



# Penn Township

Strengthening the Community  
*with*  
Strategic Partnership





# "Penn Township - A great place to live, work, and retire!"

## VISION STATEMENT

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

## 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."

**Penn Township,  
Chester County, PA  
260 Lewis Road  
West Grove, PA 19390**

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

**Hours:  
Mon-Thurs 8:00am - 4:00pm  
Closed Fridays  
*Appointments available***

**Penn Township Public Access Information Channels: FIOS/Verizon Channel 36 & Comcast Xfinity Channel 966**

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Victor Mantegna**, BOARD CHAIR
- William "Radar" O'Connell**, VICE CHAIR
- Carlton Snow**, MEMBER
- Jay Ennis**, MEMBER
- Laura Sperratore**, MEMBER

Board of Supervisors meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please note the November meeting will be November 19 (due to Election day).

Work Sessions are held on the third Tuesday of the month, January through March, September, and October at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda deadline is 12 p.m. the Wednesday preceding the regular meeting unless otherwise noted.

### HISTORICAL COMMISSION

- Scott Steele**, CHAIR
- Larry Waltman**
- Patricia Moidel**
- Raymond Mackey**
- Robert Davis**
- David and Lorie Maicher**
- Joan Fitzwater Jackson**

- STATE SENATOR
- Carolyn Comitta**
- STATE REPRESENTATIVE
- John Lawrence**
- ROADMASTER
- Karen Versuk 302-690-6245**
- DISTRICT COURT 15-3-05
- Honorable Scott Massey**
- AVON GROVE
- SCHOOL DIRECTORS
- Ken Roark, Nick Taylor, Rick Dumont**

### EMERGENCIES

- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
- Chuck Freese**
- AGREM REPRESENTATIVE
- Chuck Freese**
- FIRE COMPANY
- West Grove Fire Dept. & Ambulance Division**
- PARAMEDICS **SCCEMS**
- Medic 94**
- POLICE **PA State Police - 911**

### TOWNSHIP STAFF

- DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS/ROAD MASTER/ PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
- Karen Versuk**
- TREASURER/FINANCIAL OFFICER
- Lisa Myers**
- TOWNSHIP SECRETARY/RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER/EVENTS
- Caitlin Ianni**
- BUILDING PERMITS COORDINATOR/ ZONING LIAISON
- Amber McEwing**
- PARKS AND FACILITIES TECHNICIAN
- Danny Peters**
- OFFICE INTERNS
- Mariana Aguilera, Kailey Mitchell**

### PLANNING COMMISSION

- Scott Steele**, CHAIR
  - Ralph Churchill**, VICE CHAIR
  - Bill Wells**, MEMBER
  - Bruce Van Kleeck**, MEMBER
  - J. Dennis Newbold**, SECRETARY
- Meetings are the fourth Wednesday, except for November and December. Meetings begin at 7:00pm.



# State of the Township for the year 2023

## Penn Township, Chester County, PA by the Penn Township Supervisors

Again in 2023, we were fortunate enough to close the year with a budget surplus in our General Fund. In addition, we begin 2024 with a robust rainy-day fund, carefully invested, which will pave the way for us to fund our municipal projects, including our Sports Park. Careful budgeting and spending prompted by the hospital closure, combined with increased earned income tax and transfer tax (thanks to Big Elk!) and new investments yielded us this budget surplus. Our rainy-day fund increased by 14% in 2023.

In FY2023, we were awarded \$1,585,000.00 worth of grant funding. \$500,000.00 toward the development of the final fields phase of our Penn Sports Park, \$150,000.00 toward an amphitheater project for our Township Park to be built in center field, \$85,000.00 for a basin retrofit in our park which will allow us, in a collaboration with the Chester County Conservation District to develop a stormwater management manual for homeowner's associations, and finally, we were awarded \$850,000.00 from the Chester County Commissioners toward the development of the Southern Chester County Emergency Operations Center which will house AGREM and Medic 94 thus keeping these critical resources here in the heart of our community.

Among our accomplishments, we are completing our Comprehensive Plan for adoption in early 2024. This document establishes a clear vision, strategic plan, and concrete goals for our community for the next ten years. Our 2012 Comprehensive Plan was accomplished when we undertook this, a fact about which we are proud! We look forward to taking our strategic planning to a new level via this process. We appreciate the community input received thus far and will continue to include that as we seek public input in January and February of 2024.

The long-awaited Phase 2 of our Sports Park was awarded to Kinsley Construction in October. Phase 2 includes a state-of-the-art, all-inclusive playground including sensory friendly area, tot lot, pickle ball courts, basketball and hockey courts, paved parking area and some open fields. Construction will take about one year to complete including a growing season and will begin in March. Phase 3 will be the regulation baseball and flex fields for soccer/lacrosse.

Our Historical Commission continued to impress with an abundance of visitors to the Red Rose Inn on tour days, Red Rose Rent Day, and Sunset Park Day. Their work has added immeasurably to the quality of our community, preserving, and protecting our past for our future.

Continued on next page



# State of the Township for the year 2023

Continued from previous page

We continue to offer programming of practical, recreational, and social significance – and just plain FUN -- such as Sunset Park Day, Sunny Day Camp, Fall Fest, Winter Wonderland, shredding days, CPR and Stop the Bleed classes, movie nights and concerts, and kids' fun days all free of charge to the community.

We did not forget to help care for those in need in our community as our Sunset Park Day provided donations for the local Lions Club, our movie nights supported the Avon Grove Library, and the Penn Supervisors stepped up and proposed a much-needed permanent home for Medic 94. Once again, our children's letters to Santa program provided over two hundred children with personalized letters from that Jolly Old Elf. As always, Penn remains a proud partner of the PA State Police at Avondale, hosting the annual Sunny Day Camp event for special needs children and adults and their families in our Penn Township Park.



Photo courtesy of Steve Gallone



While we had hoped by now the ChristianaCare – West Grove campus would be open, alas, it is not quite there yet. We continue to advocate for them on behalf of our community at large. As we plan for 2024, we continue our efforts to serve not just Penn but our whole Southern Chester County Community. Once again, **no new taxes** will be imposed in 2024. **It has been 17 years since a new tax or tax increase was imposed.**

Our 2024 budget will fund emergency and municipal services at the levels requested to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of our residents, visitors, and businesses.

Finally, as 2023 ended, we bid farewell to Supervisor Curtis A. Mason, Sr. We thank him for his service and his 26 years of service to our community legacy and wish him a restful retirement. We welcome longtime resident, Carlton Snow to

assume Curtis's seat on the Board of Supervisors.

At this writing, there are some other exciting things in the works for 2024, so please stay tuned, like or join our Facebook page, sign up for email blasts, and look for our Spring 2024 newsletter coming out in February. As always, thank you for supporting us in our work for the community of Penn, a great place to live, work, play and retire!

Respectfully submitted,

Board Chair Victor Mantegna, Vice Chair Bill "Radar" O'Connell, Supervisors Jay Ennis, Laura Sperratore, and Carlton Snow, and Past Supervisor Curtis Mason, Sr.





# Penn Township's newest township supervisor

## Carlton Snow was elected to the board of supervisors in November

By Marcella Peyre-Ferry, Contributing Writer

Carlton Snow has been elected to fill the seat of longtime township supervisor Curtis Mason, who did not run for re-election after 21 years of service on the board of supervisors.

Snow, a republican, has been a resident of Penn Township for 32 years.

