



Township of FERGUSON Pennsylvania

FALL 2015

"The future looks good"

Ferguson Township is financially healthy. That's the conclusion of an audit of the 2014 CAFR—Comprehensive Annual Financial Report—which compares the Township's budget to actual operating expenses during the year ending December 31, 2014. Residents will be glad to know that no tax increase is anticipated for 2016. "We've recovered really well from the economic downturn in 2008," said Finance Director Eric Endresen, "and the future looks good."

Look into our future. Our 2016 – 2020 CIP—Capital Improvement Plan—is a good indicator of the Township's future plans, from expanding our Public Works facilities and police services to capital improvements and development projects. The CIP covers all of the Township's anticipated needs over the next five years to ensure that we continue to be responsive and accountable to our residents. You can learn more about the CAFR and CIP on pages 3 and 4.

Look back

The Township's achievements during spring and summer 2015



Communication. We launched @FergusonTwpPA on Twitter, linking to breaking news and features at the Ferguson Township website, which we redesigned last fall.

Planning. We hired a new Director of Planning and Zoning, Ray Stolinias, Jr. **Story, page 10.**



Giving Residents a Voice. We brought residents together for Coffee & Conversation at Giant at Northland Center and The Naked Egg Cafe with Pa. Rep. Kerry Benninghoff. We also hosted a gathering of homeowner and condo association board members, and a joint work session with the State College Borough Water Authority on water quality.



Opening Our Doors to Our Community. We welcomed residents and their families to our 2015 Ferguson Township Open House: an afternoon of food, entertainment, children's activities, and educational demos. It was an opportunity to get acquainted with Ferguson Township departments, facilities, and members of the Centre Region Council of Governments.



Open to Suggestions. We invited you to submit your ideas for a name for our newest park: The 17-acre Westfield/Hillside Farm Estates will sit next to the residential neighborhoods of Westfield and Hillside Farm Estates, within walking distance of Pine Grove Mills. The first phase of the park — set to begin this year— will include a playground, pergola, walking trail, multi-use field, a sledding hill, and more. The Township Board of Supervisors will approve a name for the park on September 8.



Protecting Our Trees. Ferguson Township's Board of Supervisors adopted a Tree Ordinance. Our tree-loving residents now have a Tree Commission and an Arborist working to improve and protect more than 4,000 trees in the township's streets and parks. **Story, page 7.**



Recognition. Ferguson Township was ranked the fifth best suburb in Pennsylvania and named a Certified Gold Community by Sustainable Pennsylvania. **Story, page 2.**



Recognition for Ferguson Township: Fifth best suburb in Pennsylvania

When niche.com ranked Ferguson Township the fifth best suburb in Pennsylvania, and 43rd in the nation on its “Best Suburbs in America” list, we were glad to be recognized. This is a site that aims to help people find their niche, be it “a neighborhood to call your home, a school where your child will thrive, a college that will change your life.”

Ferguson Township aced all of the niche.com criteria for being a place where people want to live, work, and do business.

Our professionally managed community earned an A+ as a place where residents find things to do, the easiest commute, a number of public schools, and opportunities for community involvement.

The Township also earned an A as an excellent place to purchase a home, employment opportunities and economic stability, access to quality health care and fitness, and resources for outdoor activities, such as our parks.

Ferguson scored a B-plus for general safety and crime statistics and a B for weather, which captures conditions in the Township year round.

Agriculturally rich and committed to preserving its agricultural heritage, Ferguson Township also earned recognition as a Certified Gold Community by Sustainable Pennsylvania. **Story, page 10.**

People choose where you want to live based on what a community can provide to you.

Ferguson Township Manager Mark Kunkle described it this way: “Real service to residents happens daily and affects residents’ lives directly.” Those who call Ferguson Township home rely on daily services provided by our Public Works crews, and our police who help to ensure your neighborhoods are safe.

You also value our commitment to preserving our agricultural heritage and our wide open spaces, responsible development, and to doing all we can to promote a sustainable community.

We’re glad you chose Ferguson Township to live, work, study, and visit. We hope our communications keep you well informed about all the benefits of being part of this community.



