

Penn Township

"Penn Township - a great place to live, work, and retire."

www.penntownship.us



Rock, Soul, and BBQ on tap to mark Penn's 10th Annual Community Picnic and Health and Wellness Fair

The King is back and LIVE in the Pavilion at Penn Township Park.

It just wouldn't be fall without the 10th Annual Penn Township/Jennersville Regional Hospital Community Picnic and Health and Wellness Fair to be held on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Penn Township Park. Once again, entrance and parking will be from the Jennersville Regional Hospital side of the park.

The event will feature local legislators the Honorable Andy Dinniman, State Senator, and the Honorable John Lawrence, State Representative. All of the region's emergency service providers including Medic 94, the medical helicopter, West Grove Fire and Ambulance, the Pennsylvania State Police at Avondale, the Chester County Sheriff's Department, and AGREM, Avon Grove Regional



Emergency Management. In addition, we will have health and wellness screenings courtesy of the Jennersville Regional Hospital and local health and wellness providers.

The 10th Annual Picnic is PACKED with entertainment starting with Herr's Chipper, the Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleaders, sword swallower David Perry-Feyre, Jungle John with his Man-Eating Balloon

show and Reptile Show, obstacle course, train, hay rides, and the Philadelphia Union's Mobile Tour with its travel soccer field. Jesse Garron's Live ELVIS Tribute is once again back to wow the crowds along with COAST2COAST, Philly's own Motown band, so come prepared to dance.

Of course, no picnic is complete without the BBQ - our famous chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, salads, and drinks are all provided free of charge for our visitors.

Add to that local businesses and service providers with information and giveaways and the day is complete!

Last year's event broke records and this year is even bigger. So come out and join us, bring your friends, and stay awhile.

For more information or to sponsor our picnic contact 610-869-9620.

Volume 5, Issue 1
Fall, 2014

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Sunnyside Road Bridge named top bridge replacement project in PA

Penn Township was named a co-winner of the 32nd Annual Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Award, presented at the 92nd Annual Educational Conference of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors in Hershey April 13



Sandy Martin, left, and Kevin Matson of McCormick Taylor with the Sunnyside Road Bridge award.

-16, 2014. The conference attracted attendees from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships. Penn Township won the award for a bridge

replacement project. The township association sponsors the statewide Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Contest each year in partnership with the Pennsylvania Highway Information Association and the state Department of Transportation to recognize townships for their extensive contributions of time and effort in making roads

See BRIDGE p.4



CHECK US OUT!

Penn Township has a new look, a new logo (shown above), a new website but same address,
www.penntownship.us,
and a Facebook page, LIKE US at [Penn Township, Chester County, PA!](#) Sign up for facebook updates and email blasts!

A letter from our State Senator, the Honorable Andrew E. Dinniman

Dear Friends,

As a result of legislative redistricting, it is my honor to represent Penn Township as state Senator for Pennsylvania's 19th District.

While I already know many of you from my work throughout the region and my prior service as a Chester County Commissioner for more than 14 years, I look forward to getting reacquainted with you and your



**Andrew E. Dinniman,
PA State Senator**

neighbors this fall.

My staff and I regularly visit the region and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, concerns and opinions. I've always felt that I can best serve you by keeping in

touch with you.

Furthermore, my office can assist you and provide information on a variety of state services and programs

including PACE, PACENET, the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program, college financial aid material, state income tax forms, motor vehicle applications and more.

You can contact my district office at (610) 692-2112 or by e-mail at andy@pasenate.com. In addition, I encourage you to visit my website at www.senatordinniman.com for up-to-date information on legislative news and issues.



Thanking Bill Finnen



In February, State Senator Andrew Dinniman made a surprise visit to the monthly Board of Supervisors meeting. The purpose? To recognize 52 years of service to Penn Township by Township Secretary and longtime Supervisor, William A. "Bill" Finnen.

Dinniman lauded Finnen for his many years of dedication to the people of Penn Township by reading a Senatorial Proclamation.

Additionally, Dinniman recognized Jane Finnen, Bill's wife, and longtime Penn Township Treasurer for both her service to the community and support of Bill's dedication over the years.