"I thought it was time to give back," he said. "Curtis, among other people in the township, asked me (to run). I thought about it for a while. It's not something I jumped into because it's a six-year commitment."

In spite of the commitment involved, Snow also had the support of his wife Stacie and son Justin. During the campaign he knocked on over 1,400 doors and met many township residents. "I want to thank all the supervisors and Curtis for supporting me. That is very much appreciated," he said.

Snow, age 60, is a working foreman for Dewson Construction out of Wilmington, Del. He has been a builder for 30 years and is very familiar with building codes. "I'm still working, I'm still able to do it," he said. "I feel good for my age. I don't let grass grow under my feet."

Life is not all about work and Snow enjoys camping and traveling in the family's RV.



"I enjoy fishing and camping and being with family. Family is most important to me," he said.

Snow has been regularly attending township meetings, including this year's groundbreaking ceremonies for the sports park and emergency operations building for Medic 94. He is familiar with the happenings in Penn Township and the issues facing the Board of Supervisors. "What they have done has been good for the township," he said. "I'm very thrilled with the parks we've put in. We're looking forward to kicking off the sports park."

He is also hopeful for a speedy reopening of the hospital. "The hospital is a main issue in my book. I would love to see them in there just for the fact the 55 and older communities in Penn Township rely on that heavily. I'm totally in favor and can't wait till Christiana Care takes it over," he said. "I know it is going to be like a micro hospital but the main thing is they get an emergency room up and running."

The age-restricted communities that are features of Penn Township are something Snow would like to promote. "It's good for the township, and for the schools," he said.

Another feature Snow likes, which is coming soon to the township, is an amphitheater at the park. He plans to propose adding a plaque to the site to commemorate the township's historic Sunset Park.

For the future, Snow wants the township to continue to progress as it has in recent years.

"I'd like to keep the small-town feel," he said. "I just want to keep the taxes low, as they are some of the lowest in Chester County. I want to keep low overhead and kind of run things the way they have been run," he said.

Snow will begin his term with the board's January reorganization meeting.

"I'm an honest person and I'll make good decisions for the township," Snow said. "I may not agree with everything they (the board members) agree with. I have my own views as does anyone. I'm not there to ruffle feathers I'm there to make good decisions for the township."





JOIN US FOR

**FREE!**

# SHRED IT & ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DAY

**MAY 4, 2024**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**PENN TOWNSHIP  
260 LEWIS ROAD  
WEST GROVE, PA 19390**

This event is FREE and ALL are WELCOME! (You DO NOT need to be a township resident to take advantage of this service.)

This is a drive-thru event, no need to exit your vehicle.  
We will collect items until noon OR until the trucks fill up.

FREE Paper Shredding - LIMIT 3 boxes/bags per vehicle.  
Paper shredding will be provided by Wiggins Shredding.  
Shredding will be done quickly, confidentially and onsite.



FREE Electronic Recycling - No limit.

\*\*WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING TV'S\*\*

Electronic recycling provided by Sycamore International



\*Any boxes, bags, bins, etc. that you use to bring your recyclables in, MUST be taken back with you. We do NOT have a place to dispose of them.\*

[www.penntownship.us](http://www.penntownship.us)

[office@penntownship.us](mailto:office@penntownship.us)

610-869-9620



# FITNESS PARK



Did you know Penn Township has a free fitness park? Located right inside our park you will find our HealthBeat® Outdoor Fitness System which is for ages 13+. Our fitness area is designed for beginner, intermediate, and advanced users. It helps target cardiovascular health, muscle strength, balance, and flexibility. Each station has a small description of how to properly use it and the benefits it will bring. On your next visit to our park, plan to stop and use the fitness area!

Our park is open daily from sun up to sun down, weather permitting, it features over one mile of walking trails, playgrounds, and so much more! Remember, alcohol, dogs, bicycles, and skateboards are not permitted in the park.



# Penn Township Parks & Recreation Committee

**Herb MacCombie, III, Chairman**



“Glad Tidings on this Groundhog Day and early spring is on the way.” Our little friend, Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow this year and per the Gobbler’s Knob tradition that means he is predicting an early spring. Let us hope he is right. This Spring will be an especially exciting time in Penn Township for the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Board of Supervisors has awarded a contract for the Second Phase of the Improvements at the Penn

Township Sports Park to Kinsley Construction of York, PA in the amount of \$5,899,856.00. Although bid prices were higher than anticipated and some amenities were delayed to another phase, the residential recreation area will include the park entrance and parking lot, pickleball, basketball/hockey rinks, and playgrounds for a variety of age groups and skill levels. The Staff and Engineers continue to work through the contract administration and finalizing the needed permits for the work to start, but a late spring start is anticipated. Unfortunately, the decision was made to close the Sports Park during construction to help the contractor expedite the work and avoid potential conflicts. It is anticipated that the project will take approximately one year to complete once the work starts.

A contract for funding for the Third Phase, the youth sports fields and associated improvements continues to work its way through the National Park Service. It is anticipated that final approval will be received in early fall and the Township Staff is already working on a bid package for the remaining improvements.

In addition to the Sports Park development, improvements to the Community Park are also planned for this summer. The Township received a Grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to construct an amphitheater in the park. The amphitheater will serve as a bandshell for Park events throughout the year. The large open space area in the center of the park will provide ample seating. Construction on the amphitheater is anticipated to begin this summer and take about four to five months. In addition, the bocce ball court originally planned for the Sports Park will be constructed at the Community Park. This project is also scheduled for this summer. The Veteran’s Garden Memorial walkway was rehabilitated last fall and is ready for another 20 years. The Township is working with Water Crest Farm Nursery, a local company, to add trees along the walkway to add some shade and formalize the entrance way. The improvements will truly honor all Township Residents who served the Country in the Armed Forces. The trees have been funded in part by a grant from PECO’s Green Region Program.

The Parks and Recreation Committee looks forward to the new and exciting times ahead and providing the best recreational facility for the residents of Penn Township and the surrounding communities.



# ChristianaCare Shares Vision and Architectural Renderings of West Grove Campus

ChristianaCare has shared new details about its plans for the ChristianaCare West Grove Campus, including architectural renderings that show what the new neighborhood hospital will look like when it opens in early 2025.



The new 20,000-square-foot neighborhood hospital will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will have a full-service emergency department and a 10-bed inpatient unit for patients who require overnight hospital stays, observation and testing.

The emergency department will treat common emergency care needs such as falls, injuries, heart attacks and strokes. Additionally, the hospital will benefit from access to ChristianaCare’s large network of specialists and support services — such as neurology and cardiology — through virtual consults. Patients needing care for more acute problems or require surgery, will be transferred to a larger hospital to receive a higher level of care.

The campus will additionally include a health and wellness center providing an array of outpatient services, such as primary care, women’s health, outpatient diagnostics, cardiology and more.

Learn more about what’s coming to the West Grove campus by visiting <https://www.christianacare.org/WestGroveCampus> at [www.ChristianaCare.org](http://www.ChristianaCare.org), and sign up for an email newsletter so that you stay up-to-date with the latest news about ChristianaCare in southern Chester County.



- **Payments for rentals, permits, and more will be accepted by credit card now!**
- MuniPAY is an electronic payment processing solution designed specifically for the government, education and utility industries. It’s simple, secure and easy to implement.
- A \$3 minimum will be charged to your card as a serve fee for charges under \$100.00
- 2.65% service fee when charges are over \$100.00

# COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Join us for a morning of networking, job opportunities, and career growth as we connect jobseekers with top employers in the area.



