and pumps, institutional and commercial buildings, residential homes and 14 neighborhoods. The field survey was a monumental effort making Moon Township one of only a few communities in Southwestern PA to have a comprehensive list of its historic resources. The Preservation Plan is near completion and will be considered for approval by the Board of Supervisors in early 2014. Anyone interested in learning more or finding out if their property is included in the inventory may contact Code Administrator Lora Dombrowski at 412-262-1700.

Even in a Rush, Don't Attempt to Flush – Bathroom Wipes

Bathroom wipes, or pre-moistened towelettes, are becoming a common personal hygiene item and with its growing popularity toilet clogs and backups in sewer systems are increasing. These pre-moistened wipes are often advertised as flushable; however, wastewater authorities confirm that even though wipes may go down the toilet many do not break down as they move through the sewer system. This is costing some municipalities across the nation millions of dollars to have pipes and pumps unclogged or to replace machinery.

As a responsible resident, it is important to remember not to flush anything other than toilet paper and human waste. Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in the home and sewer releases to the environment. Hazardous waste materials should also not be flushed or poured down the drain. These materials include unused medications, waste cooking grease, automotive fluids, old fertilizers, old paints, chemicals, pesticides and degreasers. Visit zerowastepgh.org for a list of locations of where to dispose of these hazardous items.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MOON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL – COMPOSTING



Residents are encouraged to try composting at home. Composting allows decomposed materials to be reused as a nutritious supplement for garden, lawn and house plants. A variety of materials may be used for composting including, leaves, grass, weeds and some kitchen scraps

(not meat). A composter can be bought at any home improvement store or residents can make their own composting bin. Build a composting bin with stakes and mesh wire or snow fencing; do not locate the bin near other structures or combustible materials. In order for the composting to work effectively, follow these guidelines.

Size Matters: A leaf pile should be four to 10 feet around, and three to five feet high. A correct pile size ensures proper temperature and air flow needed for composting.

Keep the Pile Moist: The pile contains enough moisture when a few drops of water can be squeezed from a handful of leaves. Do not add too much water.

DO NOT COMPRESS THE PILE

Shred Leaves Prior to Adding Them to the Pile: This helps speed up the composting process. Shred them by raking them into a pile and then mowing them with a mulch mower.

Rotate the Leaves in the Pile: Try to move the outer layer to the center. Rotate the leaves each month in warm weather. Do not rotate the leaves as often in cold weather or the pile temperature may be disturbed. Do rotate the leaves if ammonia or other bad odor is smelled from the pile.

Remember the Mixture of Materials to Use When Making Compost: Three parts brown, one part green; keep it moist and turn it regularly.

The completed product should yield a pile of compost about half the size of the original pile. The composting process takes between four and nine months to complete. Compost can be used as mulch or added to garden soil with a tiller to help get the soil ready for spring planting. Composting can help eliminate up to 20 percent of the waste sent to landfills each year. It is among the simplest and most effective things that can be done to reduce human impact on the environment, add nutrition to soil and increase the crop yield and plant health. Compost also provides a slow release of nutrients. Chemical fertilizers often provide too many nutrients too quickly for native plants and this flush of nutrients gives weeds a competitive edge.

The Moon Township Public Works Department provides free leaf compost to residents every summer. Check back to the summer edition of the *Moon Township Messenger* for more information on when compost will be available for pick up.

Start the New Year with an Everlasting Memory

Give the gift that lasts a lifetime with an engraved brick in the Moon Township Memorial Garden. Bricks are placed in the walkway circling the township's 9/11 Memorial and memorials honoring public safety professionals and military service members. Bricks are available at a cost of \$65 for an engraved 4x8 inch brick; after the first purchase, additional bricks are \$50. Engraved 8x8 inch business bricks also are available for \$200. Brick donations support the continued development of the Memorial Garden. Contact Fire Marshal Charlie Belgie at 412-262-5004 to order a commemorative brick today.