Clockwise from top left, State Senator Andrew Dinniman presents Penn Secretary and Supervisor William A. "Bill" Finnen with a Senatorial Proclamation in recognition of his years of dedication and service to Penn Township. Dinniman surprises Finnen. Dinniman reads the Senatorial Proclamation to both Bill and Jane Finnen. The Penn Supervisors from left, Vice Chair Victor Mantegna, Dinniman, Supervisor Ken Bryson, Finnen, and Supervisor Tom Barlow.



The Penn Township Park is open daily from dawn to dusk. Our beautiful park features one mile of walking trails, a playground, grills, sand volleyball court, and more. Dogs, bicycles, and skateboards are not permitted in the park. The park is not used for organized sports. Pavilions, gazebos and the community room are all available for rental. Please contact the office for details or to reserve your date today at 610-869-9620.

**Penn Township
Mission Statement**

“To facilitate the health, safety and well being of the Penn Township community by providing residents, visitors and the business community with the highest quality of municipal leadership, municipal service and strategic, sustainable, effective, and visionary planning in order to enhance the quality of life for all.”

Vision Statement

“To provide a healthy, vibrant, affordable, economically successful, progressive community where citizens feel safe, enjoy their neighborhoods, enjoy access to their local government and have a great place to live, work and raise their families or retire.”

Green Initiative:

**Save a tree—
Please sign up for
email updates and
electronic
newsletters at
www.penntownship.us**

A letter from the Chairman

Dear Neighbors,

Another year has passed with some changes, challenges, and exciting things on the horizon for Penn Township.

On the challenges front, we experienced one of the worst winters in history. This was a learning experience for nearly everyone,

which is encouraging us to examine some elements of our emergency service and public safety programs. We are pleased to announce that we recently received a county grant for generators for all of our traffic lights, another important element in keeping our community safe.

Over the coming months, Penn Township will be joining our regional emergency management task force, AGREM, and the other Avon Grove municipalities in developing an AM radio station to provide community information and emergency information. We are excited about this project and believe it is a much-needed resource to our residents. Additionally, you will see we are introducing our new website, at the same location, www.penntownship.us, which has more information and allows our neighbors to sign up for email blasts and electronic newsletters. I urge you to visit our site and enroll.

Our goal as a Board is



**Penn Board Chair
Curtis A. Mason, Sr.**

always fiscal responsibility first. We have eliminated unnecessary expenditures, controlled how we spend our money, controlled the size of our township staff, and along the way made a few strides.

Once again, we navigated a year with no tax increases.

One critical fiscal decision this year was to sell our sewer plant. As we continue to grow, costs to maintain a sewer plant also grow. Environmental requirements make sewer plant management very expensive. We sold our sewer plant to Aqua America. It was a sound business decision, which allows our residents to enjoy improved quality of service. Aqua brings expertise, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness to the table in a way the township could not.

As you read this newsletter, you will see that we are working on creating a plan for our village thanks to the Vision Partnership grant from Chester County Planning Commission. I urge you to respond to the survey to let us know what you feel our needs are. Our task force is working hard on developing a plan to connect the parts of our village and make them beautiful, safe, and navigable for all who come to our township. It is important that we hear from you to ensure that we are

accommodating the needs of our community at large.

We are pleased that our Sunnyside Road Bridge was selected as a co-winner for the 32nd Annual Road and Bridge Safety Award. Ensuring the safety of our community is of the utmost importance to our Board of Supervisors. Having one of our road projects selected by our peers for its excellence is high praise indeed. It also tells us that we are making sound decisions for our community and we will continue to do that as we progress with projects such as our mobility plan.

Finally, we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of what has become southern Chester County’s premier event, the Penn Township/Jennersville Regional Hospital Community Picnic and Health and Wellness Fair. This year’s picnic is once again funded 100 percent by the generosity of our sponsors, and features the food and entertainment we all love. Please join us and bring your family and friends out for this fantastic and free community event on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As we move forward toward 2015, we will continue to serve you, our Penn Township community with your health, safety, wellness, and quality of life, first and foremost in our minds.