**SATURDAY,  
MAY 18, 2024**



**At 9:00 AM -  
12:00 PM**



**PENN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY ROOM  
260 LEWIS RD.,  
WEST GROVE, PA 19390**

**EMPLOYERS ARE YOU  
HIRING? JOIN US!**

EMAIL CAITLIN FOR MORE INFO  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP  
[cianni@penntownship.us](mailto:cianni@penntownship.us)



Get updates on this event on our Facebook  
at **Penn Township, Chester County, PA**







## AGREM Radio

If you are new to the area then you may be noticing how difficult it is to get region specific information on things like road closures, weather, school closures, and good information to navigate emergency situations of all kinds.

Welcome to Southern Chester County.

Nestled halfway between Philadelphia and Baltimore puts Southern Chester County in a bit of a no-person's land geographically. Fortunately for us, the dedicated volunteers at AGREM, the Avon Grove Regional Emergency Management, thought this through a number of years ago, so much so, that they established a variety of emergency communication mechanisms to assist us all in coping in times of challenge. Using a variety of methods including web, social media, AM radio, even an emergency operations trailer kept right here in Penn, AGREM has its finger on the pulse of Southern Chester County.

AGREM is always looking for volunteers as well. If you are looking to get involved in emergency management, have some tech skills, or just want to meet an all-around great group of people, their meetings are at the Penn Township Building the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Come on out and join! By year's end, they will be joining Medic 94 in the new Southern Chester County Emergency Operations Center at W. Baltimore Pike and Jenner's Pond Road.

Want to know more? Join AGREM on 1670 AM, follow them on social media at Avon Grove Regional Emergency Management, or visit their website at <https://my.agrem.org> and stay on top of the local happenings!

**Community and  
Emergency Information**

**Tune Your Radio To  
1670 AM**

Avon Grove Regional Emergency Management

## Radar Sign



Penn Township is happy to announce that our Radar Speed Signs have done an amazing job for the first year owning them. The signs have been moved all over the Township from high traffic areas to the areas we received the most speeding complaints. All the data that we receive is then reported to the State Police. The State Police will review the reports and determine what the next steps will be.





# UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

**Saturday, May 4**  
**9 AM-12 PM**      **Shred It & E-Recycling Event**

**Saturday, May 18**  
**9 AM-12 PM**      **Community Job Fair**

**Saturday, June 8**  
**6 PM**      **Family Movie Night in Penn Park**  
Showing: Disney's Zootopia

**Thursday, June 20**  
**10 AM-12 PM**      **Summer Fun Day in Penn Park**  
"Pirates & Princesses" Summer Kick-off Party

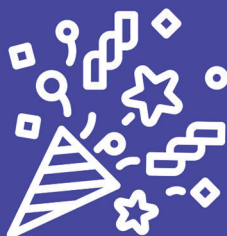
**Sunday, July 14**  
**5 PM-8 PM**      **Concert in the Park**  
Food trucks, beer & wine, free kid's activities

**Thursday, July 18**  
**10 AM-12 PM**      **Summer Fun Day in Penn Park**  
Activity TBD

**Sunday, August 11**  
**4 PM-8 PM**      **Sunset Park Day**  
Sean Reilly's Sinatra Style & Saytr Hill Band

**Thursday, August 15**  
**10 AM-12 PM**      **Summer Fun Day in Penn Park**  
"Fun with Magic!" with Boston Bachert

**Saturday, Sept. 7**  
**6 PM**      **Family Movie Night in Penn Park**  
Showing: Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone







# UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

*Continued*

**Saturday, September 14** **Sunny Day Camp**  
Rain Date - 9/21 With PA State Police - Registration Required

**Saturday, October 12** **Penn Township Fall Festival**  
12 PM-4 PM

**November 25th to** **Letters to Santa Program**  
**December 16th**

**Sunday, December 8** **Winter Wonderland**  
3 PM-6 PM in Penn Township Park

**April 14, June 9, Aug. 11,** **Red Rose Inn**  
**Oct. 13, Dec. 8** **Open House Tours**  
12 PM-2 PM

**Feb. 10, June 15** **Hands-Only CPR & Stop the Bleed Class**  
**Aug. 10, Nov. 9** Free class with Medic 94 - Registration Required  
1 PM

All events are held at Penn Township Park (next to the former Jennersville Hospital) - 260 Lewis Road, West Grove, PA 19390

To find more details about any of these events check our website & social media!

 [www.penntownship.us](http://www.penntownship.us)  Penn Township, Chester County, PA

All events dates, times & details are subject to change.  
Contact Caitlin at [cianni@penntownship.us](mailto:cianni@penntownship.us) with questions.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

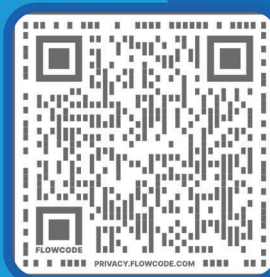
## FIND YOUR COMMUNITY

Join the Jennersville  
YMCA today to unlock:

- » Free Access to Outdoor Pools
- » Our Best Rates on Summer Camp
- » Hundreds of Group Ex Classes  
...and much more!

[ymcagbw.org/join](http://ymcagbw.org/join)

Scan here to get started! »»»





## Upgrades coming to Penn Township Park at the Township Building in Jennersville!

2024 is shaping up to be the year of projects for Penn Township. With the construction of the Southern Chester County Emergency Operations Center and the second phase of the Penn Township Sports Park, other projects we have underway include **bocce courts** at the Penn Township Park at the Township Building. The courts will be constructed just past the Veterans' Garden on the left as one enters from the parking lot. Two accessible regulation bocce courts will be constructed close to gazebo two (large, round, brown gazebo). Bring your own equipment and have a great day in our park!



Another amenity coming to our Township Park this year is an amphitheater! Funded by PA Department of Conservation of Natural Resources via a Community Conservation Partnership Grant, the **amphitheater** will be similar to the one shown below and include a 35-foot-wide stage, electric, dressing rooms and a storage area. It will be located in the center field area of the park facing Baltimore Pike so as to direct the sound away from residential areas and allow for a natural seating area on the lawn. We hope to unveil the new structure in time for our Fall Fest in October. Stay tuned!!!!!!



# The strong connections to live-giving,

Penn Township is nestled between two high quality watersheds – the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to the west and to the east, the White Clay Watershed. Route 796 almost perfectly divides the two watersheds within Penn.

The White Clay watershed is 107 square miles and includes parts of Chester County, PA and New Castle County, DE. Nearly 130,000 people call the White Clay Creek watershed home.

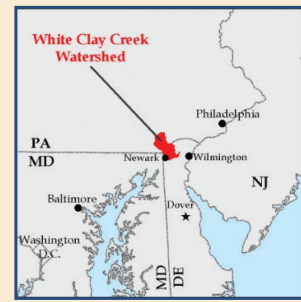
By contrast, the Chesapeake Bay watershed spans more than 64,000 square miles, encompassing parts of six states—Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia—and the entire District of Columbia. More than eighteen and a half million people live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The land-to-water ratio of the Chesapeake Bay is 14:1—the largest of any coastal water body in the world. This is why our actions on land have such a significant impact on the Bay’s health. One of the greatest threats to the health of these two watersheds is stormwater runoff.

## Stormwater Runoff

When precipitation falls on roads, streets, rooftops, and sidewalks, it can push harmful pollutants like fertilizer, pet waste, chemical contaminants and litter into the nearest waterway causing runoff.

