



SOUTH FAYETTE T O W N S H I P

A Community Growing Together

Newsletter

Fall 2015

515 Millers Run Road
South Fayette, PA 15064

412.221.8700

www.southfayettepa.com



Sign Guy

Public works veteran John Ballo keeps South Fayette pointed in the right direction

By Andrea Iglar

Stop signs, street name signs, speed limit signs, welcome signs...

How many road signs do you guess are in South Fayette Township?

You may be surprised to learn the large number: 5,000 to 6,000.

And **John Ballo** has installed most of them during his 39 years in the South Fayette Township Public Works Department.

"Gradually, as the township keeps getting bigger, there's thousands and thousands of signs," Mr. Ballo said. "There's probably more than a thousand stop signs alone."

When Mr. Ballo began his job in 1976, South Fayette was a largely rural community whose neighborhoods lacked traffic signs and street markers. Then in the late 1970s, the township

SOUTH FAYETTE STOP SIGNS BY THE NUMBERS

Total stop signs: > 1,000

Depth of post hole: 30 inches

Above-ground post height: 7 feet

Sign face height: 2 feet

Angle toward traffic: 10 degrees

received a grant that allowed Mr. Ballo to spend an entire summer installing signs in housing plans.

Now, he uses a \$10,000 yearly budget to put up new signs—including new "No Littering" signs planned for this summer—and to replace signs that are damaged, faded, worn, outdated or missing.

The average lifespan of a sign is about 10 years, Mr. Ballo said.

On a sunny day in June, Mr. Ballo drove his truck to the top of the hill in the developing Newbury neighborhood to install a new stop sign that township officials had approved. At the same intersection, he previously had put up street name signs for Newbury Highland Drive and Commons Lane.

After unloading the necessary supplies from his truck, Mr. Ballo dug a hole and placed the sign post inside, holding the steel pole upright while pouring in quick-drying concrete to anchor it. Then he filled in the remainder of the hole, replaced the grass and made sure the sign was level and angled correctly.

Modern sign parts are designed for safety and durability. If a car hits a sign, a U-shaped breakaway bolt causes the post to fold down rather than crash into the windshield. Aluminum sign faces have high-intensity reflectivity, and materials are made to withstand rust, vandalism and wind.

Mr. Ballo said today's sign technology is "better, but it's more expensive."

Before digging to install a sign, Mr. Ballo always calls 811 at least 3 days ahead so that local utility companies can mark the location of underground utility lines. Mr. Ballo is in charge of marking the locations of township pipes and drains, which he knows like the back of his hand.

Sometimes when digging, he encounters remnants of building foundations, old-fashioned green bottles, or coal pieces and cinders buried long ago. A lot has changed since those days.

"There's so many new people coming in all the time, and people are always looking for streets," Mr. Ballo said. "There's so much going on, it's just amazing."

Name: John Ballo
Occupation: South Fayette Township Public Works Department, 39 years
Age: 64
Hometown: Lifelong resident of South Fayette Township
Education: Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh; School of Computer Technology, Pittsburgh; South Fayette High School



HUNGRY ★ ON THE ★ TRAIL

Family-owned
Hunner's Restaurant
feeds Panhandle
Trail visitors and
South Fayette locals



Hunner's Restaurant owner Shelly Freshwater (left) offers food and refreshments to local customers and Panhandle Trail visitors in South Fayette Township. Also shown are employees LouAnn Arthur (center) and Angie Holeva.

By Andrea Iglar

Bicyclists and hikers on the Panhandle Trail know that a great place to pause for a rest is Hunner's Restaurant in South Fayette Township.

Owner **Shelly Freshwater** offers pizza, ice cream, lunch, dinner, dessert and more in the Sturgeon neighborhood, just a few steps away from trail mile marker 5.5.

Bike riding groups and other trail visitors are a big part of her business from about March to October.

"There's a lot of people from far away that come to this trail, and that's how they found me," Ms. Freshwater said one June morning as her homemade chicken cordon bleu baked in the kitchen. "Once I get them in the door, they'll come back because of the food."

Hunner's also feeds plenty of locals and youth sports teams, who enjoy a friendly atmosphere along with homemade soups, lunch and dinner specials, 16 flavors of ice cream, Slush Puppies, Lenten fish sandwiches, and pizza with homemade sauce and dough. (Two pizzas were dubbed "Gladiator" and "Sturgeonator" in a naming contest.)

