

June  
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# West Pikeland Township

## News

### FROM THE BOARD ROOM

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## West Pikeland Board of Supervisors

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## FROM THE BOARD ROOM - POLICE

**We** are fortunate not only to have our own police force in West Pikeland Township, but to have a police force that is well trained, committed to excellence, and dedicated to serving our community. Chief Clark began his career in law enforcement in 1974 and started as a patrolman in West Pikeland Township in February of 1990. Having served the community for over 30 years he is intimately familiar with the township and has shaped the police force to best serve its residents. Over the years he has had hours of advanced training, received many citations, and has formed a strong relationship with other police and police forces in Chester County. He is a past president of The Chester County Police Chiefs Association. Chief Clark, Sergeant O'Connell, and Officer McCarron are on the executive board of the Chester County Fraternal Order of Police and are elected delegates to attend the State and National FOP meetings and trainings. They are on numerous committees relative to training and on boards involved with charity work.

Much of this is done on their own time. Officer McCarron is a certified CIT (crisis intervention training) trainer and is involved in training officers on other police forces.

**Our** police force is committed to the health, safety, and welfare of West Pikeland residents as well as all citizens. As such, over the years they have provided a variety of services that often are not seen or known to the public in general but are greatly appreciated by those they have assisted. We regularly get letters or e-mails from residents praising our police on their efforts and the professional way they go about their business. This is the result of the pride they take in their work, their training, and Chief Clark's guidance. During storms our police have been known to cut up and clear trees and branches to open up blocked roads. They respond to all fire calls as well as to all ambulance calls to assist in medical emergencies. They have provided generators during power outages to keep necessary medical equipment operating for people in their homes.



## From the West Pikeland Township Board of Supervisors

As elected officials we understand our responsibilities relative to our residents and will continue to be guided by your desires and needs.

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**Our** police know the community and our residents well and make it a point to check on those that might be affected most by storms or who are experiencing isolation and need more assistance. They are glad to do house or business checks if people are away and do so quite regularly. When West Pikeland moved their offices into Historic Yellow Springs some years ago our police even did a great deal of the construction and remodeling of the police building saving tax payers a good amount of money.

**As** mentioned above the West Pikeland Police regularly undergo training and seek to update their equipment. Besides their service weapon our officers carry Tasers. It is a requirement by Chief Clark that any West Pikeland officer has to have had the experience of being tazed themselves so they better understand the use of the Taser. The last thing our West Pikeland Police want to do is to use the Taser, their service weapon, or physical force. Fortunately it is very rare they have had to use any of these tactics. They strive to deescalate a situation to resolve it.

**Car** cameras and body cams are an example of updated equipment our police officers have and use. As soon as lights are turned on in the police vehicles the car cameras turn on. The body cams are synched to the car cameras and can be activated by the police officer with a button on their uniform equipment. Videos from the cameras are very helpful including in court. For example, a defendant sometimes claims they were pulled over without cause. The video from the car cameras is run in court and shows the car swerving back and forth on the road leaving no doubt why they were pulled over.

**The** West Pikeland Board of Supervisors unanimously supports our township police. We feel having their assistance and protection adds to the quality of life of our residents. They have been practicing community policing for a long time and emphasize building relationships with citizens and organizations in and around West Pikeland Township. We are grateful for their commitment and service.

Submitted for the Board,

*Richard Bright*