Respectfully submitted,
Curtis A. Mason, Sr.,
Board Chair

Volunteers helped make our park beautiful

Like everywhere, last winter took its toll on our park and properties. Thanks goes out to several organizations for helping us to bounce back from the brutal winter.

Conard Pyle/Star Roses donated 65 new rose bushes to replace those damaged in the ice storm. The rose bushes surround our Veterans Memorial.



Young volunteers from the YMCA of Jenersville's Young Leaders Club, led by Alicia Bollenbach, helped spruce up the Veterans Memorial even

more by devoting a Saturday and some after-school time to mulching the area.

Volunteers from the Oxford Varsity Football



Team planted some new pine trees, replacing some damaged by ice, but also adding a few in preparation for our Holiday in the Park event.

Still more Oxford Football players spent those hot days before July 4th cleaning out the Red Rose Inn and helping to preserve some of the Red Rose antiques for future use.

Bridge (cont'd from p.1.)

and bridges safer.

Penn Township undertook the project with the help of East Penn Railway, Inc., to replace a 163-year-old timber bridge that allowed Sunnyside Road to cross over a single-track rail line, which bisects the township. The bridge had been posted with a 12-ton weight limit in 1990 and was subsequently closed in 2003 because of severe deterioration of both the super- and substructure.

Sunnyside Road is a major connector for the township to London Grove Township to the south and West Grove Borough to the east. Before its closure, it was regularly used by school buses and emergency vehicles and provided access for the southeastern part of the township to Jenersville Hospital and U.S. Route 1.

The original 55-foot-long one-lane bridge was just 14.7 feet wide, with a timber post-and-rail providing the only barrier to keep cars and pedestrians from going off the side. Steep embankments on the approaches also had no guide rails or other barriers.

East Penn Railway and Penn Township worked together to demolish the old bridge in 2007. The township contracted with McCormick Taylor, Inc. to design a replacement and help secure funding for the new bridge. The county and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission prioritized the project for funding through a program that would retro actively reimburse the township for 80 percent of the project costs.

Construction of the new bridge began in 2012 and was completed in spring 2013. The new two-lane structure is a 56-foot-long single-span, pre-stressed concrete, spread box-beam bridge with two 12-foot travel lanes. Reinforced concrete parapets along the sides of the bridge meet all impact resistance and safety requirements.

The project also included raising the road profile to provide the necessary clearance above the rail line, installing new guide rails on the approaches, and relocating a residential driveway to improve the sight distance for vehicles entering

and exiting the property.

"The uniqueness of this project is that the orphaned bridge did not have a champion until Penn Township led the way," the contest entry stated, "and it took the full cooperation of numerous regional, state, local, private, and public entities to successfully complete the project. Although Penn Township led the charge, it could not have advanced without the help from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, PennDOT, East Penn Railway, and PECO and the support of township residents and the adjacent communities of London Grove Township and West Grove Borough."

Winning the 2014 Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Award means a lot to the township, which prides itself on keeping its roads in good shape, supervisor William Finnen says. "I have lived here all my life," he says, "and it's great to be able to drive over that bridge again."

Courtesy of Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors

Green Initiative:

Things you can do to prevent storm water runoff pollution

- ◆ **Use fertilizers sparingly**
- ◆ **Sweep up driveways, sidewalks and gutters**
- ◆ **Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams**
- ◆ **Vegetate bare spots in your yard**
- ◆ **Compost your yard waste**
- ◆ **Direct downspouts from paved surfaces and consider a rain garden**
- ◆ **Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway**
- ◆ **Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil**
- ◆ **Have your septic tank pumped regularly**
- ◆ **Clean up after your pet**

For more on stormwater management, visit www.penntownship.us

Upcoming Events

Senior Expo, Sept. 25, 2014

State Rep. John Lawrence cordially invites all residents age 60 and over to attend an exposition for senior citizens on Thursday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Union Fire Company, 315 Market St. in Oxford.

A FREE lunch will be served at this event, so attendance requires an RSVP by Sept. 12. You can do so by calling the Jennersville office at (610) 869-1602. Exhibits and programs will include: health care, insurance, county services, state government services and more.