Ferguson Township's Finance Department ensures that the Township can financially support the services our staff provide on a daily basis. The Department prepares a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), as well as a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Each reflects these Township values:

- Effective, efficient professionalism in delivering daily services to our residents
- Preserving the unique character of the Township
- Collaborating with our neighboring municipalities to provide cost-effective services
- A well-maintained and safe environment
- Managing our resources wisely (sustainability) (resources that include tax revenue, public utilities such as sewer and water, services such as police and fire)
- Ethical and honest behavior

The CAFR: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the calendar year ended December 31, 2014, is an audit of Ferguson Township's financial records.

Independent auditors prepare the CAFR along with the Township's Finance Director.

The auditors found that the Township's overall financial position improved during the past year, considering total fund balances, capital investment, long-term debt, net revenues, and cash flow.

Key findings at December 31, 2014:

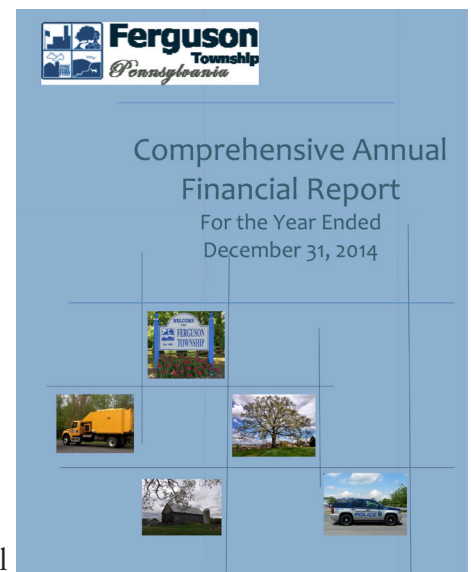
- The Township had a total of \$12.610 million of unrestricted net position available to meet the Township's long-term and ongoing obligations of governmental activities to citizens and creditors, compared to \$11.989 million at December 31, 2013, representing an increase of \$621,000.
- The Township had a reportable total of \$26.359 million net investment in capital assets, compared to \$25.807 million at December 31, 2013, representing an increase of \$552,000.
- The Township's long-term debt was \$1.650 million compared to \$2.110 million at December 31, 2013, representing a decrease of \$460,000.

This report is meant to provide the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors, citizens, financial institutions, insurance companies, bondholders, township staff and other interested parties with detailed information concerning the financial condition of the Township government.

Readers of the CAFR will find statements of financial condition, revenue and expenditures, debt information, information on fund balances; and other useful measures of financial stability.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Ferguson Township for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013.

This was the fifth consecutive year that the government has achieved this prestigious award. To be awarded a certificate of achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.



View the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014 at <http://ow.ly/R3uTj>

Township introduces an interactive website tax calculator

Ever wonder how your tax bill compares to other municipalities in the Centre Region? You can now access an interactive online tax calculator that shows how your taxes stack up to others in the Centre Region and Bellefonte Borough.

Simply visit <http://ow.ly/R3Eur>, agree to the terms of use, and complete the information in the yellow boxes. The spreadsheet will automatically update to show approximately what you'll pay in income, real estate, local services tax, and more. You can also see where your taxes rank against those in the other municipalities.

Homeowners: Be aware of supplemental (interim) taxes

Supplemental taxes are defined as interim real estate taxes that represent part of a year. Homeowners incur supplemental taxes when building a new home or renovating an existing home and are directly responsible for these taxes. Most homeowners are responsible for paying supplemental taxes out of pocket because few escrow companies will pay these from existing accounts. If they do, many will bill you directly to reimburse them.

The county assessment office will determine the value of the home or renovation and issue an interim bill for real estate taxes for the remaining part of the year.

Township Events Calendar

October 17

Coffee & Conversation
8 - 9:30 am
Videon Central
2171 Sandy Drive

October 19

Special Brush Collection

The CIP: Capital Improvement Plan

The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors voted at its August 17 meeting to approve the 2016 - 2020 Capital Improvement Plan.