At Christmastime, Hunner's sends cards and coupons to more than 400 regular customers.

"We have certain people that come here every day, and you get to know them like family," Ms. Freshwater said. "My customers are great. They're just nice people."

About 2 miles of the Panhandle Trail run through South Fayette Township. Hunner's is situated near the Sturgeon trail station, which includes parking, a picnic shelter, a water fountain and permanent restrooms.

Many bike groups meet regularly during trail season, riding from the Walker's Mill quarry in Collier Township and ending in Burgettstown, Washington County, Ms. Freshwater



Name: Shelly Freshwater

Occupation: Owner since 2008, Hunner's Restaurant & Catering in South Fayette Township

Age: 52

Hometown: Longtime resident of South Fayette Township's Sturgeon neighborhood

Education: West Allegheny High School

Family: Husband, Perry; daughters, Kelli Harbert of North Fayette and Kerri Freshwater of Mt. Lebanon; grandchildren Camden, 12, Caiden, 9, and Bailey, 7

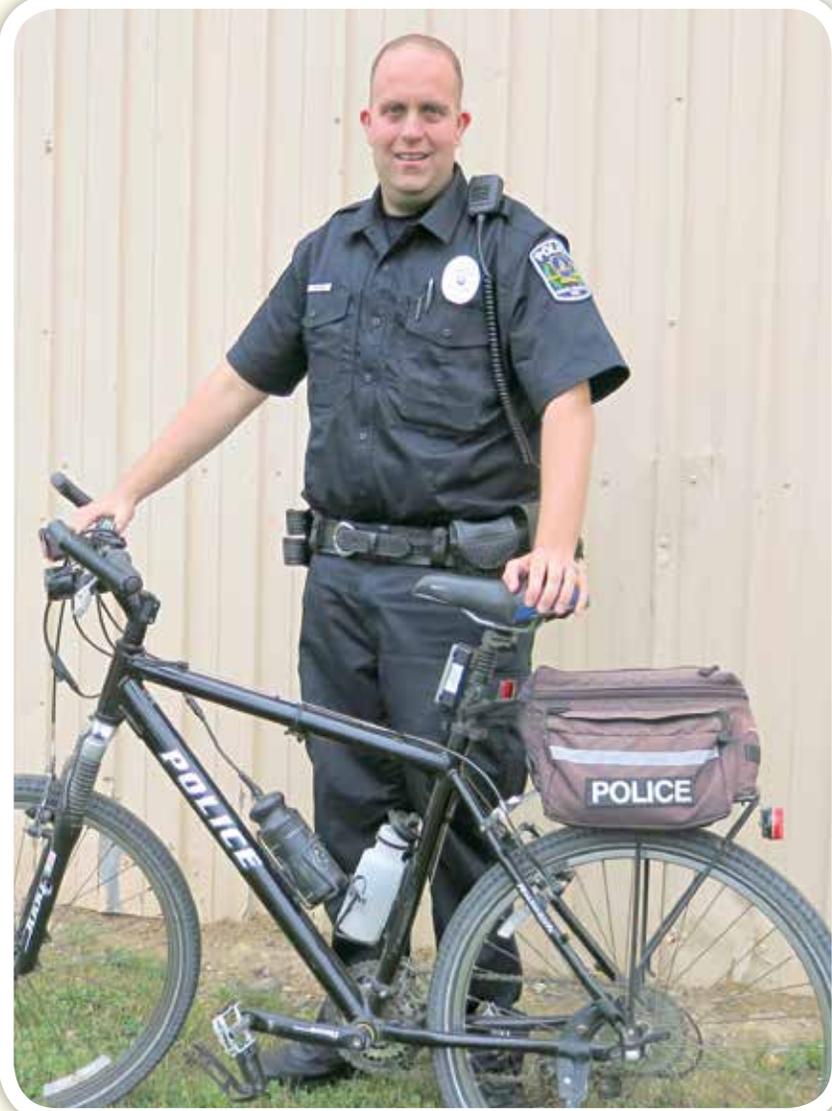
Activities: Spending time with her grandchildren and going on cruises

said. Hunner's is a popular stop for lunch on the way down and ice cream on the way back, she said.

Ms. Freshwater purchased Hunner's in 2008, having worked there previously as a pizza maker. After buying the business, Ms. Freshwater learned to expand her cooking repertoire beyond pizza by taking twice-a-week, hands-on lessons for a year and a half.