What happens to a drop of rain when it falls onto the ground? It may land on a tree and evaporate; it may land on a farm field and soak into the soil; or it may land on a rooftop, driveway or road and travel down the street into a storm drain or stream. Precipitation in an urban or suburban area that does not evaporate or soak into the ground but instead runs across the land and into the nearest waterway is considered stormwater runoff. Increased development across the watershed has made stormwater runoff (also called polluted runoff) the fastest growing source of pollution to Chesapeake Bay.



## How does stormwater runoff affect the watersheds?

As stormwater flows across streets, sidewalks, lawns, and golf courses, it can pick up harmful pollutants and push them into storm drains, rivers, and streams. These pollutants can include lawn and garden fertilizers, pet waste, sand and sediment, chemical contaminants, and litter.

Stormwater runoff can cause a number of environmental problems:

- Fast-moving stormwater runoff can erode stream banks, damaging hundreds of miles of aquatic habitat.

Stormwater runoff can push excess nutrients from fertilizers, pet waste and other sources into rivers and streams. Nutrients can fuel the growth of algae blooms that create low-oxygen dead zones that suffocate marine life.



- Stormwater runoff can push excess sediment into rivers and streams. Sediment can block sunlight from reaching underwater grasses and suffocate shellfish.

- Stormwater runoff can push pesticides, leaking fuel or motor oil and other chemical contaminants into rivers and streams. Chemical contaminants can harm the health of humans and wildlife.

- Stormwater runoff can also lead to flooding in urban and suburban areas. Forests, wetlands, and other vegetated areas can trap water and pollutants, slowing the flow of stormwater runoff. But when urban and suburban development increases, builders often remove these natural buffers to make room for the impervious surfaces that encourage stormwater to flow freely into local waterways.

Litter such as plastic bags, cigarette butts and beverage bottles eventually get carried by stormwater into sewer systems or waterways. Litter detracts from an area’s beauty, smothers aquatic plants and bottom-dwelling organisms, adds toxic



# life-saving water in Penn Township

contaminants to the water and makes animals sick. While nine in ten watershed residents never toss food wrappers, cups, or cigarette butts onto the ground, about five percent of watershed residents sometimes, usually, or always do.

## What are impervious surfaces and why are they a problem?

Impervious surfaces are paved or hardened surfaces that do not allow water to pass through. Roads, rooftops, sidewalks, pools, patios, and parking lots are all impervious surfaces.

Impervious surfaces can cause a number of environmental problems:

- Impervious surfaces can increase the amount and speed of stormwater runoff, which can alter natural stream flow and pollute aquatic habitats.
- Impervious surfaces limit the amount of precipitation that is able to soak into the soil and replenish groundwater supplies, which are an important source of drinking water in some communities.
- Impervious surfaces that replace soil and plants remove the environment's natural ability to absorb and break down airborne pollutants.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the presence of roads, rooftops and other impervious surfaces in urban areas means a typical city block generates more than five times more runoff than a forested area of the same size.

Impervious surface data are used to measure the rate of development across the watershed and to identify high-growth areas and patterns of sprawling development. Between 1990 and 2007, impervious surfaces associated with growth in single-family homes are estimated to have increased about 34 percent, while the region's population increased by 18 percent. This indicates that our personal footprint on the landscape is growing.

## How much pollution does stormwater runoff send into the Chesapeake Bay?

Stormwater runoff is the fastest growing source of pollution to Chesapeake Bay. According to data from the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model, stormwater currently contributes 17% of nitrogen loads, 17 percent of phosphorus loads and 9% percent of sediment loads to the Chesapeake Bay.

## What you can do

To lessen the impacts of stormwater runoff on the Bay, consider reducing the amount of precipitation that can run off your property. Install a green roof, rain garden or rain barrel to capture and absorb rainfall; use porous surfaces like gravel or pavers in place of asphalt or concrete; and redirect home downspouts onto grass or gravel rather than paved driveways or sidewalks.

In the coming months, you may see Penn Township stormwater inspectors around the township and hear of efforts by the Township to become more involved in stormwater pollutant reduction efforts. Please join us in taking some simple steps to mitigate for the impacts of stormwater by:

- Eliminating littering,
- Properly disposing of trash and recyclables,
- Properly disposing of pet-waste,
- Using care when applying lawn-chemicals,
- Go to the car wash instead of washing cars in the driveway or street,
- Exercise caution when changing motor-oil, and
- Properly disposing of leftover paint and household chemicals.
- Controlling mud from running off of your property into the street or storm drain.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

# TROOPER'S CORNER

Catching up with Troop J - Avondale



## HERE COMES SPRING

Hello Penn Township! According to Punxsutawney Phil we are going to have an early Spring! Goodbye Winter! With warmer weather ahead that means a couple things will be approaching; Junior and Senior Proms, High School and College Graduations, vacations, and many outdoor activities. Please remember with nicer days ahead, that does not mean to disobey traffic laws. Please remember to slow down and save a life, including yours. Your township consists of a beautiful park to enjoy walks, picnics, and just to get outdoors and enjoy the weather. When going to the park, please remember to keep your vehicle locked and hide all valuables. Criminals will go through unlocked doors and remove valuables from your vehicle. Even if your vehicle is locked but valuables are still seen in plain view, criminals like to do what is called a "smash and grab". They will smash your windows and take the valuables. So please help you and the community by locking your doors and keeping your valuables hidden. As always, please report suspicious activity that may be going on in your area to the Pennsylvania State Police Avondale Station at 610-268-2022. Help Us, Help You!

## MEET THE NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER FOR AVONDALE

My name is Michael Carter and I have been with the Pennsylvania State Police for six years. I am assigned to the patrol section but just recently took the position as an alternate Community Service Officer.

My goal as a Community Service Officer is to maintain a good connection between the community and the Pennsylvania State Police, Avondale Station. I will be participating in current and upcoming events for schools and other community organizations as well as creating new events. I believe it is also important to keep up with and provide the community with information regarding events going on in their communities.

**WE'RE HERE IF  
YOU NEED US**

AVONDALE STATION  
2 MOXLEY LANE  
AVONDALE, PA 19311

NON-EMERGENCY LINE  
610-268-2022

## STAY INFORMED

For more information for Pennsylvania State Police events or incidents, please follow our **Twitter: @PSPTroopJPIO**.

You can also visit the **Community Access to Information Dashboard (CAID)** to see the most up to date information/statistics regarding calls in your township. The link is <https://www.psp.pa.gov/data/Pages/CAID.aspx> or you can scan the QR code.





# COMITTA'S CORNER

## New & Updates from State Senator Carolyn Comitta

State Senator Carolyn Comitta reminds residents of the following events and opportunities this spring and summer. For more information or assistance with any questions or concerns, contact her team at 610-692-2112, senatorcomitta@pasenate.com, on social media at @SenatorComitta, or by visiting [www.senatorcomitta.com](http://www.senatorcomitta.com)

### Expanded Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program Now Open

More senior citizens will see more money back in their pockets this year thanks to a historic expansion of the Pennsylvania Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program. 175,000 more residents now qualify for rebates and many of those who already qualified will see their rebates increase.

The Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible seniors age 65 and older, widows and widowers age 50 and older, and individuals with disabilities age 18 and older. You can apply online at [mypath.pa.gov](http://mypath.pa.gov) or contact our office for assistance at 610-692-2112.