Moon Township Memorial Garden

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL IN MOON TOWNSHIP

The Montour Trail Council presented a plaque to Moon Township Manager Jeanne Creese on October 5, 2013 in a celebration held at mile zero of the Montour Trail recognizing its 20th anniversary of being opened in Moon Township. The trail is operated and maintained by over 1,000 members of the Montour Trail Council, a nonprofit volunteer group that was founded in 1989. Since the trail's establishment in Moon on October 10, 1993, the MTC and the township have worked together to improve the safety and aesthetic appearance of the trail. A large bronze plaque is permanently installed at mile zero noting this partnership.

The concept of the Montour Trail was presented to the Board of Supervisors in November 1989 by Allegheny County Planning Department representative, Larry Ridenour. The idea originated from a dentist, Dino Angelici, and Westinghouse engineer, Stan Sattinger. The board passed a resolution to support the trail in March 1991, then, in early 1993, Moon Township Public Works crew headed by current Public Works Facilities Manager Jim Henkemeyer started building the trail. The crew's work included brush hogging, grading, ditch work and placing the final surface of crushed limestone; materials paid for by Allegheny County. Volunteers removed eight 30 yard dumpsters of trash and installed fencing, gates and signage.

The Montour Trail provides several health benefits to the community by promoting cardiovascular activities such as biking, running and walking. The scenic beauty of the trail attracts thousands of visitors who watch the fish in the Montour Run stream and also those who walk or bike the trail to work, local stores or for enjoyment and exercise.

Today, approximately 62 miles of the Montour Trail is open in 14 municipalities. There have been many enhancements added to the trail throughout the years including improvements to the trail heads and the addition of water fountains, benches, two camping sites and Montour Railroad historical interpretive signs.



Pictured from Left to Right: President of the Airport Area Friends of the Montour Trail Phyllis McChesney, Moon Township Manager Jeanne Creese, Montour Trail Council President Dennis Pfeiffer.

The MTC is appreciative for the volunteer efforts of local companies in the Airport Area who have had all day work parties perform major enhancements and maintenance items. These companies include Deloitte Consulting, FedEx Ground, GlaxoSmithKline and the trail's newest corporate volunteer, Newalta. All donations received through sponsors, fundraisers and events go directly towards building and maintaining the Montour Trail.

More information on becoming a member of the MTC or on corporate volunteer opportunities can be found at montourtrail.org.



MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL RECOGNIZED

The Moon Township Board of Supervisors presents a proclamation to Montour Trail Council President Dennis Pfeiffer in recognition of the volunteer efforts of the MTC members and in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Montour Trail being opened in Moon Township.

Pictured from Left to Right: Supervisor Jim Vitale, Montour Trail Council President Dennis Pfeiffer, Chairman Marvin Eicher, Vice Chairman John Hertzler.

EAGLE SCOUT PROCLAMATIONS – YEAR IN REVIEW

The Moon Township Board of Supervisors presented a proclamation to the following Boy Scouts on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, an honor earned by only about five percent of all Boy Scouts. Scouts must earn 21 merit badges, serve their troop in a variety of leadership roles and complete a major community service project to earn this rank.

TROOP 310

- Michael Kotok, 26 merit badges
- Michael Storm, 25 merit badges
- William Geldmaker, 22 merit badges
- Timothy Geldmaker, 39 merit badges
- Dalton Pritt, 29 merit badges
- Joseph Meyer Leibowitz, 30 merit badges
- Joshua W. Merow, 23 merit badges
- Andrew Blaine Horvath, 34 merit badges

TROOP 905

- Juan Saylor, 25 merit badges
- Ryan Biggins, 21 merit badges

TROOP 198

- Joseph Willoughby

EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE RECOGNIZED

The Moon Township Board of Supervisors recognized Eagle Scout candidate, Tyler Henry Farr, of Boy Scout Troop 310 at their October regular public meeting. Farr recently completed the planning and execution of a three-part improvement project of the outdoor space behind the Mooncrest Community Center's Knowledge Connection.



