

**THE FERGUSON TOWNSHIP**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
 WWW.TWP.FERGUSON.PA.US

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**Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?**

*In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.  
 ~Benjamin Franklin*

A goal of the Township is to control and manage the tax burden of the residents and property owners while meeting the services and improvements expected. The information which follows describes how the taxes paid by residents and property owners are distributed among the County, State College Area School District and the Township.

**Ferguson Fact**  
*Ferguson Township has not raised taxes since 2008.*

**Real Estate**

*For every \$1 dollar collected in Real Estate Tax:*

- 79 cents is sent to the School District
- 16 cents is sent to the County
- 5 cents is used by the Township

**Income Tax**

*For every \$1 dollar collected in Local Income Tax:*

- 60 cents is used by the Township
- 40 cents is sent to the School District

**Township News Right to Your Inbox**

The newsletter you are reading right now comes out twice a year—fall and spring. But, this newsletter isn't the only way to receive important Township information. Residents are also encouraged to sign-up for our selection of email notices to receive the most up-to-date information on police news, road closures, construction projects, plus other Township events and happenings.

Currently, the Township offers 11 different email lists. Popular topics include Police News, Public Works News--Leaf, Brush and Road Closures, and the

**Board of Supervisors Agenda.**

Another popular email is our eNewsletter which gives monthly Township news...the same kind of news, updates, and information you'll find in this print newsletter. *However, our eNewsletter allows us to offer the information more frequently, while at the same time saving on printing and mailing costs.*

Residents may sign-up for as many email topics as they like. To register, visit us online at [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us) and look for the "Notify Me" graphic on the home page.

**Working with Other Municipalities to Provide Quality Services**

When you get a book from Schlow Library, did you know funding for the library partially comes from Ferguson Township? Take any dips at the Centre Region Parks and Recreation pools this summer? That was funded in part by Ferguson Township as well. Take a ride on a CATA bus? Yep, you guessed it; Ferguson Township contributes to that too.

Ferguson Township participates in the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) with other area municipalities—State College Borough and the town-  
*("Working ..." continued on next page)*

**TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS:**  
 George Pytel, Chairman  
 Dick Mascolo, Vice-Chairman  
 Elliott Killian, Drew Clemson, Bill Keough

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# Whitehall Road Construction Scheduled for Completion by the End of 2013

While one road, Whitehall Road construction is actually comprised of two different projects:

**Whitehall Road/University Drive between West College Avenue and South Atherton Street** is a 10 million dollar PennDOT-sponsored project dealing with traffic and pedestrian safety improvements such as road widening, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, turn lanes, and two new traffic signals.

**Whitehall Road between West College Avenue and Tadpole Road** is a 4 million dollar Ferguson Township-sponsored project entailing widening the roadway to allow for safer movement of vehicles, farm implements, bicycles and pedestrians, moving utility poles away from the edge of the roadway, drainage improvements where flooding occurred, and realignment of a curve.

## Here is a brief rundown on Whitehall Road construction:

### Whitehall Road/University Drive between West College Avenue and South Atherton

As of this writing, PennDOT says they are on schedule to meet a completion date of November 13. Two new traffic signals will be used on this portion of Whitehall Road; one at Blue Course Drive, the other at Research Drive. According to PennDOT, it is anticipated the traffic signals will be operational by early to mid-October.

However, the Township recognizes no matter what agency sponsors construction, residents and motorists traveling Whitehall Road just want the construction to be done.

On that front, there is some good news.

As of this writing, both projects are on schedule to be completed by the end of 2013. Due to vegetation issues, you may see crew members planting near the construction areas in spring 2014, but the actual road construction should be completed by the end of 2013.

The Township appreciates the overall patience and cooperation of residents during Whitehall Road construction. While, of course, you can't please all of the people all of the time, residents should know there have been some, but not a lot of complaints, regarding Whitehall Road construction.