### Childcare Tax Credit Expansion

11,000 families in Chester County (and about 200,000 across the state) will see a boost in their 2024 tax returns thanks to an expansion of the Pennsylvania Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit.

The state tax credit that is available to Pennsylvanians is based on the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. That means that taxpayers must receive the federal credit to also be eligible for the state credit in Pennsylvania.

Under the expansion, Pennsylvania families could see up to a 233 percent increase in their tax credit from last year. For more information, visit [pa.gov/childcaretaxcredit](http://pa.gov/childcaretaxcredit).

### Save the Dates:

Please join us at these upcoming free events. For more information on times and locations, as well as a complete list of outreach hours, visit [www.pasenatorcomitta.com/events](http://www.pasenatorcomitta.com/events)

- **Community Baby Shower**

- Friday, April 12

- **Earth Day Festival**

- Saturday, April 20

- **Primary Election Day**

- Tuesday, April 23

- **Free Shredding Event**

- Saturday, April 27

- **Mobile Mammogram Bus**

- Thursday, May 2

- **District Office Open House**

- Friday, May 3



# State Representative **JOHN LAWRENCE** Serving Chester County



## Big Elk Creek State Park Update

**Dear Neighbor,**

It is an honor and very humbling to serve as your state representative in Harrisburg. Your thoughts and opinions on state government are very important to me. If you would like to discuss state-related issues in more detail, please do not hesitate to give me a call. You can reach me at the Jenersville office by dialing **610-869-1602**. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

*Respectfully Yours,*

 [RepLawrence.com](http://RepLawrence.com)

Many have reached out to the Jenersville office to express their dismay over plans announced last November by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to develop the Big Elk Creek State Park. A great deal has happened in the past few weeks on this issue, and I want to provide an update on the latest regarding the situation.

Many in our area are familiar with the White Clay Creek Preserve, which was created in 1984 after DuPont corporation donated several thousand acres to the states of Delaware and Pennsylvania. The preserve has been managed as a publicly accessible wilderness area since 1984 with significant local stakeholder input. Since that time, the preserve has become a real cornerstone of our community, and a resource for folks far and wide who are looking to enjoy a few moments of solitude in nature.

Over the past 15 years, DCNR acquired several additional parcels of land in Franklin and Elk townships as additions to the White Clay Creek Preserve, with a goal of linking the preserve with Fair Hill Natural Resources Area in Maryland. Together, the tri-state preserve totals over 10,000 acres of open land available to the public – forests, fields, wilderness areas – one of the largest such areas in the Northeast corridor.

Gov. Tom Wolf unilaterally redesignated part of the White Clay Creek Preserve in late 2002 to create the

Big Elk Creek State Park. In November 2023, DCNR held a public meeting at Lincoln University unveiling development plans to convert Big Elk Creek into an overnight destination with hundreds of campsites, RV-hookups, and cabins. The presentation noted “final plan development” would be complete in a matter of weeks by February 2024. DCNR did not take questions from the audience, leaving many of the over 400 attendees frustrated and angry.

After DCNR’s November meeting, Franklin and Elk townships organized a town hall meeting on Jan. 10, 2024, at the Avon Grove Charter School in Kemblesville to give the community an opportunity to voice their concerns. Some will remember this building as the old Kemblesville Elementary School. Over 500 people crammed into the school gymnasium for over three hours, with dozens speaking in opposition to DCNR’s proposal.

It was incredible to see such a strong turnout. Many elected officials were present, including the Chester County Commissioners, two state senators, township supervisors from Franklin and Elk townships, and top officials from DCNR, including Secretary Cindy Dunn.

Each elected official spoke at the beginning of the town hall. I spoke about the history of the White Clay Creek Preserve, the importance of the preserve to the community, my opposition to redesignating part of the

*Continued*



Over 500 people crowded into the gymnasium at Avon Grove Charter School in Kemblesville during the January Town Hall hosted by Franklin and Elk townships.





## Big Elk Creek State Park Update

*Continued*

In the governor's office in Harrisburg, Rep. Lawrence presents a letter and a petition signed by hundreds of Chester County residents, asking Gov. Shapiro to uphold preserve status for Big Elk Creek State Park.

preserve into a park, and my opposition to DCNR's proposals to develop Big Elk Creek.

Two petitions with thousands of signatures were presented asking DCNR to honor their original commitment to manage the Big Elk parcels as part of the preserve. Many local residents joined environmental engineers, nature lovers, and even folks from Maryland and Delaware, all asking DCNR to reconsider their plans.

DCNR officials told the assembled crowd that the campground proposal was "on hold for now." Several in the audience spoke on the need for an advisory group for Big Elk Creek, much like the group put together in 1984 for the White Clay Creek Preserve. By the end of the evening, DCNR committed to the advisory group idea.

After the town hall meeting, I obtained documents showing DCNR developed detailed plans for a proposed \$14 million campground development as far back as May 2022, five months before the creation of Big Elk Creek State Park was announced to the public. DCNR then hired a private consultant at significant expense to develop a fancy presentation with slick graphics to sell their proposal. This presentation, unveiled to the public during DCNR's November 2023 meeting at Lincoln University, glossed over a number of facets of the plan, including millions of dollars set aside for on-site wastewater treatment and pit latrines.

In another deeply troubling move, DCNR repeatedly misled the public by falsely stating a public survey indicated a groundswell of support for their plans for Big Elk Creek. After much effort, I obtained original copies of the survey results, including freeform comments, which indicated the exact opposite was true. You can review these documents for yourself at [RepLawrence.com](http://RepLawrence.com).

DCNR's attempt to fast-track the proposed development, its poor communication, and lack of transparency, are all unacceptable. I've met directly with senior DCNR officials and expressed this to them in person, and I have raised these concerns with the governor's office. In addition, I filed several Right-to-Know requests to obtain additional information, met with a number of local residents and township officials, and introduced House Bill 1813 to prevent a state preserve from being converted into a park without legislative approval. But this is just the beginning of what will be a years-long process to keep the pressure on DCNR to uphold their commitments to the community.

**For more information on this issue**, please feel free to call me at the Jennersville office. I also encourage you to take a moment to review my website [RepLawrence.com/WCCPBECF](http://RepLawrence.com/WCCPBECF), which has dozens of documents, reports, surveys, and graphics that I obtained from various sources in recent weeks.

## TAX FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

E-filing taxes continues to grow in popularity, but many still prefer to file their taxes the old-fashioned way through the U.S. mail. For many years, the U.S. Postal Service made paper tax forms available at local post offices but discontinued this practice several years ago. If you need paper tax forms, please stop by my office in Jennersville at 1 Commerce Blvd, West Grove. We have a full range of common tax forms available, and we can print additional forms if necessary. Please feel free to call our office at **610-869-1602** if you have specific questions regarding tax forms.

## Chester Water Authority UPDATE

For the latest on my efforts to block any sale of Chester Water Authority (CWA), please visit my CWA website at [RepLawrence.com/CWA](http://RepLawrence.com/CWA).