Pictured from Left to Right: Supervisor Andrew Gribben, Supervisor Frank Sinatra, Vice Chairman John Hertzner, Eagle Scout Candidate Tyler Henry Farr, Chairman Marvin Eicher, Supervisor Jim Vitale.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 310 RECOGNIZED

The Moon Township Board of Supervisors honors past and current members of Boy Scout Troop 310 at their September regular public meeting. A total of 86 scouts of Troop 310 attained the highest rank in scouting, Eagle Scout, earned by only about five percent of all Boy Scouts. Troop 310 has been active in Moon Township for 57 years, sponsored by Sharon Community Presbyterian Church.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Moon Township voters for their confidence and support on Election Day. I am humbled and appreciative for the opportunity to remain the Moon Township Property Tax Collector for four more years. I look forward to again serving the taxpayers of the township to the best of my ability with integrity, fairness and professionalism. As always, if anyone has a property tax related question, never hesitate to call my office. I also welcome suggestions from any township resident to continue improving the services my office provides for the community.

2014 PROPERTY TAXES:

The Moon Township Property Tax Office begins billing for 2014 tax statements on April 1, 2014. The Township of Moon, two percent discount will be due by May 31, 2014. Mailing address changes for property tax statements, tax payers who no longer escrow and any deed changes should notify my office immediately with the updated and accurate information. Allegheny County Assessment appeals: If a taxpayer is due a refund from a reduction in their property assessment, the tax office will send a request to the appropriate taxing authority with the official county documentation. Refunds are sent to the taxpayer directly from the taxing authority after board meetings each month. Those in need of a tax certification for their rebate checks, 2013 IRS taxes, etc., may contact the Property Tax Office for a copy.

Residents are encouraged to visit moontaxoffice.us for information regarding online payments, office hours, payment periods, millage rates (once passed by boards), holiday closings and other helpful links.



MOON PARKS & RECREATION

1350 JOE DENARDO WAY (EWING ROAD), MOON TOWNSHIP
 412-262-1703 | www.moonparks.org

Moon Park Pavilion Rentals

Moon Parks and Recreation will begin to take reservations for pavilions on Monday, February 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Moon Township Administration Office located at 1000 Beaver Grade Road. This session is open to Moon Residents ONLY.

Non-resident rentals will take place on Tuesday, February 11 in the Moon Parks Office located in Moon Park. Office hours, pavilion photos, details and FAQs are posted online at moonparks.org. Contact the Moon Park Office at 412-262-1703 for more information or email info@moonparks.org.

MOON PARK PAVILIONS:

- All reservations must be done in person.
- Whoever signs the contract and makes the payment MUST be a resident of Moon Township to qualify for resident rates.
- Valid ID is required.
- All deposits and fees are due at the time of rental.
- All pavilions require a \$100 deposit that is separate from all fees.
- All pavilion rentals require a signed contract.
- All pavilions have lights, electric, water and horseshoe pits.
- An alcohol beverage cleanup permit is available to purchase for \$30 and must be posted at the pavilion during the rental.

ROBIN HILL CENTER:

The Robin Hill Center is available for special events such as weddings, showers, birthdays, reunions and related celebrations or parties for groups up to 110 persons.

- The facility is available to be rented for an eight hour period.
- Additional time and amenities (gazebo, lawn rental, etc.) is available.
- Moon Parks and Recreation accepts reservations up to one year prior to the event.
- Reservations for the Robin Hill Center are made year round.
- All reservations must be done in person.
- Whoever signs the contract and makes the payment MUST be a resident of Moon Township to qualify for resident rates.
- There is a \$150 deposit necessary to secure the rental and is separate from all fees.

Photos, details and FAQs are posted online at moonparks.org. Contact the Moon Park office at 412-262-1703 to schedule an appointment to tour the facility.



MOON PARKS INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT – NEDA STORY

Moon Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of exercise classes from beginner level Zumba, Yoga, Pilates and much more. All instructors are highly trained, experienced professionals who will motivate participants through their fitness journey.