### Whitehall Road between West College Avenue and Tadpole Road

At the time of this writing, paving of the eastbound lane started and by the time the article is published, eastbound paving may be complete. Traffic will be switched to the south side (new paving) as the contractor works on the north side of the road. Motorists that have been using this roadway know that a traffic detour exists, and this same detour, allowing motorist to travel west, will be in effect until paving operations are complete and roadside restoration is complete, sometime in November or December.



"The majority of residents who live adjacent to the construction or motorists who use Whitehall Road are satisfied with the construction," said Dave Modricker, Public Works Director.

Whitehall Road covers 8 1/2 miles in Ferguson Township. An estimated 2 million vehicle trips are made on Whitehall Road every year.

## Working with Other Municipalities ...

*(continued from previous page)*

ships of College, Halfmoon, Harris and Patton—to provide many cost-effective and high quality public services. The rate each municipality pays for these services is based on a formula to help ensure each area contributes their fair share.

So, what does Ferguson Township help fund through its participation in COG? Well, lots of things including:

- Schlow Centre Regional Library
- Centre Region Parks and Recreation
- Alpha Fire Company
- Centre Region Emergency Management
- Centre Regional Planning Agency

For more information on the COG, you may visit them online at [www.crcog.net](http://www.crcog.net).

In addition to its participation in COG, Ferguson Township joins with local municipalities to help fund other regional agencies such as CATA (Centre Area Transportation Authority). Like the COG services, each municipality pays based on a formula to help ensure each local government contributes a fair amount.

By cooperating with other local municipalities for the overall good of the Centre Region, Ferguson Township can offer residents access to high quality programs we wouldn't be able to provide on our own. It's a win-win for all involved!

## Join Us for Our Next Coffee & Conversation on October 15

We want to meet with you! Residents are encouraged to attend the Township's next Coffee and Conversation event to be held **Tuesday, October 15, 7:30–9:00 a.m.** at the Naked Egg Café, 320 East Pine Grove Road.

At the Coffee and Conversation events, there are no agendas and no structure; just people coming together with Township personnel to discuss ways to make our community even better.

Previously, the Township held two other Coffee and Conversation events, one in April at Callao Café, the other in July at Tudek Park (pictured). Both events were well-received by residents. Topics discussed included green space, recycling, area construction, and ordinances.

Township Manager Mark Kunkle and Assistant Township Manager, David Pribulka will be at the October 15th event. They have enjoyed meeting with residents at the Coffee and Conversation events. We hope you will join them at our next event.



**Ferguson Fact**  
*The Township participates in the Centre Region Council of Governments and other jointly-funded programs. This is done to help ensure residents have access to many area quality services such as Schlow Centre Regional Library.*

# Public Works: Seasonal Information

## Helpful Fall Yard Work Information

### Brush and Leaf Collections: Times and Guidelines

With the fall season almost upon us, many residents will soon be utilizing brush and leaf collections.

Residents are reminded that monthly brush and leaf collection **begins** on the first Monday of every month *and may take up to two weeks to have everything collected*. Collections will begin the following day if Monday is a holiday. Brush and leaves must be curbside at 7:00 a.m. starting the first Monday of every month to be collected.

**A special Fall Leaf Collection will begin on Monday, October 14th and continue as necessary and weather permitting, until winter operations begin.**

In order to help public works employees move more quickly through the collection process, it would help if residents adhered to the following guidelines. Please also know Township employees cannot spend more than 15 minutes at any one location.

#### Brush Collection Guidelines:

- Trees and limbs up to six inches in diameter and 15 feet in length will be collected.
- Brush should be visible. Place along the edge of the roadway or piled behind the curb but not blocking the sidewalk.
- Brush must have all ends facing in one direction.
- Mixed or twisted piles will not be collected.
- Roots, stumps, garden material will not be collected.
- Crews will not enter private property to collect brush.
- Brush will not be collected from lots being cleared for construction purposes.