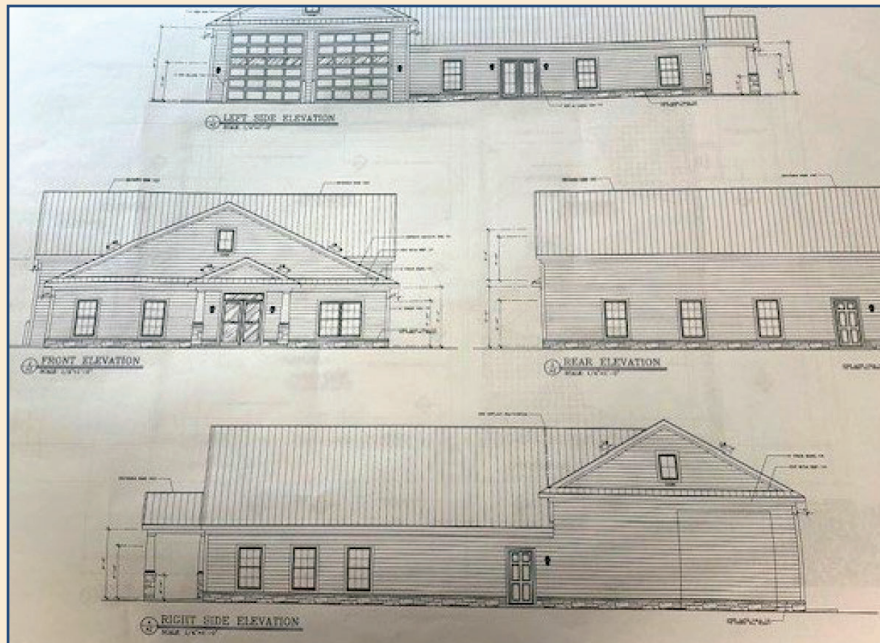


**REP. JOHN LAWRENCE**

1 Commerce Blvd.,  
Second Floor, Suite 200,  
West Grove, PA 19390  
**P: 610-869-1602**

# Forging a Secure Future:

## The Dynamic Partnership for Our Public Safety Building



It is not often that a project comes together quickly and seamlessly, incorporating a collaboration of federal, state, local, and nonprofit partners, and funding so seamlessly and quickly. It is how the system is designed to work, but too often, does not. In this case, what is emerging is a testament to how partners and the system CAN work for the good of a region. It all began with a need, willing partners, a few timely opportunities, and an idea.

### A well-established need

Southern Chester County Emergency Medical Services, affectionately known to us all as “Medic 94”, has been a part of the local culture for 40 years. Started right here in Penn Township, they have “lived” at the Jennersville Hospital for that entire time, in service to seventeen municipalities here in Southern Chester County. As the years went by, the contracts for Medic 94 to remain in residence at the hospital became more challenging and more tenuous. With Tower Health as owner, the need for their own home became even more evident.

In addition, over the years, with Chester County’s emergency management center being 45 minutes and miles away in West Chester, the need for a dedicated emergency operations center also became clear. A place where Medic 94, Avon Grove Regional Emergency Management (AGREM), and others could gather to coordinate emergency service efforts regionally during hurricanes, snowstorms, and emergency events of all kinds.



## The plan takes shape

Before the pandemic and before the hospital closed, the Penn Supervisors had an opportunity to acquire a piece of property located at the corner of W. Baltimore Pike and Jenner's Pond Road. Centrally located, with quick and easy access to all areas of Southern Chester County, the Penn Supervisors determined that it would be an ideal site for the Southern Chester County Emergency Operations Center. With all parties on board, the Township, Medic 94, AGREM, and even Chester County, the Board acted.

With an investment of \$150,000, Penn acquired the site in 2021 and took control of it in 2022.

While pandemic was a game changer for so many things, in the case of emergency operations center, it provided opportunity in the form of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a federal economic stimulus package provided to speed up the country's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Penn was able to apply for and be awarded \$850,000 by the County of Chester toward the construction of the Southern Chester County Emergency Operations Center to house Medic 94 and AGREM and provide for the emergency management support for the region. The grant was awarded in December of 2022. In addition to the support shown by the Chester County Commissioners by awarding this grant, Congresswoman Chrissy Houlihan, State Senator Carolyn Comitta, and State Representative John Lawrence have all been key players in the development of this critical project.

## The concept comes to life

Beginning in January of 2023, a task force comprised of Penn Supervisors Victor Mantegna and Bill "Radar" O'Connell, Penn staff Karen Versuk and Scott Moran, drafting coordinator, Tom Amorin of Amorin Ink, Penn Township Engineer Dennis O'Neill, Medic 94 staff and Board members including Bob Hotchkiss, Matt Collins, and the Medic 94 building committee, and local resident Jim Mundell began meeting to conceptualize a building for the emergency management center.

A ceremonial groundbreaking was held in May of 2023 with many in attendance.

By summer of 2023, the design was completed and by October, the building was advertised for bid. The bid was awarded at the first Board of Supervisors meeting in 2024 in the amount of \$1,795,324.00 to McComsey Builders of Cochranville. All contracts have been signed and sitework is underway. The anticipated completion date is late fall, 2024.





## Volunteer and be a Part of the Fire Company

The West Grove Fire Company is always looking for volunteers to join and serve our local community. If you don't want to fight fire or respond on the ambulance, the WGFC still needs your help. Members are needed for fund raising, bookkeeping, vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, staffing public fire safety events, and administrative tasks.

And, if you'd like to experience firefighting or emergency medical services, the WGFC provides training. So consider joining this organization and help serve the community, as the fire company has since 1904. With stations in West Grove, New London, and London Britain, all are welcome to apply for membership on the fire company's website at: <http://www.wgfc.org/content/join/>

One added benefit: for active WGFC members who live in Penn Township, the supervisors have provided a program that provides a tax credit program as an incentive for volunteering for the fire company.

### Home Escape Route:

No one should EVER return into a burning home for any reason -- yet many people perish because they simply cannot find a loved one. All of this could be avoided with smart family emergency planning.

Every family should have an emergency meeting point, and practice how to get out of their home in an emergency. Experts recommend teaching children two ways to exit the home -- through doors and windows, and ALWAYS choose a single meeting point where family members can gather. The meeting point can be a tree, a fence, a swing or even a mailbox -- choose a place that everyone knows, and practice gathering there in an emergency. Gathering at a meeting place assures that everyone can easily and quickly be accounted for.

At least once per year -- more with younger children, run a family fire escape drill, and practice gathering at a safe meeting place. Those practice drills assure children and adults can quickly remember how to escape, and where to gather.

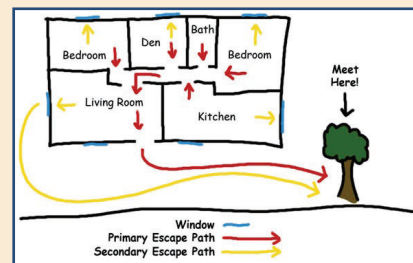
Family members must never re-enter a burning home -- wait for fire and rescue personnel to arrive.

For more information on creating and practicing a family emergency escape plan, see: [http://www.firefacts.org/family\\_safety.htm](http://www.firefacts.org/family_safety.htm) and [http://www.sparky.org/safety\\_tips.html](http://www.sparky.org/safety_tips.html) and <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/escape-planning/basic-fire-escape-planning> .

### 2023: The Busiest Year in the WGFC's History

The stats for 2023 are in, and it was the busiest year for emergencies for fire and EMS in the organization's history.

For emergency medical services (EMS), the WGFC ambulances were very busy, with 3,250 emergencies.







With no local hospital, extended transport times to the available hospitals, and long waits at emergency departments for our crews -- and increased call volume -- 2023 was a challenging year for WGFC EMTs. This was an increase from 3,142 emergencies in 2022.