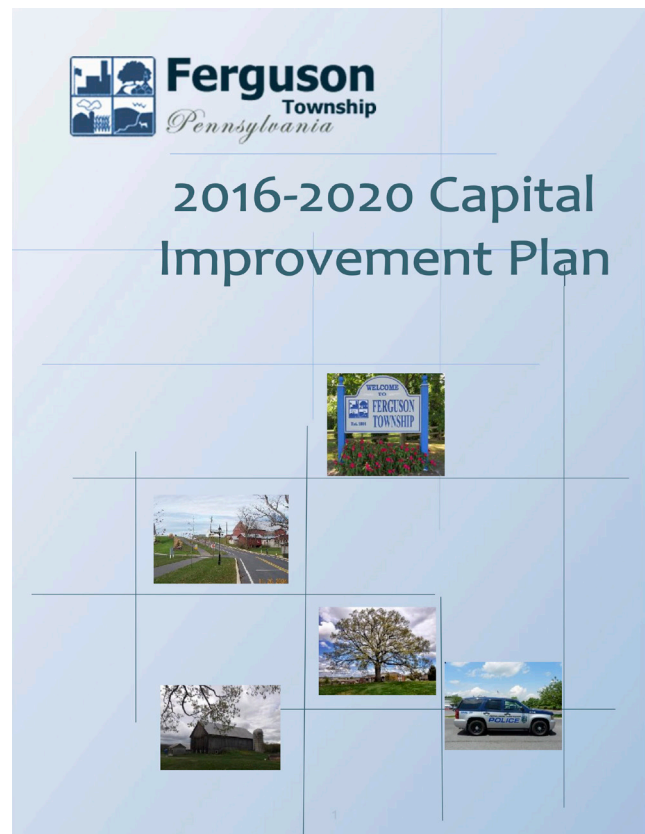
The CIP outlines plans for capital expenses of \$2,500 or more, with a life span of more than one year, including such projects as buildings, roads, and the purchase of major equipment and vehicles.

A five-year "look-see" into the future, the CIP attempts to determine how much money the Township needs to fund its services, recommends allocating funds where they can be most useful, and educates the Township staff about spending guidelines.

Over the years, Ferguson Township has maintained sound fund balances for operations and present and future capital expenditures. Rather than using debt, many times the Township uses cash reserves to purchase equipment and long-term investments. This conservative style has reduced financial risk considerably and has helped the Township through economic downturns that have severely hurt other governmental agencies.

Over the next five years, the CIP forecasts that revenues will increase from \$14,531,40 to \$14,674,087, while expenditures will decrease from \$15,338,836 to \$14,396.024, leaving an ending balance of \$8,415,927.

You may review the approved plan at this link: <http://ow.ly/RIRPa>



From the time our Public Works crews finished removing snow from our streets last spring, their daily work turned to brush and leaf collection, repaving, roadside mowing, and stormwater improvement projects. Crews also continue to remove trees afflicted with Emerald Ash Borer and replace them with disease-resistant species—a project that will take another year or two to complete.

Here are the essential services you can look forward to Public Works providing this fall and winter:

Brush and Leaf Collection

Services will continue in the fall, and a special brush collection will be offered the week of October 19. For Brush and Leaf Collection guidelines, visit <http://ow.ly/Rgp1z>

Street Sweeping

Public Works advises residents not to blow mowed grass onto the streets. Department crews are finding that much of the material that is collected by our street sweepers is grass that has been blown onto the roadway by residents and contractors mowing grass. Grass blown onto the roadway collects along the curbside and gets washed into storm inlets, leading to sediment build-up in pipes, detention basins, and waterways. Over time, this adds up to higher maintenance costs associated with street sweeping, inlet cleaning, and pipe cleaning, as well as more sediment in our waterways.

Help Public Works contain the cost of street sweeping. Please keep grass off the streets.

Public Works appreciates your cooperation.

Snow Plowing

The Ferguson Township Road Crew is a team of operators highly trained in the latest technology and procedures for snow removal. During the winter months, the crew is divided into two teams—each scheduled to work 12-hour shifts, with an overlap in the morning to prepare the roads for your morning commute. Occasionally, an additional two-worker

crew is enlisted to help clear the main roads and snowdrifts. The Township complies with all laws governing CDL drivers. Therefore, the Township is required to give drivers 10 hours of rest after each 11-hour plowing shift.

It is important to note that streets may not always be cleared to the blacktop. Some snow and slush may remain on the road surface, especially if the snow is light and powdery and there is little likelihood that the snow will refreeze.

The Ferguson Township Snow Operations Policy provides guidance to the crew members as they work to maintain the 90-plus miles of roadway in the Township. Priority is given to the main roads, such as Whitehall Road, Science Park Road, and Blue Course Drive. Once the main roads are cleared, the road crew begins clearing the residential and connecting streets. If possible, residents are encouraged to use snow tires during the winter months to improve travel.