#### Leaf Collection Guidelines:

- Leaves should be raked to the curb but not onto the street.
- Leaves should be kept in a separate pile from the brush. Different equipment is used to collect the leaves.
- Fence posts, boards and bricks should not be in the leaf pile. These things can damage the collection equipment.
- Do not bag the leaves.
- Ornamental grass and garden residue free of soil and rocks may be placed at the curb with your leaves

#### Compost, Mulch, and Wood Chips

Speaking of brush and leaves collections, ever wonder what happens to the materials the Township collects? Brush and leaves collected from residents are dropped off at the Glenn O. Hawbaker Recycling Center/State College Borough Compost Facility at 2145 North Atherton Street where it is recycled into compost, mulch, and wood chips which are then available to Ferguson Township residents for a fee. For more information please visit [www.goh-inc.com/services/recycle-center-state-college](http://www.goh-inc.com/services/recycle-center-state-college).

Also, some wood chips are utilized by the University Area Joint Authority (UAJA) for their manufacture of compost which is available to residents for a fee. For more information on compost available from UAJA check their web site [www.uaja.com](http://www.uaja.com) or call **814-238-5361**.

#### Drop Off for Clean Fill

If your fall yard work is a little more involved, residents are advised rock, stumps, and yard waste are being accepted by the Glenn O. Hawbaker Recycling Center/State College Borough Compost Facility for a fee. The site is located at 2145 North Atherton Street. For more information please visit [www.goh-inc.com/services/recycle-center-state-college](http://www.goh-inc.com/services/recycle-center-state-college).

#### Township Now Has A Convenient Grass Clippings Area

In response to community feedback, the Township created a new grass clippings drop off area. Ferguson Township residents may drop off their grass clippings at the **Ferguson Township municipal build-**

**ing located at 3147 Research Drive in State College**. Previously, residents were instructed to drop off clippings at the Glenn O. Hawbaker Recycling Center/State College Borough Compost Facility so the new location provides a more convenient alternative for residents.



To drop off grass clippings, residents should go to the Ferguson Township municipal building where they will see a sign directing them to the grass clippings area. Residents may drop off their grass clippings 7 days-a-week from dawn to dusk.

## Important Winter Reminders

Snowy weather will be here before we know it. With wintery weather, it is important for residents to follow a few guidelines for the safety of all residents and public works employees. We appreciate your cooperation!

### 2 Inches of Snow = Move Your Vehicle from the Street

The Ferguson Township Public Works and Police Departments want to remind residents the importance of removing their vehicle from Township streets when there is 2 inches or more of snow. In addition, there should be no parking on these streets for 48 hours after the last of the snow has ceased to fall in order to allow the roads to be cleared and treated. During the winter, residents and contractors are reminded not to push or blow snow into the roadway from driveways, parking lots or sidewalks.

Failure to remove your vehicle from Township streets during these conditions may result in a parking ticket from the Police Department or being towed, and no one wants that.

It's also important to note that each municipality has its own rules regarding street parking during winter weather so if you are parking outside of Ferguson Township, be aware of street signs which give important snow removal, ticketing, and towing information.

### Mailboxes: Proper Placement Helps Ensure They Do Not Get Struck by Snow Plows

Residents are reminded the front face of the mailbox should be located one foot from the edge of the roadway pavement and the bottom of the box should be 42 inches to 48 inches above the road surface. There must be three feet of clear zone below the mailbox, measured from the road surface. This includes any attached newspaper receptacle. This allows room for the Township plow truck to clear snow from the street without damaging your mailbox.

If a mailbox is hit by a plow, the Township typically replaces it with a standard 4 inch by 4 inch wooden post and standard mailbox **providing your mailbox originally met the Township standards**. The Township will not replace ornamental or decorative fixtures which many times extend into the clear zone. Specific guidelines can be obtained from your local post office or by calling the Township's Public Works Department at **814-238-4651, Dept 2**, or by e-mail at [pw@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:pw@twp.ferguson.pa.us).