The former owners—a North Fayette couple—had named the eatery after the affectionate nickname they had for each other: "hunner," presumably a play on "honey."

Hunner's, 811 Station St., is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It's closed Mondays. For more information, call 724.926.9636 or visit Hunner's Restaurant & Catering on Facebook.



Name: James Jeffrey
Nickname: Officer J.J.
Occupation: Patrolman, South Fayette Township Police Department
Age: 29
Hometown: South Park
Family: Wife, Sarah, and son, Conor
Education: Municipal Police Academy at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2009; Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from California University of Pennsylvania, 2008; South Park High School
Activities: Bike riding; hiking with his dogs; firefighting with the Library Volunteer Fire Company

"I enjoy it because it's more face-to-face interaction. I get to spend more time talking to people."

department's current bicycle patrolmen are **Officer Michael Kuchta**, **Sgt. Jeff Sgro** and **Officer Michael Zurcher**.

Officer Jeffrey was certified as a police cyclist through an International Police Mountain Bike Association training program that covers bicycle skills such as conducting a chase, dismounting, doing on-the-road repairs, and riding up and down stairs.

The department's fleet of mountain bikes are outfitted for police work, complete with red and blue flashing lights.

Officer Jeffrey ("Everybody calls me Officer J.J.," he says) has been a police officer for about seven years, having been inspired to join law enforcement by his paternal grandparents, who both retired from the Bethel Park Police Department. His grandfather was a police sergeant, and his grandmother worked in the dispatch center.

As a boy, he would practice pinpointing the locations on a map where his grandmother was sending police officers. Plus, he enjoyed being around cop cars and fire trucks, he said.

Officer Jeffrey plans to become a familiar face around South Fayette Township.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting the people of this community," Officer Jeffrey said, "and having them get to know who I am."

Bike Cop

Officer James Jeffrey to count bicycle patrol among his duties

By Andrea Iglar

The newest addition to the South Fayette Township Police Department knows all about pedal patrol.

Officer James "J.J." Jeffrey will count bicycle patrol among his policing duties, having been a bike cop on the beach in Ocean City, Maryland, and on the campus of California University of Pennsylvania.

"On the bike, especially on the trails, I'm in real close contact," Officer Jeffrey said in June, during his first week with South Fayette police.

"I enjoy it because it's more face-to-face interaction. I get to spend more time talking to people."

The police department always keeps three officers trained and ready to patrol South Fayette's 2-mile portion of the Panhandle Trail, as well as various other neighborhood walking and biking trails.

"It's part of our community-oriented policing program," **Police Chief John Phoennik** said. "They're on the bike for prevention and to interact with the community."

Officer Jeffrey is expected to take on bike patrols by next year. The



Police and Firefighters Honored

South Fayette Township **Police Chief John Phoennik** (second from right) recognized police officers and firefighters during the Board of Commissioners meeting in June for their lifesaving response to a fire.

Honored for their heroic rescue efforts were Fairview Volunteer Fire Department **Assistant Fire Chief Keith Dernosek** (far right), along with police officers (from left) **Sgt. Michael Wesolek, Patrolman Collin Griffith** and **Patrolman Michael Zurcher**.

Following a 911 call on May 27, Mr. Dernosek arrived first at the scene and managed to pull a woman from the fire, Chief Phoennik said. He also saved a dog.

Police officers soon arrived and pulled a man from bed by breaking through an adjacent apartment wall. The man was treated by medics, but unfortunately did not survive.

“Even though it’s very tragic and it’s about the person that died, it’s [also] about the person that they saved,” Chief Phoennik said, “and I want to emphasize that to you.”

Live Well in South Fayette

Business and community partners invited to join free wellness initiative

Would your business or community group like to encourage healthy living while being recognized for your efforts? Become a Live Well partner!

South Fayette Township is cooperating with business and community partners, including neighboring North Fayette Township, to offer programs to the public that encourage and enhance wellness—whether it be physical, mental, financial or another type of well-being.

Live Well Community Day at Pittsburgh Botanic Garden Thursday, Aug. 20, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Live Well partners will be invited to sponsor an exhibit table at Live Well Community Day. Free admission for residents

of South Fayette Township and North Fayette Township will include garden tours, trail access, classes and exhibitors. Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is located at 799 Pinkerton Run Road, Oakdale PA 15071. Venue info: www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.

