



Borough of West Middlesex December 2025 Newsletter



724-528-9931

www.boroughofwestmiddlesex.com

westmiddlesex@neohio.twcbc.com

December Council Meeting: The December 2025 Work Session Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00 pm**. This is a change in time to begin early to allow for a **Presentation from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)**. The Work Session meeting will immediately follow the presentation. **The December 2025 Council Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday December 16th at 6:30 pm**. All meetings are held at the West Middlesex Community Center Hall located at 25 North Street. **All meetings are open to the public**. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Borough Office at (724) 528-9931.

West Middlesex Borough Office: The West Middlesex Borough Office is located at 25 North Street (on the side of the Municipal Building). Office Hours: 7:00 am till 3:00 pm. Monday – Friday. The Office is closed from 12:00-12:30 for Lunch. Phone: 724-528-9931. The Borough Office will be closed on Wednesday December 24th and Thursday December 25th for the Christmas Holiday. The Office will also be closed Wednesday December 31st and Thursday January 1st 2026 for the New Year Holiday.

Council Connection: 2026 Proposed Budget: The 2026 Proposed Budget is available for public inspection in the Borough Office during normal business hours. Office Hours are: Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm. Final action on the 2026 Budget will be taken at the regular December Council Meeting on December 16th.

Santa Visits: Santa will be making his Annual Visit to the Borough of West Middlesex on Tuesday December 23rd. Visits will Start at 6:00 pm. If you would like Santa to stop at your home, please call Charlotte Webster at 724-528-9447 to Sign Up!

Sewer Billing:

✦ Sewer Billing Reminder

- **Due Date:** 25th of each month
- **Late Fee:** 1% on accounts over 90 days past due
- **Payment Options:**
 - Local bank: First National Bank – West Middlesex Branch
 - Borough Office
 - Mail
 - Secure drop box at Borough Office
 - Direct deposit (set up at Borough Office)
- Residents with **past due sewer bills** are encouraged to contact the Borough office to arrange a **payment plan**.

⚠ **Please note:** If a payment plan is not set up, a **municipal lien may be placed on the property** until the account is paid in full. Setting up a plan now can help avoid this step! We are here to work with you!

☎ **Contact us:** 724-528-9931 Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm

Thank you for your attention and for helping keep our Borough services running smoothly for everyone.

West Middlesex United Methodist Church: Christmas Baked Goods Sale. December 6, 2025. Join us at 3123 Main Street West Middlesex from 9 am to sold out!

The Mercer County Builders Association announces the MCBA Dream Home Challenge for Aspiring Young Builders Ages 9-16. The program will be held at the Mercer County Home Show, Scheduled for Saturday March 21, 2026. For More Information, contact the Mercer County Builders Association at 724-475-4834.

Mercer County Tax Reassessment Project ~ 2026 Reassessment Timeline

- **Early 2026:** Property owners will receive updated value notices. The New Assessment should reflect **what your home would sell for today- its current market value**. If the assessment is **close to what you believe your home is worth**, you're probably all set. If the assessment seems **too high**, and you believe you could not sell your home for that amount, you may want to **appeal** and provide evidence to support your case.
- **Spring 2026: Informal Appeal:** Schedule a meeting with **Tyler Technologies** to discuss your new property value. This is your chance to provide evidence to discuss your assessment and to ask questions.
- **Summer 2026: Formal Appeal:** If you are still not satisfied after the informal appeal, request a hearing with the **Mercer County Board of Appeals**.
- **Fall 2026: Court of Common Pleas:** If you still disagree after the formal appeal, you may file an appeal with the **Commonwealth Court**.
- **Late Fall 2026: Certification & Millage Rate Setting:** Final property values are certified by the Mercer County Tax Assessment Office. Municipality, County and School District set **2027 Millage rates**. Property owners will then know their **actual 2027 property tax amounts once the taxing bodies set their millage**.

Should you have any questions regarding the Reassessment, please contact Tyler Technologies at 724-662-7549 OR the Mercer County Assessment Office at 724-662-7551.