Winter Maintenance of Shared Use Paths

The Ferguson Township Public Works Department also maintains seven shared use paths during the winter months. For locations, please visit this website link: <http://ow.ly/Rk3WQ>

What is a snow emergency?

When is on-street parking prohibited?

How to protect your mailbox from plows

Answers to these questions, next page

2015 Capital Road Project Updates

- Public Works crews completed base repair and preparation for paving a number of roads.
- Contractors finished final paving on Circleville Road and Park Lane.
- The relocation of utilities is complete on Rosemont Drive and Selders Circle. Large storm pipes are expected to be installed in August and September.

Winter Snow Removal Operations: Questions answered

What is a snow emergency?

Two types of snow emergencies may be declared in Ferguson Township. First, the governor or his designee is authorized to declare a snow emergency, which lifts the restrictions on CDL drivers that would otherwise apply. In such cases, the road crew is not obligated to rest 10 hours after 11 hours of plowing.

Additionally, the Township Manager is authorized by ordinance §15-601 to declare a snow emergency at his discretion. When the Township Manager declares a snow emergency, parking is prohibited on designated snow emergency routes, and vehicles are prohibited from driving on snow emergency routes without chains, snow tires, or all-weather tires.

Snow Emergency Routes in Ferguson Township include Blue Course Drive; Circleville Road; Science Park Road; Valley Vista Drive; Whitehall Road; and a portion of Pine Grove Road (SR45).

When is on-street parking prohibited?

On-street parking is prohibited on all streets, roads, and highways of the Township any time within 48 hours after a snowfall of two inches or more has occurred. This prohibition is in effect regardless of whether or not a snow emergency is declared.

When do I need to shovel?

Please clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall of two or more inches has ended.



Sign up for Winter Weather Reminders

Ferguson Township will issue a press release whenever on-street parking is prohibited and clearing sidewalks is required. Sign up for e-mail notifications at this link: <http://ow.ly/R4imd>. Fill out the required information and select “Press Release” and/or “Winter Weather Reminders.”

How can I protect my mailbox from snow plows?

Proper placement of your mailbox will protect it from potential damage by snow plows.

The Township asks that residents adhere to these mailbox placement guidelines:

- The front face of the mailbox should be located one foot from the edge of the roadway pavement.
- The bottom of the box should be 42 - 48 inches above the road surface.
- Maintain three feet of clear zone below the mailbox, measured from the road surface. This allows room for the Township plow truck to clear snow from the street without damaging your mailbox.



Visit <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Mailboxes/> to view a diagram of the Township’s mailbox standards. Residents are encouraged to relocate or modify your mailbox to accommodate snow plowing operations. If your mailbox adheres to Township standards, but a plow still hits it, the Township typically will replace it with a standard 4-inch by 4-inch wooden post and standard mailbox.

The Township will not replace ornamental or decorative fixtures that may extend into the clear zone.

Following Township guidelines ensures that your mailbox is accessible to the mail carrier and less likely to be damaged during snowplow operations. Residents are also reminded that structures of brick, stone or other potentially hazardous objects are not permitted in the Township right-of-way. You may obtain specific guidelines from your local post office or by calling Public Works. Or complete a Contact Us Form at <http://ow.ly/R4lkz>

Thanks for your patience and understanding during the winter months

Ferguson Township Public Works thanks you for your patience and understanding during snow removal operations. Please call with any questions or concerns about snow removal or complete a Contact Us Form at <http://ow.ly/R4lkz>

Township welcomes new Arborist

Lance King joined Ferguson Township on July 1 as its first Arborist—a new position approved by the Board of Supervisors.



King reports to the Public Works Director and collaborates with the Ferguson Township Tree Commission, working both on the administrative and functional aspects of the Township's tree program.

As Arborist, King serves as a resource for the Township in a number of ways:

- preparing planting plans for the Township and reviewing tree planting plans for land developments and subdivisions
- diagnosing tree diseases and recommending treatment options
- responding to resident inquiries regarding tree issues
- helping to manage street tree pruning and planting contracts
- training and supervising seasonal landscape laborers in pruning trees

He comes to the Township from a 10-year career at the Borough of State College, where he started as a dendrician, otherwise known as a tree climber. He performed all Borough tree maintenance, including pruning, planting, removing, cabling/bracing, and pesticide application for seven years.

“I came into this position with a wide background,” he said, “and am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the community.”