On the fire side, there were 734 emergency calls, which includes everything from auto accidents to automatic alarms, to house fires. Of those calls, 123 were for box alarms (reported fires in a structure), with 36 actual working fires. There were three confirmed entrapment calls (meaning victims that had to be rescued from being trapped in a wrecked car using rescue tools [commonly known as the "jaws of life"]). The 2023 totals were significantly higher than in 2022 when there were 673 fire emergency calls.



In Penn Township, the WGFC responded to 154 fire department emergency calls and 1,134 EMS calls.

The fire company is grateful for the hard work and dedication of our volunteer and career-staff members who handle fire, rescue, and EMS emergencies, and for the continued support of the community and area municipal officials. We wish everyone a safe and healthy 2024.

### Help Us Find You in an Emergency

We can't find your house if you have an EMS or fire emergency if your house number is obscured by snow or ice or tree branches or the darkness of night. In an emergency, seconds count.

Here's some advice from the Fire Company

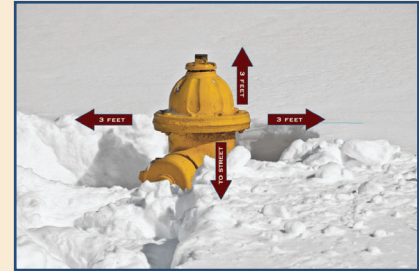
- If your house number is on your mailbox, make sure it is clear of snow, branches, and brush.
- Large, reflective numbers are important on both sides of the mailbox, as first responders may come from either direction.
- If you are on a shared driveway, make sure there are house number signs to guide fire and EMS personnel quickly determine how to find the scene of an emergency (and, if possible, have a person out to guide in first responders in an emergency).
- If your house is back from the road, post a house number with reflective numbers in sight of the road. House numbers should also be reflective, or visible from outdoor lights.
- Remember, an emergency is not the time to have to remember all the details of your address, and a visitor to your home or business might not know the address. Post address details by your phone – the 911 Center will want your specific street address, apartment number or building name (if applicable), and your township when reporting an emergency.



Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

• Fire hydrants also need to be visible or accessible. If you live in a community with hydrants, be sure they are not obscured by trees or bushes growing up along the road, are well cleared of snow in the winter, and not blocked by parked cars. And, speaking parked cars, please remember our large fire trucks and ambulances need to squeeze through development roads full of parked cars – help us get to you quickly – if you must squeeze through to get to your house, assume it will be a real challenge for first responders...so work with your neighbors to assure emergency vehicle access in your community.



## What to do if you smell propane or detect a gas leak...

Mice chewing through propane lines, contractors cutting a gas line, customers driving over their underground tank dome—we've seen it all when it comes to propane leaks. While these accidents are not everyday occurrences, they happen. And it's important you know the signs of a gas leak just in case it happens to you.

The West Grove Fire Company responds to dozens of gas leak/smells calls each year and it's very important that all residents and businesses be alert to safety concerns when it comes to propane or natural gas. Last year, the WGFC responded to a cut line in Penn Township that resulted in the hurried evacuation of a nearby childcare facility.

In Penn Township, homes and businesses may be either supplied with propane (stored in above or underground tanks) or natural gas supplied by underground pipes. Even in homes without those services, there may be propane bottles for backyard grills or fireplaces. The smell of rotten eggs is most often the sign of a gas leak. Additives give propane gas and natural gas (naturally colorless and odorless) its pungent smell as a safety precaution. And, if you hear a hiss-like sound coming from your tank or gas lines, you may have a leak in the valve or hose.

Here are actions to take in case you suspect a leak. For your safety, act immediately:

- Extinguish any open flames.
- Put out any candles, fireplaces, or other open flames in your home.
- Do not operate your lights, appliances or other electrical items that could create static electricity.
- Leave the area immediately.
- Remove any people or pets from the building or home if you suspect gas is leaking.
- If possible and if it's safe, shut off the propane gas valve on the propane tank. Turn the valve to the right (clockwise) to turn off the main gas supply to your propane tank.
- Report the propane leak: As soon as you are at a safe distance, call 911 and your propane/natural gas company.
- Do not return to the house or operate any appliances until given permission by emergency responders and an authorized technician.
- If you smell gas, report it -- even if you are not certain it's your property.

Gas leaks are not common and can be prevented with proper care and regular maintenance of your tank and/or equipment. Treat connectors with care -- when moving appliances, make sure the gas line and connector are handled with care. Avoid flexing or twisting the hoses and connectors. If you move an appliance or it is not in use, make sure the gas line is properly secured. In all cases, consult your gas provider (propane or natural gas) if there are any questions about the service to your home or business, or need assistance with appliances or connections.



## PENN TOWNSHIP

# STORY WALK®

## LOCATION

Penn Township Sports Park  
355 N. Jennersville Rd.  
West Grove, PA 19390

New year, new story walk®! After some trial and error, we have decided that our story walk® needs a little makeover. Coming [hopefully] in spring expect a better format to our story walk®! Below please find the upcoming books for this year, which are subjected to change.

A story walk® is an interactive way to get young children to read and interact with nature. Follow the path around our outdoor environmental classroom to read a children's book which has questions and prompts, which allows their thoughts to flow while spending sometime outdoors. This project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

## ~ UPCOMING BOOKS ~

APRIL

THE WONKY DONKEY

BY CRAIG SMITH AND KATZ COWLEY

MAY

HOW THE CRAYONS SAVED  
THE RAINBOW

BY MONICA SWEENEY AND FERONIA PARKER-THOMAS

JUNE

AND THEN COMES SUMMER

BY TOM BRENNER AND JAIME KIM

JULY

HOW TO CATCH A MERMAID

BY ADAM WALLACE AND ANDY ELKERTON

AUGUST

THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT

BY DREW DAYWALT AND OLIVER JEFFERS

FOR STORY WALK ® UPDATES PLEASE FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM, @PENNTWP\_PARK

# DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR THAT?

## PROJECTS THAT ALWAYS REQUIRE A PERMIT:

- Any Change Effecting a Building's Structure
- Boilers, Water Heaters, or Furnaces
- Decks & Patios
- Building Demolition
- Drainage Systems
- Driveway Extensions
- Electrical Work
- Fences of any type
- Fire Alarms & Sprinklers
- Home Occupations
- HVAC
- New Buildings, Renovations, or Additions
- Pools (in excess of 24 inches deep)
- Plumbing Work
- Sheds & Accessory Structures
- Signs
- Stucco Remediation



## PROJECTS THAT DON'T USUALLY REQUIRE A PERMIT:

- Cabinet Installation
- Installation of Carpet or Tile
- Painting
- Repaving/Sealing Driveways
- Re-Roofing
- Siding Replacements
- Window Replacement (when there is no structural change)

## KEEP IN MIND...

- If you have an HOA some changes, such as decks, need to be approved by them prior to applying for a permit from the Township.
- If you have a question as to whether a permit is required, please be sure to give us a call – 610-869-9620

### Why do I need a permit?

More than 10 years ago the State of Pennsylvania mandated all municipalities adopt a Building Code known as the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). The UCC provides specific requirements and exemptions for building projects.

Before any construction, repair, renovation, or addition is started, it's important to contact the office to determine if a permit must be obtained. Permits are put in place for the safety of the homeowner, and they ensure that proper codes are being followed and work is being done safely and in compliance with the UCC. If you are ever uncertain whether or not you need a permit, call the township.