🎄 **Holiday Happenings in West Middlesex Borough!** 🧑🏻‍🎅

Get ready to kick off the season with sparkle, cheer, and community fun!

💡 **West Middlesex Borough Holiday Light-Up Parade**

Join us **Saturday, December 6th at 7:00 PM** as we light up the night! Enjoy the **Parade**, the annual **Tree Lighting Ceremony**, and a special visit from **Santa himself**. Come share in the magic!



The West Middlesex Woman's Club Presents: The West Middlesex Express!

All aboard on **Saturday, December 13th at 1:00 PM**! Wind your way through town and explore the many wonderful businesses that make West Middlesex Borough feel like home. A perfect afternoon for families, friends, and holiday explorers!

NEGOTIATION of a POLICE CONTRACT for JANUARY 1, 2026 through DECEMBER 31, 2028

By Robert F. Lark, Police Negotiation Committee

On Monday, October 27, 2025, at a Special Meeting of the Borough Council, a Tentative Agreement for Police Services by the City of Farrell for the Borough of West Middlesex was approved, and on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at a Regular Meeting of the Borough Council, a Police Contract in its Final Written Language between the City of Farrell and the Borough of West Middlesex was approved by the Borough Council. It is a three (3) year contract for the years of 2026, 2027, and 2028, in which the Police Department of the City of Farrell will provide Police Protection services to the residents, business, and visitors of the Borough of West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. And, it provides the West Middlesex Area School District with the opportunity to employ a police officer from the City of Farrell to serve as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for police protection for the students and staff of the West Middlesex Area School District which is in the boundaries of the Borough of West Middlesex.

The negotiation of a new Police Contract, that was conducted by the Borough Police Negotiation Committee which consisted of Councilman Dennis Bollinger, Mayor Stacey Curry and Councilman Robert Lark, was a long and difficult process, but it was a process that resulted in a new Police Contract by which the Borough Government carried out the obligations and the responsibilities to the people it represents. Two (2) guidelines throughout the negotiations process were that an agreement must be acceptable in the police coverage that it provided, and that the agreement be affordable for the coverage it provided! In this sense, the Borough Council through its vote to adopt the Police Contract believes that it is both acceptable, and affordable.

In the negotiation process, the Borough Police Negotiation Committee of Bollinger, Curry and Lark reached out to the Township of Shenango to seek a renewal of the current five (5) year police contract and to two (2) other local municipalities. Additionally, the Borough Police Committee also had discussions with the Pennsylvania State Police and with two (2) private police entities for police protection. The initial goal of the Borough Police Negotiation Committee was to develop a new multi-year police contract with the Township of Shenango. However, that became impossible because of the positions that the Township Police Negotiation Committee, under the leadership of Thomas Hubert, took such as the following:

- Initial proposal of a financial increase of 15%, 8%, 8%, 8%, and 8% over a five (5) year contract which would have been a 47% increase over that time period.
- Final proposal of a financial increase of 5.66%, 5.66%, and 5.66% over a three (3) year contract which would have been a 16.98% increase over that time period.
- Then the Township of Shenango announced that there would not be any further negotiations on the financial aspects of a new Police Contract!

At that point, the Borough Police Negotiation Committee re-opened negotiations with the City of Farrell with Shawn Anderson, City Manager and Erick Gateweed, Police Chief. Through a series of meetings, the two (2) parties reached an agreement on a Police Contract that was approved by both the City of Farrell and the Borough of West Middlesex! That Police Contract is acceptable in its coverage, and it is affordable as indicated below:

2025 Current Contract	<u>2026</u> New Contract:	<u>2027</u> New Contract	<u>2028</u> New Contract:
\$193,312.55 dollars	\$184,210.96 dollars	\$191,579.39 dollars	\$199,242.57 dollars

If anyone is interested, the approved Police Contract between the City of Farrell and the Borough of West Middlesex, as a public documents, will be available to read as of January 1, 2026, in the Borough Office during regular business hours. In conclusion, the Borough Government believes that it carried out its duties to the people it represents by negotiating and adopting a Police Contract that is acceptable in its coverage and affordable in its costs!!