In his position as Arborist, he performs some of the pruning, treatment and removal of diseased trees, in addition to his management duties. “It’s important for someone in this role to spend time out in the field,” he added. He aims to play an essential educational and community role in promoting the health of our trees. “I want to involve the community as much as possible,” he said. His plans include organizing community events for Arbor Day and Earth Day.

King is an ISA Certified Arborist as well as a PA Licensed Pesticide Applicator.

A graduate of Bellefonte Area High School and The Central PA Institute of Science and Technology in 2003, King studied Environmental Science. He also graduated from Penn College in Williamsport in 2005 with an Associate Degree in Forest Technology.

Public Works Project Updates

Haymarket Park Basin: Ferguson Township Public Works crews will put the finishing touches on the site of a stormwater improvement project at Haymarket Park.

The contractor for The Landings Planned Residential Development, Johnson Farm Associates, excavated this portion of Haymarket Park adjacent to Blue Course Drive. This project was completed to improve stormwater storage, control and conveyance, and is part of the overall stormwater management that includes the Haymarket Regional Stormwater Basin just east of the Young Scholars Charter School.

Public Works crews will fine grade the topsoil, seed and mulch the project area.

Improvements to stormwater controls between The Landings residential area and the Stonebridge Little League fields began last year with the restoration of stormwater drainage to its natural condition. Parking areas for the little league fields were relocated, expanded and improved as part of this restoration.

Saratoga Drive sinkholes: Public Works spent the week of July 20 repairing sinkholes on Saratoga Drive. One of the sinkholes was 20 by 20 feet and approximately 15 feet deep; a second sinkhole -- first observed as a depression in 2014 -- was 12 by 12 feet and 10 feet deep. Sections of Saratoga Drive were closed for two days and motorists were detoured.

Street Trees: Ferguson Township's Arborist submitted an application for a TreeVitalize grant to help fund contract tree pruning. He is responding to residents' concerns about trees, preparing planting plans for 2016 ash tree replacements, evaluating the effectiveness of 2014 ash tree treatments, addressing the Ferguson Township Tree Commission's concerns, supervising the summer landscape crew, taking care of immediate pruning needs, and prioritizing pruning needs for Public Works and contractors.

Ferguson Township Tree Commission: The FTTC conducted a field view of potential tree removal and planting locations for 2016, including ash trees in the neighborhoods of Greenleaf Manor, Lexington Place, Chestnut Ridge Manor, Stable Hill, and Cobble Creek. The FTTC also viewed the trees in Thistlewood and the tree row in the Westfield/Hillside Park. The group viewed and provided comments on potential tree removal or trimming of three large Norway Maples at 1111 West Beaver, and viewed the site of a proposed Columbia Gas line to be installed under the canopy of mature trees along Circleville Road.

Stormwater: How to protect groundwater quality if you have a sinkhole on your property

by Ronald A. Seybert, Jr., P.E.,
Ferguson Township Engineer

No matter where you live in the Township, you get your drinking water from a well or spring, even if you are served by a public water provider. For health and aesthetic reasons, you want the groundwater that supplies your home to be of high quality. But groundwater can become contaminated as a result of human activities, including the misuse of sinkholes—depressions in the land surface that occur in areas underlain by carbonate bedrock, such as limestone and dolomite. This carbonate bedrock exists throughout the Township.

An important characteristic of carbonate bedrock is that it is easily dissolved by water. Large volumes of water from rain or melting snow seep through the soil to recharge the groundwater contained in bedrock fractures and openings between rock layers. As the water flows through these cracks, the carbonate bedrock gradually dissolves and the openings become large, creating solution channels through which water can easily flow.

*What you see in a sinkhole
may affect what you get
from your water faucet.*

The dissolution of carbonate bedrock accounts for the development of sinkholes; as the bedrock beneath the soil is dissolved and carried away, the overlying soil settles or collapses to form a surface depression. These depressions vary in size and are usually cone or bowl shaped. Some of these depressions collapse to create sinkholes.