### **Residential and Commercial Building Inspector & Zoning:**

Scott Moran  
610-637-1003  
scott.accuratebulding@gmail.com

### **Building Permit Coordinator:**

Amber McEwing  
610-869-9620  
amber.mcewing@penntownship.us



## HOW CAN I APPLY FOR A PERMIT?



### Step 1: Fill out your permit application

#### We've made applying for permit applications easy!

- You can fill out applications **online** and email them to us.
- Print/pick up **paper applications** from our office and fill out a paper version.

#### Website Instructions:

To access permit applications through our website visit, **www.penntownship.us** – Click on "**Residents**" then "**Permit Applications**". Here you'll find all our permit applications.

### Step 2: Submit your application

#### Once you've filled out ALL information you may submit permits via one of the following:

- **Email** it to us – **office@penntownship.us**
- **Drop it off** or **mail it** – **260 Lewis Road, West Grove, PA 19390**

\*Reminder – A certificate of insurance, plot plans, drawings with measurements and permit application are required at time of submittal. See permit application sheet for additional instructions.

### Step 3: Wait for approval

Once you've submitted your application, the township will send your application to the building inspector for review. He will review each permit, approve it, deny it, or request changes and then bring it back to the township. The township will contact the applicant and let them know that their permit is ready for pick up and what the permit fee will be.

## PERMIT FAQs

- Residential permits can take up to two (2) weeks for review.
- Commercial permits can take up to thirty (30) days for review.
- Permit fees are due upon pick up.
- We accept cash, checks, and credit cards (service fees apply).
- **If adding electric or a charging station for an electric car a permit is needed.**
- Permits should be visibly displayed at the work site.
- Permits are valid for six (6) months from the date of issue. A one-time extension can be requested - there will be an additional fee.
- You may view our Zoning Ordinances on our website under "Maps & Zoning".
- A Road Occupancy Permit is required for any work that will affect township roads. Please inquire at the Township office for more information.
- **When building any structure of 1,000 sq. ft or greater it will require a Stormwater management application.**
- **Any structure (pools, patios, decks, etc.) that exceeds the impervious coverage will require the applicant to apply for a Zoning and Conditional use hearing.**



Damage Prevention Starts with One Call.™  
Dial 8-1-1 Before You Dig.

PA Law Requires 3 Business Days Notice  
1-800-242-1776  
[www.paonecall.org](http://www.paonecall.org)



PENN TOWNSHIP

# Taxes & Voting

**TAX QUESTION? WE GOT YOU COVERED.**



**Earned Income Tax (EIT)** is assessed at a rate of .5 percent. Any wage earner who lives in or works in Penn Township owes this tax. Usually, employers withhold this tax from a wage earner's paycheck. Whether it is withheld or not, the tax is owed and a local tax form must be filed.

**Local Services Tax (LST)** is \$52.00 per year and is usually withheld by the employer. This tax supports municipal and emergency services. There is a low-income exemption for people earning less than \$12,000. This exemption requires the submission of a form.

**Avon Grove School District taxes** are sent on July 1 of each year at a rate of 34.95 mills due to a recent tax increase. Avon Grove School District taxes are collected through Keystone Collections. The PSD code is 150106.

EIT, LST, and Avon Grove School District taxes are all collected by Keystone Collections.

**Keystone Collections Group**  
546 Wendel Road, Irwin, PA 15642  
724-978-0300 - [www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com)

**Chester County Real Estate taxes** are sent on January 15 of each year. The millage rate for Chester County is 4.551.

**Penn Township Real Estate taxes** are assessed at a rate of .53 mills. The tax bills are sent in early February.

Chester County Real Estate and Penn Township Real Estate taxes are collected by the Chester County Office.

**Chester County Treasurer**  
313 W. Market Street, West Chester, PA 19380  
610-344-6370 - [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org)

## VOTING IN PENN TOWNSHIP

**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY  
APRIL 23, 2024**

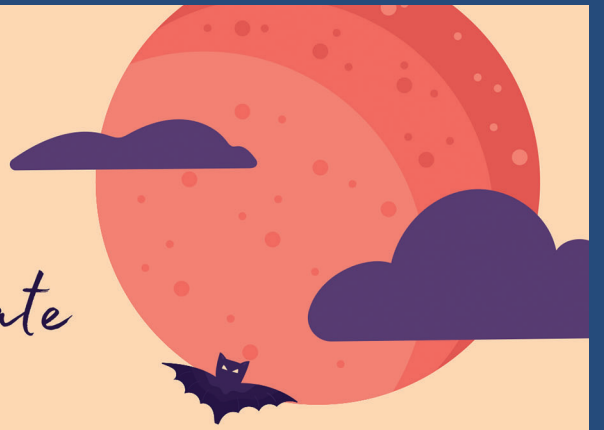
**GENERAL ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

Penn Township's **polling place** for the General Election is at the **Penn Township Building**, 260 Lewis Road, West Grove, PA.

We do not have a ballot drop-box here and we do not have sample ballots. For more information about voting and for other important dates and details, visit **Chester County Voter Services** - [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org)







*Save the Date*



**Penn Township**

# ***Fall Festival***

**Saturday, October 12, 2024**

**Penn Township Park**

MUSIC

FOOD TRUCKS

CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

KID'S CARNIVAL

BOUNCES & INFLATABLES

**\*WICKED SPECIAL GUESTS\***

AND SO MUCH MORE!

**Want to be involved?**

BECOME A SPONSOR

SIGN UP AS A VENDOR

ENTER THE CRAFT FAIR

Check our website for info.

**[www.penntownship.us](http://www.penntownship.us)**



# Penn Township Newsletter

Spring 2024 | Volume 8, Issue 13  
260 Lewis Road, West Grove, PA 19390

*A Chester County Press Publication*  
P.O. Box 150, Kelton, PA 19348  
*address corrections not required*

## Public Meeting Notice



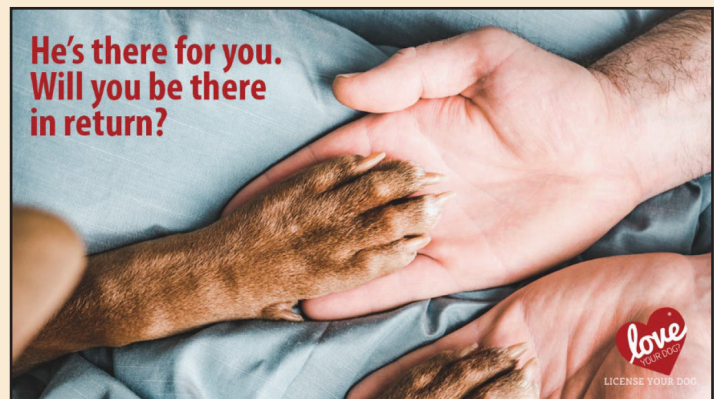
A public hearing for comment and consideration of adoption for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 during the regular Supervisor's meeting at 6 p.m. at the Penn Township Municipal Building, 260 Lewis Road, West Grove, PA 19390 in the Finnen Community Room. A copy of the proposed Comprehensive Plan is available for review via the township website at [www.penntownship.us](http://www.penntownship.us) or you can scan the QR code. You can also stop by the township office during regular business hours Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Love your Dog, License your Dog

By licensing your dog, you are being a responsible pet owner. Do it for them. Do it for every dog in PA.

Having a dog license is the best way to bring them home if they get lost. And the cost of your dog license allows the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to crack down on illegal kennels, investigate dog bites, and ensure dangerous dogs are not roaming the streets.

Visit [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com) or call the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement Office at **717-787-3062**.



#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog