

Dallas Township

Home of the Mountaineers



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Past, Present, Future



Dallas Days Bicentennial Committee members: (seated, left to right) Brenda Pugh, Chelsey Tupper, Supervisors Liz Martin and Bill Grant, Alan Pugh; (standing) Jim Roberts, Gary Kirk, District Judge Jim Tupper, Brian Tupper, Joe Hardisky, Eli Foss, Rich Fufaro and Chris Purcell. Missing from photo: Charlie Kishbaugh, Sherry Hogan, Amanda Faneck, Kelly Mulhern, Doug Higgins, Paul Adamchick, Karen Boback, Jack and Kathy Wega.

Where the Past Meets the Present

In case you haven't heard, Dallas Township will observe its 200th birthday in 2017. As you can imagine, planning for a year-long community celebration can be an arduous and overwhelming task. If not for the assistance of some very enthusiastic, community-spirited volunteers, the slate of events we have planned for next year would not be possible.

After the New Year, informational flyers will be circulated throughout the greater Back Mountain community. The calendar of events will kick off on Friday, April 7th (the Township's birthday) with the Gold Shield Gala, a dinner dance honoring our Back Mountain law enforcement personnel. Throughout the month of May, watch for the Dallas Days Art & History Display at the new EMA Building on Rt. 118, near Lehman; the Dallas Days Car, Truck, & Motorcycle Show will take place in June, as well as two Community Movie Nights for the kids in June and August; on Saturday, July 1st a special parade will lead revelers to the Dallas Days Old-Fashioned Firemen's Bazaar & Fireworks at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds; Dallas Days Weekend will be back September 15-17, culminating with the Dallas Harvest Festival on the Dallas High School grounds; kids love Halloween, so watch for the Kiwanis Halloween Party on Sunday, October 29, and a special Pumpkin Decorating Contest that will be judged during the new Halloween Neighborhood event at the fairgrounds on Halloween night; November will "Give Back" with charitable donations and a special Thanksgiving dinner. The final events will provide the perfect cap to a great year for our community. In early December an old-fashioned Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas House Decoration Contest will be sure to put even the faintest of heart in the Christmas spirit.

Keep an eye on the local papers, our website and Facebook pages (Dallas Township & Dallas Days Bicentennial Celebration) for updates.



Dallas Township News & Views

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

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

Don't forget to visit our Facebook page!

Increased Accessibility

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

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

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



Future Traffic Woes

There are times when driving through the Back Mountain can be challenging, due to traffic-related issues, but a word to the wise? Stock up on your favorite headache remedies, and soon.

Word has it that utility work in Dallas Borough promises to slow traffic down even more for a while as old water and gas lines are removed, updated and and/or installed on and around Main Street. Prep work for the Roundabout project will continue into the New Year, pushing off construction of the controversial traffic reconfiguration mode even more.

Meanwhile, back in Dallas Township, Hildebrandt/Rt. 309/Center Hill Road work will continue off and on, and into the New Year. Some changes have been made to that intersection, but more are are planned. Temporary traffic signals have been installed as part of the utility prep work. Meanwhile, utility and other preliminary work on the Upper Demunds project will continue out of the public eye until next year sometime. This portion of the overall PennDOT TIP project is anticipated to be completed sometime in mid-2018.

Winter Parking Restrictions

Residents of Dallas Township are reminded that, except in locations whereby Ordinance restrictions are more severe, the Township's Winter Parking Ordinance prohibits vehicles from parking on Township roads and streets from November 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017, inclusive, between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. This allows the Dallas Township Road Department to effectively clear streets and roads of snow. The Winter Parking Ordinance is in effect regardless of whether or not it snows. Dallas Township Police will enforce the winter parking ban as part of their night patrol duties.



Rental Inspection Ordinance

On November 1st, 2016, the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors enacted a "Dallas Township Rental Inspection Ordinance". The purpose of this Ordinance is to enhance the safety of non-owner occupied premises, structures and properties by a system of inspection(s), conducted by our Code Enforcement Officer or qualified designee, which will focus on compliance with basic property maintenance code(s).

Responsible Parties. The owner of any Residential Units/Regulated Rental Units/Regulated Dwelling Units, which is subject to the inspection requirements of this Ordinance, shall be responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance. All owners who do not reside in the Township of Dallas, shall designate, in writing, an authorized agent residing in or maintaining an office within twenty five (25) miles of Dallas Township, who shall be responsible for receiving all notices issued by the Township of Dallas pertaining to such rental premises, structures, or properties. The owner shall also provide, in writing, the business address and telephone number of the person or entity that the owner designates as the authorized agent of the owner.

Fee Schedule. The fee schedule for issuance of Certificates of Occupancy shall be as follows, subject to subsequent amendment by the Ordinance(s) of the Township of Dallas:
 (a) Issuance of an initial Certificate of Occupancy: For 1 to 4 Units - \$50.00 per Unit; For 5 or more Units - \$35 per Unit. (b) Inspection of premises, structures, or property subsequent to the inspection for an initial Certificate of Occupancy or a re-inspection for a subsequent Certificate of Occupancy at any time: \$25.00 per Unit. (c) Fees are due immediately following the inspection in the form of a check or money order; the Township is unable to accept cash or credit card payments.

Inspections. Per the PA Uniform Construction Code, following an inspection of the premises, a copy of the Occupancy Inspection Report will be given to the owner/representative, which includes a checklist with the following items that need to be present and/or functional: (1) Building: Smoke Alarms, CO Detector, Handrails, Infestation and/or Rodent Harborage, Fire Extinguisher in Kitchen, and Interior and Exterior Conditions (clean and safe); (2) Electrical: GFCI's (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters), which must be present near water sources, such as a kitchen or bathroom sink or tub; (3) Plumbing: Hot water, Toilet, Bathing (shower and/or bath tub), and Sink(s); (4) Mechanical: Heat and Dryer Vent.

Cooperation. The Township of Dallas has experienced problems with the maintenance of non-owner residential properties from time to time. The health, life, safety, and welfare of occupants of these non-owner occupied premises is a great concern. Your cooperation with our Code Enforcement Officer will be most appreciated.

Administration

Administrative office:

(570) 674-2000 (extensions below)

Email: nbalutis@dallastownship.com

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

Nancy Balutis - Secretary-Treasurer (x2007)

Liz Martin - Assistant Secretary (x2008)

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

Carl Alber - Zoning/Code
 Enforcement Officer (x2013)

Robert Jolley - Police Chief (x2001)

Holly Daubert - Tax Collector (x2005)

Martin Barry - Road Master (x2006)

Atty. Tom Brennan - Solicitor

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

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

Dallas Township Meetings & More

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

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

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

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

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

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