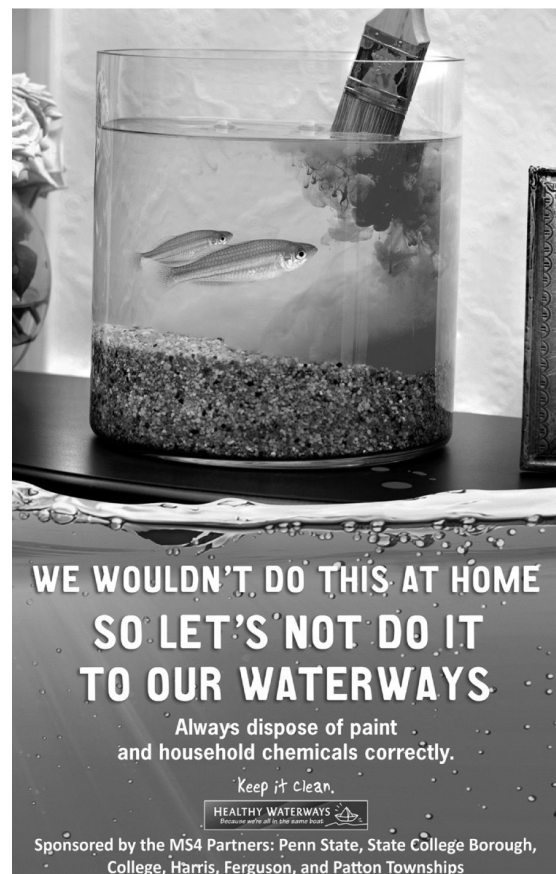
The soil lining the bottom of a sinkhole may be so thin that it provides little filtering of any surface runoff that may drain into the sinkhole. In some instances, streams may flow into sinkholes and disappear underground. This surface water now becomes part of the groundwater flow system. Because sinkholes provide easy access for storm water to enter the groundwater system, it's important to keep potential water pollutants away from sinkholes. Contaminated water that drains through a sinkhole can pollute the groundwater that wells or springs draw from. Because groundwater can flow easily through solution channels in carbonate bedrock, a sinkhole that receives contaminated water can pollute water supplies located far away from the contamination source.

If you have an old sinkhole located on your property, there are several ways you can help protect groundwater quality:

- Most importantly, don't use sinkholes as dumping sites. Sinkholes may seem like acceptable locations to dump trash, but they're not. The water from precipitation and drainage that flows through trash-filled sinkholes carries contaminants directly into groundwater.
- Never dump rinse water from sprayer tanks or any other hazardous liquids into sinkholes. These liquids will reach groundwater easily.
- Avoid using sinkholes as outlets for drainage. This water may contain contaminants—such as pesticides and nitrate—that have leached from the soil.

If you notice a new sinkhole formation near a stormwater drainage swale or basin, please report this immediately to the Township Engineer so the Township can work with the responsible party to get the sinkhole repaired.

Sinkholes are environmentally sensitive areas that need to be treated with care. Remember: What you see in a sinkhole may affect what you get from your water faucet.



Help teens learn the potential dangers of taking prescribed drugs without a prescription

Prescription drug abuse is much more common among teens than most parents realize. A 2009 survey of 16,000 adolescents conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that 20 percent of teens in high school in the United States reported they had taken a prescription medication that wasn't prescribed for them.

Teens often have the mistaken belief that prescription drugs aren't as dangerous as street drugs and may regard them as more socially acceptable. Many believe that drugs prescribed by a doctor should be safe to take, not realizing that prescription drugs can have very serious side effects and be just as dangerous as illicit drugs. Some prescription medications can significantly impair judgment, reduce reaction time, or cause drowsiness, making them especially dangerous when adolescents get behind



the wheel of a car after taking them.

Easy access to prescription drugs by teens—often from their parents' medicine cabinet or those of their friends' parents—makes them a prime target of curious young people who are experimenting with drugs. A growing number of children are being seen in emergency rooms for accidental overdoses of prescription drugs. Getting high on prescription drugs is dangerous, so make sure your prescription drugs are locked in a secure place, which your child cannot access.

To help ensure prescription drugs do not fall into the hands of children or others who may abuse them, you can also return them to a safe location, no questions asked.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in Pennsylvania will be Saturday, September 12.

Ferguson Township is Bear Country: How to co-exist with bears

Residents have expressed concerns about Pennsylvania Black Bears, which are seen in many areas of the Township, including residential neighborhoods. The police department frequently receives calls reporting local bear sightings, and keeps in contact with the Pennsylvania Game Commission regarding those that pose a safety threat. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is the state agency responsible for managing the bears, as they are part of Pennsylvania's wildlife.

The Game Commission strives to educate people about how to minimize problems with black bears who may travel onto their property. Fortunately, most bears pose a low risk.