### Bike Path Maintenance

Cold weather does not deter our residents from being outside. It is important to know that some area bike paths are not the responsibility of the Township and thus may not be maintained in winter months. However, the Public Works Department does maintain the following sections of bike paths in winter months:

- Tudek/Circleville bike path from Sleepy Hollow Road to the Borough line near Blue Course Drive
- McKee Street bike path from McKee Street to Clinton Avenue,
- Vairo/Suburban bike path from Vairo Boulevard to Aaron Drive

# In Other Public Works News

## Emerald Ash Borer Infecting Township Trees

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an insect which attacks any age and variety of ash tree. First discovered in Michigan in 2002, this insect has been in our area for the last few years. Symptoms can take 2-3 years to become visible with untreated trees dying 4-6 years after infestation.

Ferguson Township is responsible for approximately 600 ash trees located in right-away areas, generally the space between roadways and sidewalks. Neighborhoods and streets hit particularly hard with EAB include Shellers Bend, Sylvanview, Harvest Run Road in Foxpointe, Saratoga Drive, sections of Saybrook and Greenleaf Manor. Dave Modricker, Public Works Director, is in consultation with an arborist and reviews infected areas annually to come up with the best treatment plan.

Treatment options to manage EAB including removing infected trees and, in some cases, replacing the infected trees with a new tree species. Unfortunately, treating infected trees is not considered a cost-effective option by the Township as there is no cure for EAB.

Currently the EAB treatment plan for Spring 2014 is under development. **The Township recognizes Homeowners Associations (HOA) have a vested interest in the EAB treatment plan and the Township wants HOA input.** Specifically, if trees are to be replaced in their neighborhood, HOAs may want to offer input on new tree species and tree sizes.

In order to offer the most economically beneficial solution if new trees are to be planted, the Township has budgeted for the new trees to measure 1 ½" to 2" in diameter, breast high. If a HOA desires larger trees or different tree species than planned, they may indicate those needs when reviewing the EAB draft plan. HOAs should know, however, they will be responsible for the costs associated with any tree size or tree species difference. More information will be made available to HOAs in the future, or HOA board members may contact the Public Works Department at **814-238-4651** or by email, **fergusonpw-web@twp.ferguson.pa.us**.

The Township generally replaces 100-150 trees per year and will need 3-4 more years for the EAB treatment plan.

Residents concerned about ash tree care on private property are encouraged to contact a local arborist to discuss treatment options and costs.

## Microsurfacing

Every year the public works department contracts for pavement preservation by microsurfacing certain roads. For more information on microsurfacing, visit our website at **www.twp.ferguson.pa.us**, then "Public Works" then "Microsurfacing."

## CONTACT US! *We are here to help.*

**WEBSITE:** [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
**EMAIL:** [fergusonpwweb@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:fergusonpwweb@twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
**TELEPHONE:** 814-238-4651  
**ADDRESS:** Ferguson Township Public Works Department  
3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA 16801

## ROAD UPDATES

Major road projects were successfully completed this summer and some are still ongoing but will be finished this fall.

The Township engineering section received "thank you" notes after completion of the paving on Old Gatesburg Road used by many residents living in the westernmost portion of the Township. Work on Bristol Avenue, Cherry Lane, Allen Street, and Aaron Drive was more involved and often involved utility work so these projects took longer to complete.

The Township engineering staff will soon start designing roadway improvement projects for next year including :

- **installing a box culvert on Rosemont Drive to carry larger storm events;**
- **improving the drainage system on Selders Circle;**
- **paving Selders Circle;**
- **repaving Westerly Parkway from Blue Course Drive to the Township/Borough line;**
- **repaving Vairo Boulevard;**
- **improving Gateway Drive;**
- **repaving Abby Place;**
- **recycling and repaving work on Deepwood Drive;**
- **repairing and overlay work on Marjorie May;**
- **repaving East Park Hills between Circleville Road and Park Lane; and**
- **making repairs to Airport Road.**

If you live on a road planned for improvement, you will likely receive an invitation to attend an open house to review plans for the project in advance of construction.

On behalf of the Public Works Department, thank you for your patience while these improvements are being made.

# Police Department News

## Police Department's Use of Bi-Fuel Vehicle Saves Money and Helps the Environment

The Police Department uses a Chevrolet Police Package Tahoe converted into a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)/gasoline bi-fuel vehicle. This type of vehicle operates on CNG or gasoline at the push of a button.



