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Speranza retires from sewage department

The advent of technology was only beginning when Jeff Speranza joined the White Township sewage maintenance department.

He enjoyed the fast-paced generation of changes from maps to GPS and manual cameras to remote controlled sewage inspection techniques.

“So much has changed, all in the last 30 years,” Jeff said. “It’s hard to believe.”

Jeff retired from the township crew on Feb. 4. He left an earlier career as a coal miner to join White Township, first as a part-time summer helper then in 1994 as a full-time employee.

“It was the best move I ever made,” Jeff said.



What made his time with White Township so rewarding was the pace, the purpose and the personal nature of the work, he said.

“I’m working with my friends,” he said. “I’ve never had once where someone was out there saying I need to (do) something, and there wasn’t four or five of us showing up that evening to help.”

But time waits for no one.

“When you’re ready to retire, you know it. I’m still in good health, but I’ve lost too many friends my age who said they wanted to retire ... but they never saw a day of retirement,” Jeff said.

Jeff’s two daughters and their families still live in the region – close enough to entertain them (and teach the grandkids some skills) on his Young Township farm. His plans call for hunting, fishing, working the farm, and visiting the Grand Canyon and other destinations across the country.

Engineer Dan Jageman recognized by township

For the best definition of an engineer, go to an engineer.

“An engineer is someone who solves problems,” according to Dan Jageman, the engineer for White Township and its municipal authority since 2018.



The White Township board of supervisors took note of Jageman’s contributions toward the safe, comfortable quality of life enjoyed by township residents during the recent National Engineers Week observance in late February. He has overseen the rehabilitation of 10,000 feet of aging sewer lines and 50 spot repairs of deficiencies in the system.

Dan grew up in Ford City and now lives with his family in Murrysville. He earned his engineering degree at University of Pittsburgh.

The major project now on Dan’s desk has been the shepherding of the Route 286 East Sanitary Sewage Extension plan.

“Sometimes a simple problem is not so simple, when you get into the processes involved from start to finish,” Dan said. Attention to detail is an absolute must.

“You need foresight. And it’s not all about the nuts and bolts of the solution: an engineer needs good communication skills and deals with many different people,” Dan said.

Major sewage project open for bidding

White Township is now accepting contractors’ bids on construction of the Route 286 Sanitary Sewer Project.

The extension from the current sanitary sewage collection system will serve 23 residences and 12 commercial properties east of Indiana along Route 286, Airport Road, Campbell Lane, Ober Road and Hamill Road.

In all the project calls for installation of 11,300 feet of 8-inch gravity sewer pipeline and 3,600 feet of 4-inch force main sewer line along with a number of precast concrete manholes and pump stations.

Long in the planning, the project could begin in mid-summer. Work will take place over the 2022 and 2023 construction seasons.

The deadline for bidding is 11 a.m. May 10. The White Township Municipal Authority will administer the sewage extension project.



Leaders encourage citizens’ suggestions

White Township’s comprehensive plan steering committee welcomed about 30 guests for the monthly meeting dedicated to hearing residents’ comments on the Complete Streets Policy and on other possible projects to improve the township.

The 2-22-22 “White Township Outreach Day” anchored the township’s campaign to collect needed community input for the planning department’s mission of seeking non-local funding for community development projects.

Hearing from township stakeholders is not a one-day event. Township leaders encourage folks to phone, write, email or use an online form on the township website <https://www.whitetownship.org/outreach%20comment> to share their wishes and desires.

Importantly, the supervisors and staff need to know where even basic services can be improved. Let the township know where stormwater drainage can be improved. Where could sanitary sewer service be extended? Where do streets or roads need to be fixed? Tell township officials about your dreams for special features that would make for a safer, healthier, more comfortable or peaceful life in White Township.

Indiana library a township favorite

The growing, thriving Indiana Free Library is rebounding from the pandemic with new features such as a self-check-out system, greater opportunities for online reading and learning for youngsters, and a catalog of 350 online classes offered through the library's website.

As the library grows in the number of patrons, it appears to be doing so on the strength of the interest and support of White Township residents.

More library patrons are residents of White Township than part of any other constituency. Year-end statistics released by Indiana Free Library show that 6,263 (39 percent) of the 16,053 cardholders are from White Township, even exceeding the 4,759 (30 percent) who are Indiana Borough residents. White Township readers checked out 8,259 (40 percent) of the 20,738 items in circulation, ahead of the 6,913 (33.3 percent) checked out by Indiana readers.

The library also classifies patrons as residents of Armstrong Township and Shelocta, college students, ACCESS card holders (both Indiana County and out-of-county), general Indiana County cardholders, staff members and paid cardholders.

The White Township board of supervisors at the beginning of 2022 pledged a contribution of \$80,000 to support the library.

Readers and residents may learn more online at <https://indianafreelibrary.org>.



Know your township officials

Board of Supervisors

George E. Lenz, chairman; Richard Gallo, vice chairman; A. Eugene Gemmell; Gail L. McCauley; and Sandi Gillette

Planning Commission

Edward "Ted" Kuckuck, chairman; Dennis Roumm; George Lenz; Nancy Smith; and Richard Gallo

Municipal Authority Board

A. Eugene Gemmell, chairman; George Lenz; William Beck; William Smith; and Kenneth Brown

Recreation Advisory Board

Matthew Jackson, chairman; Dan Antonacci, vice chairman; Alphonse Borowski, secretary; Barbara Hauge; and Kim Caretti

Board of Auditors

Kathleen Honacki, chairwoman; Donna Cousins; and Sara Frank

Where am I?

In what area of White Township will you see this unique driveway decoration? The "Railroad Crossing" sign is near a township road, but isn't close to an actual rail crossing.

In a way, it may be an effective traffic-calming measure on this generally quiet rural hillcrest.

Where am I?

Send your guess by email to the newsletter desk, cross@whitetownship.org. How well do you know your way around our township?

Last month, "Where am I?" showed a pair of roads separated by a guardrail and fence: the busy two-lane eastbound side of Route 286 approaching East Pike on the right, and Coolspring Road on the left side of the photo.

Township resident Joe Lamantia was the first to respond by email with the correct identification. Bert Ross also emailed the correct guess.

Thanks to Joe and Bert for their participation!



Public meetings of White Township's governing boards and other important dates you need to know

- 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22: Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee regular meeting
- 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23: Board of Supervisors regular meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31: Stewardship Committee regular meeting
- 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 6: Planning Commission agenda review meeting
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 12: Planning Commission regular meeting
- 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 13: Board of Supervisors regular meeting
- Friday, April 15: Good Friday, township office closed
- 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19: Municipal Authority regular meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21: Stewardship Committee regular meeting
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 26: Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee regular meeting