Live Well Wednesdays

Promote healthy living while promoting your business! Live Well Wednesdays

provides a weekly opportunity for the townships to promote community wellness, and for businesses and organizations to



offer wellness incentives to the public. For example, a restaurant might offer a deal on salads; a gym could hold a trial fitness class; and a massage therapist may offer a service discount.

Become a Live Well Partner

To become a Live Well partner, visit www.southfayettepa.com/livewell and follow the link to complete a free, quick and easy partner application through Allegheny County’s Live Well Allegheny website. Partners will be encouraged to participate in Live Well activities and can display our official Live Well seal on their website and promotional materials.

If you have questions or would like to participate in Live Well Community Day and/or Live Well Wednesdays, please contact South Fayette Township:

Andrea Iglar, Community Development Director, aiglar@sftwp.com, 412-221-8700 x31

Paula Simmons, Recreation Director, psimmons@sftwp.com, 412-221-8700 x17

LEARN ABOUT OUR PARKS ...AND ENJOY THEM!

www.southfayettepa.com/Facilities



FAIRVIEW PARK
129 Greenwood Drive, 15017

FREE RUN ZONE
STARTS HERE

- Off-Leash Dog Run (w/ permit)
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Soccer/Lacrosse/Football Fields
- 3 Playgrounds
- Rotary Pavilion w/ Kitchen for 200
- Entrance Pavilion w/ Picnic Tables for 60
- Tennis Court
- Basketball Court
- Trails
- Historical Cemetery Site
- Green Space & Views



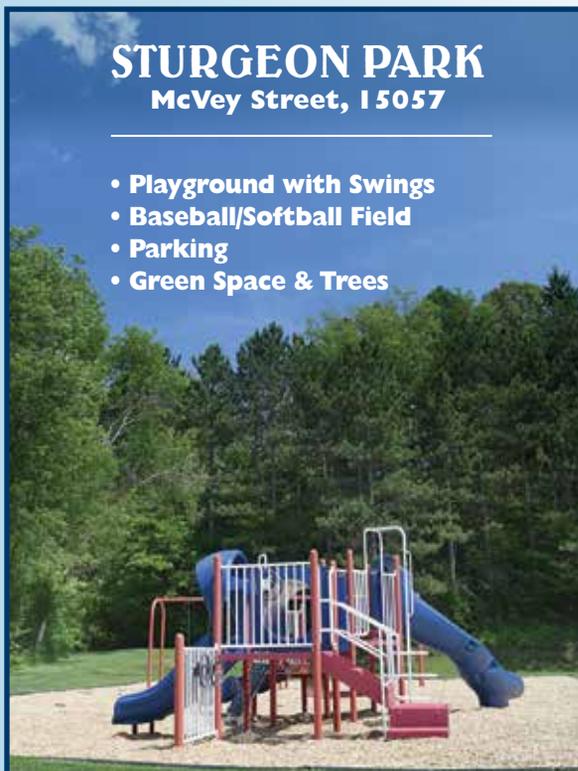
**PANHANDLE TRAIL
STURGEON STATION**
At Station Street & Main Street, 15082

- Biking & Hiking
- Picnic Shelter
- Parking
- Water Fountain
- Bulletin Board
- Permanent Restrooms



MORGAN PARK
515 Millers Run Road - Municipal Complex

- Gazebo
- Batting Cage
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Playground w/ Swings
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Court



STURGEON PARK
McVey Street, 15057

- Playground with Swings
- Baseball/Softball Field
- Parking
- Green Space & Trees



BOYS HOME PARK
Boys Home Road to 2102 Ridge Road, 15071

- Picnic Pavilion w/ Electricity for 40 People
- Playground with Swings
- Soccer Field
- Hunting (w/permit)
- Green Space & Trees
- Farm Preserve
- Historical Features

2015 Fall Recreation Programs

Sign up: www.southfayettepa.com/rec ... 412-221-8700 x17

Concert in the Park

Sunday, August 9

6:30 p.m.

Fairview Park

Rotary Pavilion

FREE FAMILY FUN!

Performances by:

**CIRCLES AND SQUARES
&
THE ARGUMENTATIVES**

Art Programs

(Ages 6 – 12)

Your child will create themed art and play a variety of amusing games.

Tuesdays

South Fayette Senior Ctr.