Penn Township's Dark in the Park Event on Sun., October 26 from 4 to 6 p.m.

It's back and it's free!! The Penn Township Spooky Halloween is fun for all ages. Featuring a Sword Swallower and Jungle John's Sssssssspooky Halloween Balloon Show. Wear your costume or not, we will have our face painting clown on hand to make you scary or sweet!

We are distributing glow sticks and trick or treat bags to promote Halloween safety.

Local businesses are welcome to participate! For more information contact karenversuk@aol.com.



General Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014

Penn Township's polling place for the General Election is at the Penn Township Building, 260 Lewis Road, West Grove, PA. The township building is next to the Jennersville Regional Hospital and across the street from the Jennersville YMCA. The last day to register to vote in this election is October 6, 2014.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The building is handicapped accessible and handicapped parking is available. If you anticipate needing assistance, please contact the township in advance by calling 610-869-9620. For more on voting visit www.chesco.org.



Decorate a tree for Holiday in the Penn Park Dec. 6

There is no better way to usher in the winter holiday season than by visiting Penn's Holiday in the Park event., Saturday, Dec. 6 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Local businesses and organizations are invited to participate in our tree decorating contest. Visitors vote on the winners. Santa and his elf, Santa's train, and Jungle John's Winter Wonderland show will all be here to ring in the season. For more information call 610-869-9620.

Peddling and Soliciting in Penn Township

In December of 2012, the Penn Supervisors adopted the Peddling and Solicitation Ordinance.

Resulting from complaints and safety concerns, this ordinance is intended to protect our residents, in particular, our seniors, from unwanted contact with solicitors and peddlers and to protect those traveling township roads.

Peddlers and solicitors wishing to operate within the boundaries of Penn Township may do so only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday if they have a permit issued by the township.

In order to obtain a permit, an application, available at the township office, 260 Lewis Road in West Grove, must be completed and returned along with proof of insurance of a minimum of \$1,000,000 in general liability.

To ensure the safety of those on Penn Township roads, including the solicitors themselves, no one may collect money for any organization on a public roadway in Penn Township. Selling or soliciting is strictly prohibited on public roadways,

roadsides, alleys, neighborhoods or anywhere that a sign is posted prohibiting solicitation. Signs are posted on all of Penn Township's borders as well as public venues and roadways. Violators will be prosecuted and fined for trespassing.

If there is a solicitor or peddler operating within the township borders without the appropriate permit, please report it to the township immediately at 610-869-9620 or by email to office@penntownship.us.



Update on local family



On Ash Wednesday, 2014, a devastating fire destroyed the home of Diane and Dave Swenson. Diane is the daughter of Bill and Jane Finnen. Thanks to a huge outpouring of support by the community and a fundraiser by friends and family, the Swensons are rising from the ashes and building a new home. Thank you to all who helped!

Village of Jennersville Multi-Modal Connectivity Study Survey



Thanks to a Vision Partnership grant from the Chester County

Planning Commission, Penn Township has created a Task Force led by Dennis O'Neill of MacCombie Engineers and Carol Menke, a planner with Menke and Menke, to evaluate the needs of our community in terms of mobility in our Jennersville village.

Examining the area from the Red Rose Inn down to the Jennersville Hospital, the Task Force, which is comprised of members of the community including State Representative John Lawrence's office, local business people, the YMCA of Jennersville, Dansko, residents from the senior developments, the Penn Planning Commission, the West Grove Fire Company, Medic 94, and the Jennersville Regional Hospital, thus far the committee has been able to define specific questions regarding the current uses demonstrated in the area and to predict for future needs to accommodate walkers, bicyclists, seniors, and commuters. This is the beginning of a process to create a more sustainable, efficient, and safe village for all who visit, live in, or work in Penn.

As part of this process, the township is conducting a needs assessment survey among key stakeholders as well as the public. To the right is the written survey which is also online at our website www.penntownship.us. We are asking that community members complete the survey either online, at our Community Picnic on Sept. 27, or on paper, right. The paper forms may be dropped at the township office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday or returned by mail to Survey, Penn Township, 260 Lewis Road, West Grove, PA 19390.