Living in Bear Country means we need to take precautions as well as make accommodations if we're going to peacefully co-exist with these large animals.

"Living with Pennsylvania Black Bears" at the Game Commission website is an excellent resource. If you live in one of the neighborhoods that black bears frequent, we encourage you to visit this website at www.pgc.state.pa.us.

Please help keep our neighborhoods and wildlife safe by following these precautions:

The most important advice you can follow: Keep bears from finding food where you live. This will take some effort to ensure that bears have no access to trash, compost, pet food, bird seed, beehives, and grills.

Make noise. If you encounter a bear, make loud noises or shout, while keeping your distance.

Clean up the bear's mess after it leaves.

Stay calm. If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, leave the area calmly. Back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact. Leave the bear plenty of room to escape.

Don't climb or run. Running may prompt a bear to give chase; no one can outrun a bear.

Pay attention. Bears will use all of their senses to figure out who you are. If the bear "bluff charges" you, wave your arms wildly and shout at the bear.

Fight back. Bear attacks are extremely rare, but bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, bare hands.



Administration

Ferguson Township recognized as a Certified Gold Community by Sustainable Pennsylvania

In April, the Township announced it was pleased to be distinguished as a Certified Gold Community by Sustainable Pennsylvania.

“Ferguson Township is proud to be recognized as a Gold Certified Community by the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program,” said Drew Clemson, Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. “Ferguson Township has a long history of commitment to saving taxpayer dollars, using resources efficiently, and applying best practices in municipal government and community development. We are pleased to be recognized and be part of the regional community of good government.”

“We are delighted to see Ferguson Township distinguished among local governments that are leading the way in applying sustainability to both their operations and management as well as within the community,” said Gail Markovitz, Director of Training, Pennsylvania Municipal League.

The Certified Community by the Sustainable Pennsyl-

vania Community Certification is intended to bring recognition to municipalities that are applying the policy and practice of sustainability as their way of operating in order to advance community prosperity. It also serves as a mechanism for sharing best practices for creating a more sustainable Pennsylvania.



“Municipalities that earn the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification are standouts in demonstrating adherence to best practices that elevate them as communities of choice to live, work, and play. Commitment to continuous improvement is at the heart of sustainability and the certification program is a means to accelerate municipal performance,” said Court Gould, Executive Director, Sustainable Pittsburgh.

For more information, visit <http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/Sustainable-Community>

New Director of Planning and Zoning joins Ferguson Township staff

Ray Stolinas, Jr., AICP, joined Ferguson Township as Director of Planning and Zoning on August 31. A Penn State graduate who majored in geography while he was living in the Centre Region, Stolinas is returning to the area from Bradford County, where he served as planning director.

Like many Penn State alumni, he said he's excited to be coming back to the Centre Region to work. He welcomes the opportunity to serve Ferguson Township by managing issues relevant to development, transportation, and parks.

“The Board of Supervisors and Township staff are pleased that Ray and his wife Helen will become part of our community,” said Ferguson Township Manager Mark Kunkle. “Ray comes with a vast amount of experience that I believe will be a significant benefit as he becomes familiar with the Township's and region's planning issues.”

In Bradford County, a 1,152-square mile area with 51 municipalities and three parks, Stolinas worked with numerous municipalities on comprehensive plan development, zoning updates, and subdivision and land development review.

His accomplishments include the Bradford County comprehensive plan; greenway, open space and outdoor recreation plan; and parks master plan under his supervision. He also completed a 9-1-1 readdressing through the use of the County Geographic Information System.

As the development of The Marcellus Shale play unfolded in Bradford County, he worked with his staff to understand the long-term impact of natural gas from shale development—creating the latest standards and terminology, updating local ordinances, and forming a base of map information that included pipelines, well locations, production units and other important facets of the industry.



Stolinas also managed the priority inspections and replacement of more than 10 county-owned bridges.

He served Bradford County for 24 years.

Ferguson Township's challenges include student housing and agricultural preservation, he said. He looks forward to working with developers and industries that want to build in the Township. He notes that his job will be to ensure they build in a manner that's acceptable to residents as well as sustainable for the Township. “We want them to take care of the environment, preserve our agricultural heritage, and manage stormwater appropriately,” he said.

Stolinas invites residents, employers and others who are served by the Township to help him get to know and understand the community's needs and priorities.

Community

CATA reinstates Youth Pass Discount

CATA has reinstated the popular youth pass discount for local, middle, and high school students, making it available throughout the year (tentatively through June 30, 2016).