Many of the most intense classes Moon Parks offers are taught by fitness professional, Neda Story. Story has been a group fitness instructor and personal trainer for 25 years. She is certified to teach a wide variety of fitness classes including Spin, Urban Rebounder, Aquacise, Kickboxing, Step and Zumba.

Story teaches Insanity on Thursday evenings for Moon Parks and new for 2014, Bodyshred by Jillian Michaels on Wednesday evenings. Insanity and Bodyshred classes are designed for teens, 16 or older, and adults. These classes are not recommended for people who are recovering from an injury or have ongoing orthopedic issues such as knee or back problems. These classes are considered to be HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training). “One benefit of these HIIT classes is that by doing dynamic, multi joint, high intensity intervals it takes less time to complete your overall workout,” says Story. “The biggest benefit, however, comes in the form of EPOC (Excess Post-exercise Oxygen Consumption), a metabolic boosting process that returns the body to its pre-exercise resting state by replenishing oxygen, replacing muscle glycogen, returning blood lactate and hormone levels to normal ranges and lowering heart rate and body temperature; all of which requires energy in the form of caloric burn.”

Insanity offers a rest period after two minutes of high intensity drills. Bodyshred incorporates a light dumbbell/resistance segment followed by high intensity cardio then an active recovery that focuses on core. Bodyshred does not stop for a rest period like Insanity does. Insanity class is 50 minutes and Bodyshred is 30 minutes. “Both are very challenging but participants power through them at their own pace,” says Story. “There are also modifications for most of the exercises.”

TAKE ON A CHALLENGE FOR THE NEW YEAR AND JOIN STORY IN ONE OF HER UPCOMING FITNESS CLASSES THIS WINTER.

NEDA STORY'S TOP THREE REASONS OF WHY TO GET INVOLVED IN AN EXERCISE PROGRAM:

1. Overall improvement in health and wellness
2. Helps to manage weight and increase metabolism
3. Decreases stress



Neda Story

BODYSHRED by Jillian Michaels (Adults/Teens 16+)

Wednesdays | 6 - 6:30 p.m.

Rhema Christian School, 1301 Coraopolis Heights Road

January 8 - February 12

February 19 - March 26

\$30 Moon Residents/\$35 Non-Residents

Instructor: Neda Story

BODYSHRED by Jillian Michaels is a high intensity and endurance based 30 minute workout.

This is a 3-2-1 interval format: three minutes of strength, two minutes of cardio and one minute of abs. Participants will shed fat, define muscle and enhance overall health.

Light hand weights and a floor mat are required.

INSANITY (Adults/Teens 16+)

Thursdays | 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Township Administration Building

January 9 - February 13

February 20 - March 27

\$45 Moon Residents/\$50 Non-Residents

Instructor: Neda Story

The hardest workout ever put on DVD is now available in a live class led by Insanity certified instructor, Neda Story. No weights or equipment is needed. This class uses Max Interval Training in three to five minute blocks using plyometrics, cardio conditioning, core work and much more. Participants will be pushed past their comfort zone.

Sign up with a friend for extra motivation!

VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP MOON PARKS

Employees from the DoubleTree Hotel and Jacksons Restaurant in Moon Township clean up Robin Hill Park during the company's National Week of Service, a brand-wide initiative for DoubleTree's Care Committee.



Earth Day at Robin Hill Park

Sunday, April 13 | 1 - 3 p.m.
Celebrate Earth Day with Moon Parks. Kids can enjoy several interactive exhibits that will teach them about green choices and keeping the environment clean.

Bunny Trail at Moon Park

Saturday, April 19 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Hop on over to Moon Park for this fun holiday event. Participate in arts and crafts, games and other interactive activities.

HEALTH & FITNESS PROGRAMS

Karate (Adults/Teens/Kids 6+)

Mondays & Wednesdays | January - May 2014
Moon High School Wrestling Room
6:30 p.m. (Beginners) | 7:30 p.m. (Advanced)
\$45/month - Moon School District Residents
**Online registration and mail-in form is now available.*
This is a unique karate system tied together to cover all ranges of self-defense. The classes are led by Ken Wolf along with experienced instructors who hold black belts in Okinawan Kenpo and Wa Shu Mudokwan as well as experience in Law Enforcement and tournaments.