Conducted by MacCombie Engineers and Menke and Menke for Penn Township Municipal Government

1. Do You Live and/or Work in the Village of Jennersville? (circle one)

No, but I visit or travel in Jennersville
 Yes, I Live in the Village of Jennersville
 Yes, I work in the Village of Jennersville
 Yes, I live and Work in the Village of Jennersville

2. What improvements do you feel should be made in the Village of Jennersville to increase connectivity?

Sidewalks
 Walking Paths
 Biking Trails
 On-Road Bike Lanes
 Signalized Intersections / Crossing
 Bus Stops
 Other (please specify)

3. Are there sidewalks that should be added or improved to increase connectivity? N/Y (circle one)

If Yes, What areas need better connections?

4. Are there bike paths that should be constructed to increase connectivity? N/Y (circle one)

If Yes, Where?

5. Are there some roadways that should be improved to increase safety for pedestrians? N/Y (circle one)

If yes, what Roadway, Intersections or Points of Interest need to be

6. Do You use the SCOOT Bus (Public Transit)? N/Y (circle one)

Yes, Within the Village of Jennersville
 Yes, To travel beyond the Village of Jennersville
 No
 Are there any Bus Stops that should be relocated or improved?

7. Are there any new Paths (walking, jogging) that should be constructed or existing ones improved? N/Y (circle one) If Yes, Where ?

8. Are there any areas that could benefit from additional landscaping? N/Y (circle one)

If Yes, What Areas?

9. Would it be desirable to add benches, signage, or lighting anywhere? N/Y (circle one)

If Yes, Where?

10. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about being able to get to different places in the Village of Jennersville by Walking, Biking or Taking Public Transit?

Insert Picnic Flyer Here

Penn Township
Chester County
260 Lewis Road
West Grove, Pa. 19390

www.penntownship.us

Phone: 610-869-9620
Fax: 610-869-9194
Email: office@penntownship.us

Township Directory

Township Staff

Township Secretary—Bill Finnen
Assistant Township Secretary — Lisa Myers
Treasurer- Lorraine Debes
Parks – Danny Peters
Roadmaster - Skip Elvin
Tax Collector - Bunny Keene
Building Inspector - Scott Moran
Emergency Services Coordinator - Chuck Freese
Public Information & Special Projects—Karen Versuk

Board of Supervisors

Curtis A. Mason, Sr., Board Chair
Victor Mantegna, Vice Chair
Bill Finnen, Secretary
Tom Barlow, Member
Ken Bryson, Member

The township office is open daily, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Fridays.

Board of Supervisors Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Planning Commission meetings are the fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5



Don't miss our Community Picnic on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014 from 11 to 4

TAX COLLECTOR INFORMATION:

Clara Keene, Tax Collector
25 Jenners Village Center, PMB #16
West Grove, PA 19390
Phone/Fax: 484-667-8086
No Payments Accepted After 12/31/2013

Please direct all Tax Collector issues to office@penntownship.us or call the Tax Collector at 484-667-8086

SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

In times of disasters, natural or man made, it would be nice to know that all of our fellow citizens are thought of and cared for. Penn Township Supervisors and Emergency Coordinators are requesting your aid in finding those residents that are handicapped. Emergency workers will use this list to locate and help those persons in need.

Please file the "People With Special Needs" Form and mail to the Township to keep on file. It is available on our website or at the township office.

In keeping with our concern for environmental consciousness and responsibility, Penn Township is proud to partner with our printing company, AGS Print www.agsprint.com in Wilmington, De.

AGS has assisted us in implementing a means to compile a township database, and provide email blasts which will increase our level of communication with our residents and allow us to better serve you.

Moreover, AGS is an FSC certified printer. This certification was established in 1993 as a response to global deforestation by the Forestry Stewardship Council.

This certification demonstrates that AGS embraces socially and environmentally responsible practices in their marketplace. The FSC certification is one of the most important initiatives to promote responsible forest management worldwide.

SYMBOL
HERE

www.penntownship.us