\$65 per child per week

Fall Art Class

Sept. 22 – Oct. 13

Cartooning for Kids

Oct. 27 – Nov. 17

Jump Start Sport Programs

Mondays

Sept. 14 – Oct. 19

Fairview Park Fields

\$60 per child



All-Star Sports (Ages 4-8)

The Junior All-Stars Sports Program provides age-appropriate introduction to a variety of sports.

5:30 p.m.

Beginner Lacrosse

(Ages 5-12)

Players will receive training on the fundamentals and play fun game situational scrimmages.
NO EQUIPMENT NEEDED.

6:30 p.m.

Live Well

Community Day

Thursday, August 20

4 p.m. – 8 p.m. at:

PITTSBURGH
BOTANIC GARDEN

Wellness Exhibits

and

**Free admission to
garden trails, classes,
youth activities & more**

www.southfayettepa.com/livewell

HappyFeet Soccer

Program (Ages 2 – 4)

HappyFeet is a preschool fitness program that uses songs, stories, nursery rhymes and games to introduce soccer to kids!

\$65 per child

Session 1:

Tuesdays @ 12:30 p.m.

Sept. 8 – Oct. 13

SF Senior Center

Session 2:

Mondays @ 6pm

Sept. 14 – Oct. 19

Fairview Park

Snapology LEGO® Programs (Ages 5 - 14)

Come join us for fun with Lego® bricks.

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

South Fayette Senior Ctr.

\$57 per child

LEGO® Epic Minecraft

Sept. 9 – Sept. 30

LEGO® Combat Robots

Oct. 7 – Oct. 28

ADULT PROGRAMS

Yoga

Mondays & Wednesdays

6:00 p.m.

Sept. 14 – Oct. 14

\$50 once/week, or 4 classes

\$90 twice/week, or all 8 classes

SF Middle School LGI Room

Dog Obedience Class

Tuesdays

Aug. 25 – Sept. 15

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Fairview Entrance Pavilion

\$80 per dog

*Must bring leash and dog treats

Pilates

Mondays

Noon – 12:45 p.m.

Session A: Sept. 14 – Oct. 5

Session B: Oct. 19 – Nov. 9

\$35 per session

\$65 for BOTH Sessions

\$9 Drop-in per class

SF Senior Center

Kettlebell

Tuesdays

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Session A: Sept. 29 – Oct. 20

Session B: Oct. 27 – Nov. 17

\$40 per session

\$75 for BOTH Sessions

\$10 Drop-in per class

SF Senior Center



Wheeling Island Bus Trip

Friday, Sept. 18

Bus departs @ 10 a.m. from

Morgan Park

\$38 per person

(Includes bus ride, \$25 FreePlay &

\$10 food voucher)

Murder Mystery @

Christian Klay Winery

Saturday, Oct. 24

Bus departs @ 4 p.m. from

Morgan Park

\$75 per person

\$145 per couple

(Includes bus ride, wine tasting,
dinner & show)

Fall Tennis

August 24 – October 14

8-week session

PEE WEE Clinics/Quickstart (Ages 5 – 6)

Monday/Wednesday (5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

Junior Beginners Clinics (Ages 7 – 10)

Monday/Wednesday (4:30 p.m. – 5:30 pm)

Junior Advanced Beginners (Ages 10 – 14)

Monday/Wednesday (6 p.m. – 7 p.m.)

High School High-Performance Tennis Clinics (Ages 14 – 18)

Monday/Wednesday (7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.)

Tennis pricing: www.southfayettepa.com/rec

Registration: www.southfayettepa.com/rec

South Fayette Township Parks & Recreation

Paula Simmons, Recreation Director

412-221-8700 x 17 / psimmons@sftwp.com

515 Millers Run Road / Morgan, PA 15064



**SOUTH FAYETTE
TOWNSHIP**

A Community Growing Together



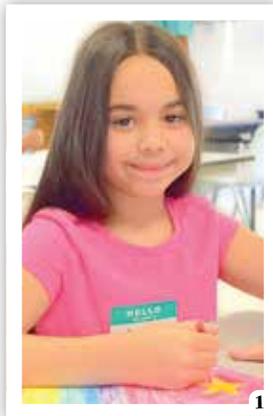
Fun with Learning

The South Fayette Township Library helped children have fun while learning at the Summer Bridge Activities Club.

Middle- and high-school students guided kindergarteners through fifth-graders in completing workbook pages on subjects such as reading, writing, math and history, and kids won prizes for every 7 pages completed.