Pilates (Adults/Teens 15+)

Wednesdays | 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. | Robin Hill Center
January 8 - February 12
February 19 - March 26
\$45 Residents/\$50 Non-Residents, per 6-week session
Instructor: Judy Elias
Join certified instructor, Judy Elias, for Pilates! The exciting benefits of this class are improved posture, weight loss from exercise and a renewed positive sense of self. It is designed for all fitness levels. Participants should bring a mat or towel to class.

Morning Beginner Zumba (Adults/Teens 13+)

Mondays | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. | Robin Hill Center
January 6 - February 10
February 17 - March 24
\$45 Moon Residents/\$50 Non-Residents, per 6-week session
Instructor: Paola Sanchez
This class is a great way to begin an exercise regime and have fun while burning calories. Zumba Fitness is a combination of Latin based dance moves including salsa, cumbia, soca, flamenco, samba and hip-hop. Dance experience is not required. Please bring water.

Beginner Zumba (Adults/Teens 13+)

Wednesdays | 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.
Rhema Christian School, 1301 Coraopolis Heights Road
January 8 - February 12
February 19 - March 26
\$45 Moon Residents/\$50 Non-Residents, per 6-week session
Instructor: Catherine Hollien
This class is a great way to begin an exercise regime and have fun while burning calories. Zumba Fitness is a combination of Latin based dance moves including salsa, cumbia, soca, flamenco, samba and hip-hop. Dance experience is not required. Please bring water.

Zumba Fitness (Adults/Teens 13+)

Tuesdays | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building Auditorium
January 7 - February 11
February 18 - March 25
\$45 Residents/\$50 Non-Residents, per 6-week session
**\$15 Discount available, call for details*
Instructor: Marci King
Thursdays | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Township Administration Building Auditorium
January 9 - February 13
February 20 - March 27
\$45 Residents/\$50 Non-Residents, per 6-week session
**\$15 Discount available, call for details*

\$9 drop-in fee
Instructor: Christie Covelli
These six week classes are designed to have fun while you burn calories. Zumba Fitness is a combination of Latin based dance moves including salsa, cumbia, soca, flamenco, samba and hip-hop. Dance experience is not required. Please bring water.

Totally Toned (Adult/Teens 15+)

Mondays | 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.
Moon High School Fitness Room
January 6 - February 10
February 17 - March 24
\$45 Moon Residents/\$50 Non-Residents, per 6-week session
Instructor: Karla Tobias
This class is designed for all fitness levels to help tone the entire body including abs, thighs, back, arms and glutes. Bring hand weights, a mat and water.

Yoga Basics and More (Adults/ Teens 15+)

Tuesdays | 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Township Administration Building
January 7 - January 28
February 4 - February 25
March 4 - March 25
\$40 Moon Residents/\$45 Non-Residents, per 4-week session
Instructor: Jen Stratakis
Hatha Yoga includes poses, breath work and guided relaxation. Yoga can improve lung capacity, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and mental calm with regular practice. Participants should bring a yoga mat or towel and water to class. No experience is required.

Yoga Workshop for Insomnia (Adults/Teens 15+)

Tuesday, April 1 | 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building
\$20 Moon Residents/\$25 Non-Residents
Instructor: Jen Stratakis
Learn to use restorative yoga poses, calming breath work and other holistic techniques the will lead to a better, peaceful night's sleep. No prior yoga experience is necessary. Participants should bring a yoga mat.

ART/EDUCATION

"SPLASH SOME MORE" - Advanced/Returning Students (Adults 18+)

Thursdays, January 16 - March 6 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Robin Hill Center
This class is designed for returning or new students with some previous experience in water media.