Middle and high school students with proper identification may now purchase CATA monthly OnePasses for the deeply discounted monthly cost of just \$23 (a \$69 value). The passes offer unlimited access to all CATABUS routes.

High school students must present a current high school identification card to qualify for the discounted pass. Middle school students without school identification must present a statement signed by a parent to verify middle school attendance.

Passes are on sale now at CATA's Customer Service Center, 108 E. Beaver Avenue, during regular business hours. For more information, please call (814) 238-CATA(2282).

Schlow: "Centre Region's Living Room" celebrates 10th anniversary of building renovation with a fundraiser

This fall, Schlow Centre Region Library celebrates the 10th anniversary of its building renovation.

"Centre Region's Living Room" at the corner of Beaver and Allen in downtown State College is home to more than 140,000 circulating items, an art gallery, public computers, and an award-winning children's department.

Schlow's 39,000 square foot facility has community-friendly spaces that enable great public education programs such as:

- Storytime and other early literacy classes for babies and toddlers
- Gadgets for Grownups classes and one-on-one gadget tutoring sessions
- Geek Speak, BookFest, Summer Reading Program activities, and much more

In addition to hosting numerous library events each week, Schlow's building provides meeting spaces for dozens of community groups engaging in everything from public service to knitting to tai chi. Last year, more than 310,000 people visited Schlow.

Schlow invites library patrons to celebrate the anniversary with "Meet the Sportswriters," a two-part gathering of nationally known sportswriters. The events include a free panel discussion on Thursday, October 1, and a celebration party on Friday, October 2. Tickets for the celebration party, held in partnership with Town & Gown magazine, cost \$50 per person, and may be purchased at a.schlow.org/celebration.

Whether you visit Schlow for books and magazines, special events, clubs, or educational programming, Schlow thanks you for making the library your downtown destination. And remember, you can access eBooks, free music downloads, magazines, and more 24 hours a day at the library's digital branch, schlowlibrary.org

Community Events Calendar

Schlow Centre Region Library
schlowlibrary.org

October 1 - 2

"Meet the Sportswriters"
10th Anniversary celebration

**Centre Region Parks
and Recreation (CRPR)**
crpr.org

Saying goodbye to summer isn't easy, but CRPR offers so many wonderful events and activities in the fall. You can register online as well as sign up for CRPR Active News E-newsletters.

September 18

Movie Under the Stars

September 27

Punt, Pass & Kick

October 14

Dark in Park Storytelling
at Sunset Park

October 25

70th Annual Halloween Costume
Parade—a community tradition

November 1

Historic Harvest Festival at Mill-
brook Marsh Nature Center

October 29

Trick or Treat Night in the Borough
of State College

TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON
3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801

PRSRT STD
US Postage P A I D
State College, PA
Permit No. 213

CONTACT FERGUSON TOWNSHIP
<http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us>
3147 Research Drive
Township /814.238.4651
Police /814.237.1172

REFUSE AND RECYCLING
Advanced Disposal
Contact with questions
about your service or billing
237.3713

**Centre County Recycling
& Refuse Authority**
238.7005

Recycling Hotline
For information about what you should
and shouldn't put in your red recycling bin
238.6649

COG Administration
Contact with questions about program
requirements
and problem resolution
234.7198

<http://crocog.net/refuse>

**2015 HOLIDAY TRASH
AND RECYCLING DATES**

If your weekly pick-up day falls on or after these
holidays, your trash and recycling service will be
delayed by one (1) day during the holiday week:



SEPTEMBER 7 LABOR DAY
NOVEMBER 26 THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 30 FIRST DAY OF BUCK SEASON
DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS

Advanced Disposal will collect old furniture, bedding, carpeting, appliances, and tires (some restrictions apply). Place all items curbside by 7 am on your regular collection day. No loose piles of debris will be removed - they must be bagged or bundled in order to be collected. Due to truck restrictions, no metal or wood items in excess of 5 feet in length can be accepted. Residents are asked to consider donating usable items to local charities. Please remember that up to 3 smaller bulky items (under 40 pounds each) may be placed curbside for regular weekly collection.

You'll find more information in the 4th quarter billing insert in your October invoice,
or go online to <http://crocog.net/refuse>
(Residential Program)

FALL BULK WASTE WEEK
October 12 - 16, 2015