At the end of each session, the youngsters played skill-building board games, did coloring and drawing, and listened to stories.

For details on fall programs at the library, please visit www.southfayettilibrary.org or call 412.257.8660.



1. Rosalia Ventura, 7
2. Ami Layne Wolstoncroft, 8
3. Sahasra Gangineni, 7
4. Sabrina Marx, 8
5. Taylor Burkett, 9
6. Samuel Fowler, 7

Rolling & Strolling



J.J. Wolstoncroft, 2, strolls in Morgan Park in June with his mother, Judi, during the South Fayette Township Library's Rolling & Strolling program for young children and their families. For a complete calendar of library events, please visit www.southfayettilibrary.org.

South Fayette Township Library • 515 Millers Run Road • 412-257-8660 • www.southfayettilibrary.org

Social activities held weekly at South Fayette Senior Center

The South Fayette Township Area Senior Center provides social and recreational opportunities for members age 55 and over, and their spouses. The entrance to the center is located at the back of the township building, 515 Millers Run Road. Meetings are at 12:30 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of each month. Please attend if you are interested in joining the senior center.

ACTIVITIES

- Sundays, 1 p.m., Pinochle
- Mondays, 7 p.m., Euchre
- Thursdays, 12:15 p.m., 500 Bid
- Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., Euchre
- Fridays, 12:30 p.m., Bingo

www.southfayettepa.com/seniors



Members of the South Fayette Senior Center play 500 Bid on Thursday afternoons. Clockwise from left: Nancy Smelko, Bruno Dalla Piazza, Bob Kraus and Rose Rederer.



Perfect ON THE Playground

Congratulations to South Fayette Township resident Colleen Patel, winner of our Picture-Perfect Playground Photo Contest! Her photo "Sunset at Fairview Park" features two of her children, Mia Patel, 8, and Lucas Patel, 5. Colleen received a 3-day pass (\$50 value) to our 2015 Summer Playground Camp. Find adult and youth recreation programs at www.southfayettepa.com/rec.

ZIP TIPS



How to know if you live or work in South Fayette Township

Addresses in South Fayette Township use any of 8 different ZIP codes, as assigned by the U.S. Post Office.

While we are lucky to be well served by the mail service, having multiple ZIP codes and city names can be a little confusing when explaining where we live or work.

We want you to be able to proclaim loudly and proudly that you are a resident or business in South Fayette Township, so here are some "ZIP Tips" to help:

- If your children attend South Fayette Township School District, you live in South Fayette Township! Our

community and school district share identical borders.

- If you pay local property taxes to South Fayette Township and South Fayette Township School District, you live in South Fayette Township! Many South Fayette mailing addresses use Bridgeville 15017, Oakdale 15071, McDonald 15057, Cecil 15321 or Presto 15142. But these post offices are located in boroughs or townships outside South Fayette.
- If your mailing address refers to Cuddy 15031, Morgan 15064 or Sturgeon 15082, you likely live in

South Fayette Township! These established and historical villages, which have their own local post offices, are located in our township. Some residents outside South Fayette may use one of these post offices too, but if you live in the Cuddy, Morgan or Sturgeon neighborhood, you are part of the heritage of South Fayette.

- If your property is located within our municipal borders, you live in South Fayette Township! Check out a township map: www.southfayettepa.com/map.

South Fayette Township Businesses!

Do you advertise your business location as South Fayette Township?

Message us on Facebook with an example of your ad, and we'll give you a social media shout-out!

www.facebook.com/SouthFayetteTownship

NOTIFY ME

Keep in touch with your community!



Sign up for custom news and alerts from South Fayette Township, sent directly to your email or text inbox!

www.southfayettepa.com/notifyme



SOUTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIP

A Community Growing Together

ONLINE

www.southfayettepa.com
www.facebook.com/SouthFayetteTownship
www.twitter.com/SouthFayetteTwp

PHONE

412-221-8700
 Emergency & Police Dispatch: 911

ADDRESS

515 Millers Run Road
 South Fayette, PA 15064

South Fayette Township thanks these gold-level sponsors of our 2015 Independence Day fireworks display!

- Country Meadows of South Hills
- Goldberg, Kamin & Garvin
- John Kosky Contracting

ONLINE PAYMENT

TAXES

Anne Beck, the South Fayette Property Tax Collector, now offers online payments! Visit her new website:

www.annebeck.com