"JUMP in with a Splash" - Beginners (Adults 18+)

Thursdays, January 16 - March 6 | 1 - 3 p.m.
Robin Hill Center
\$74 Residents/\$79 Non-Residents
**Fee does not include supplies*
This course is designed to introduce a beginning student to the fun and excitement of water-based materials. No previous experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun.

Family Nature Programs with Audubon Society (Family Program-All Ages)

Saturday, January 11 - Great Backyard Bird Count
10 - 11 a.m. | Coventry Log Cabin at Robin Hill Park
Instructor: Audubon Society
This is a free program, please register online at moonparks.org or call the Moon Parks office at 412-262-1703.
The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. This fun project allows participants to count birds seen at their home feeders or location of their choice. This session will cover bird identification, common birds of Western PA and the data collection and submission process.

Driver's Education/Kennedy School of Driving (Teens)

Tuesdays & Thursdays, February 25 - March 27
6 - 9 p.m. | Township Administration Building
\$25 Residents/\$30 Non-Residents, Course Fee \$350
The Driver's Education course is instructed by the Kennedy School of Driving. Upon successful completion of the 30 hours of theory and six hours of behind the wheel training, a certificate will be given that is accepted by most insurance companies. Participants must be 16 and have a learners permit for the on-the-road portion of the program. The balance of \$350 is paid to Kennedy School of Driving at the first class.

HIGH TECH LEARNING

Minecraft Workshop (Ages 8 - 12)

Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16 or 23
**single workshop offered four different times*
5 - 7 p.m. | Robin Hill Center
\$30 Moon Residents/\$35 Non-Residents
The goal of this workshop is to help students learn how to collaborate, innovate and problem solve while having a great time playing Minecraft and overcoming challenges designed by Hi-Tech Learning. A special server will be used that allows all students to work in one virtual world together. This workshop does not teach students how to play Minecraft, previous experience with the program is required.

Mobile Game Design (Ages 9 - 13)

Tuesdays, March 25 - April 29
5 - 6:30 p.m. | Township Administration Building
\$110 Moon Residents/\$120 Non-Residents
Students use special software (Game Salad) designed to allow the creation of complex games using a visual, drag and drop interface. Once students finish their games, they will have the ability to publish them so they are available for play on iPhone, iPad, Android devices, Kindle and Nook.

FPS Game Design (Ages 9 - 13)

Tuesdays, March 25 - April 29
6:45 - 8:15 p.m. | Township Administration Building
\$110 Moon Residents/\$120 Non-Residents
Students learn how to create and edit game maps allowing for exciting gameplay in environments they design. The software is also kid-friendly because the more violent aspects of the typical first person shooter game have been eliminated. Students play an advanced version of laser tag in the worlds they create, they will also learn how to record and share videos of the action in their worlds.

All events are weather dependent. Please visit www.moonparks.org or call 412-262-1703 for the most up-to-date information.

Township of Moon

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www.moontwp.com

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR MOON'S E-NEWSLETTER

Receive monthly updates on news and events with Moon's free monthly email newsletter, *Moon Township Monthly*. Sign up today at moontwp.com under Quick Links.



SUBMIT A QUESTION OR CONCERN ONLINE

Submit a question, comment or concern to township officials through the Citizen Request System. This feature allows residents to submit a concern and track its resolution through ongoing updates ensuring a timely response from Moon Township staff. A link can be found at moontwp.com under Quick Links.

TUNE IN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Watch Moon Township Board of Supervisors and Moon Area School Board public meetings on MAG-TV, Comcast channel 18 and Verizon channel 37. Schedule information is available at moongovtv.us. View the meetings and MCA-TV's community produced programming online at mca-tv.org.

VISIT MOON PARKS AND RECREATION

Get involved in the many events and programs offered by Moon Parks and Recreation. Use a computer or smartphone to find the most current schedule information at moonparks.org.

STAY INFORMED WITH SWIFT 911

Sign up for Swift 911 at moonpolice.us. This system will call a registered home or cell phone in the event of an emergency or to share important community information.