



Brief

December 2022

The Newsletter for the Residents of West Deer Township

Collaboration Through Crisis

West Deer EMS is the primary ambulance service for West Deer Township while Seneca Area Emergency Services (SAES) is the primary ambulance service for the residents in Indiana Township. Until recently that was the extent of each service's reach, but not anymore.

For the past two years, West Deer EMS and SAES have worked collectively and tried something new to help with the current crisis in EMS. Due to increased costs for staffing, ambulances, equipment, and supplies, plus low reimbursements and other funding shortages, EMS services have been put in a precarious spot.

What started as a simple gesture has turned into faster and more reliable Emergency Medical Service for the residents of both service areas. By working together, the services can help each other with the high demand for ambulance response. The administration offices for both are under the same roof and the ambulances are parked side by side. Staff members are employed at both services and even the amount of staffing has increased.

Sharing knowledge, supplies, equipment, and ideas are now commonplace. No ambulance service can predict when or where the calls will come from which makes it very difficult to cover every single request for service. However, if a request for service is made in West Deer and the West Deer EMS units are already committed to another need, Seneca will immediately respond. Response times have dropped significantly since this collaboration began, and contingencies are always in place in case the need for an ambulance goes beyond the capabilities of a service.

This partnership is only just beginning. The goal has always been to provide the highest level of patient care, and West Deer EMS has made great strides in accomplishing that goal and making the overall experience quicker and better. Both West Deer EMS and SAES services are stronger together and are always striving to improve where possible, and the residents of West Deer and Indiana Townships will continue to see the benefits.



Holiday Closings

We're now in the middle of peak holiday season, a.k.a. December. Township offices and buildings will be closed the following days this month and next in observance of federal holidays:

December 23 - Christmas Eve

December 26 - Christmas Day

December 30 - New Years' Eve
(offices close at 12:00 p.m.)

January 2 - New Years' Day

Township's MS4 Program: What Is It?

Untreated or uncontrolled stormwater runoff is the number one cause of impairment in our waterways. Polluted runoff is often taken through drainage systems and discharges into streams, lakes and rivers. An MS4 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System - is comprised of drainage systems, including streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, and stormpipes. Therefore, most municipalities, including West Deer, are required to comply.

MS4 programs are intended to improve surface waters by reducing levels of pollutants picked up by runoff and transported into stormwater systems during a rain event. As part of MS4, West Deer holds a permit to discharge stormwater into local waterways. This permit requires us to implement and maintain a stormwater management program that: 1) reduces the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent possible; 2) protects water quality; and 3) satisfies the water quality requirement of the Federal Clean Water Act.



Every resident can participate in this program by reducing or preventing pollutant runoff from their own property by reporting any non-stormwater discharges into the Township's drainage system. There are numerous things everyone can do on a daily basis to keep pollution out of the waterways, including:

- 1) Never dumping anything into storm drains or streams.
- 2) Picking up litter from the street before it gets into a storm drain.
- 3) Limit using pesticides. If you must use a pesticide, find an environmentally-friendly product.
- 4) Recycling motor oil and other hazardous chemicals. NEVER dump these materials down a storm drain.
- 5) Always pick up your pet's waste. Otherwise, bacteria from it will eventually get into the water system.

For more information about the Township's MS4 program, call (724) 265-3680.

Breakfast With Santa

The parks & recreation committee invites everyone to join for a breakfast visit with Kris Kringle himself!

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at West Deer Fire Station #1, 1520 Saxonburg Blvd., on Sunday, December 11 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This is a free, fun family event that will feature candy, holiday crafts Christmas cheer for all!

A toy raffle for children of all ages is included with admission to the event. For questions about the event, call (724) 265-3680.

Santa's Coming To Town(ship)

Mark your calendar, West Deer Volunteer Fire Department #2 will be hosting Santa Claus around to homes in their district on Saturday, December 17!

Santa's visit will begin at 12 p.m. and continue on until the whole district receives a visit. (Please note, this is call pending and unfortunately, we cannot make it to every road due to certain road conditions within the Township).

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. at the station (724) 265-1248.

Warning: Though social media has its value, receiving Township information from sources like Facebook can be misleading. They are great to keep up-to-date with community events, etc., but not Township FACTS. Make it easy on yourself... check out our website, email us, or simply give us a call. We're here for YOU!