In operation since mid-May, the bi-fuel Police Tahoe is used in full patrol service and already has 5,000 miles on its odometer. During its use, the bi-fuel Police Tahoe has only consumed approximately 6 gallons of gasoline and approximately 60 gasoline gallon equivalents (GGE) of CNG.

Experts believe there are many benefits to CNG fuel. For example, CNG is generally considered a 'cleaner' and more environmentally-friendly type of fuel than traditional fossil fuels. CNG is also known to provide cheaper fuel than gasoline and vehicles using CNG have been shown to have lower maintenance costs than other types of vehicles.

Special thanks to the Centre Area Transportation Authority for permitting Ferguson Township's CNG fleet to refuel at their facility. This partnership will help this effort realize significant cost savings to the Township and taxpayers!

The Township is pleased with the performance and fuel cost-savings of the bi-fuel Police Tahoe and recently submitted a grant application to the Department of Environmental Natural Gas Vehicle Program for the bi-fuel conversion of two more Police Department Tahoes.

## Going Away for the Holidays? Let the Police Department Know

The holidays will be here before we know it. While you are thinking snow, fun, or family, also keep in mind the safety of your property and home. If you are going away this holiday season, let the Police Department know the dates of your vacation, address, and emergency contact information in case problems arise. You can submit your information online by visiting [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us). Once there, visit the "Police" section and then "Forms." Residents may also submit their information in person at 3147 Research Drive or by calling **814-237-1172**.

## Police Officers Recognized

This summer, two officers of the Ferguson Township Police Department were recognized for their life-saving efforts at a ceremony held at the Centre Life Link Emergency Services Building.



**Corporal Brian Rose** (left) and **Officer Kevin Laudenslager** (right) responded to a 911 call regarding a 34-year-old woman in cardiac arrest. Because of quick actions by the woman's husband, the Township officers, and EMS personnel on hand, the woman's life was saved!

## POLICE DEPARTMENT STATS AT A GLANCE

The Ferguson Township Police Department responds to calls 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year. Here is a brief rundown of our service calls information from May-July.

**May 2013:**  
439 Total Calls  
66 crime-related calls  
373 service-related calls

**June 2013:**  
389 Total Calls  
52 crime-related calls  
337 service-related calls

**July 2013:**  
380 Total Calls  
57 crime-related calls  
323 service-related calls

This newsletter was in production in August and information for that month was not available. But you can also find Police Department stats on our website by visiting [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us) then "Police" then "Statistical Information."

## Police Work with Penn State Students

With many Penn State students returning to the area for the start of the fall semester, residents may be interested to know the Police Department works with area college students in a number of ways.

For example, a few years ago when the Police Department started receiving a high number of service calls from a Township student apartment complex, Sergeant Ryan Hendrick started a close relationship with the complex management. Sergeant Hendrick had almost daily email exchanges with the complex management and attended student gatherings hosted by the apartment complex management. The two-way dialog resulted in students being able to ask the police department questions and less police service calls from the complex. Seeing the success of the Police Departments efforts, Sergeant Hendrick said they have since instituted this type of relationship with several other student complexes.

"Though students are not always the first to get involved in governmental issues, it does not mean we do not try to still work with them when we can," Sergeant Hendrick said.

Chief Diane Conrad often finds herself an interview subject for Penn State students working on papers and projects dealing with crime. "These interviews are a great way to connect with students in our community" Chief Conrad said.

In addition, the Police Department has also had college students participate in ride-alongs.

**Ferguson Fact**  
For the first half of 2013, the Township Police Department responded to 2,417 calls for service as compared to 2,132 calls for the same period in 2012!

## CONTACT US!

*We are here to help.*

### WEBSITE:

[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)

### EMAIL:

[police@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:police@twp.ferguson.pa.us)

### TELEPHONE:

800-479-0050 (to file a police report in a NON-EMERGENCY situation)

### ADDRESS:

Ferguson Township Police Department  
3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA 16801

# What You Should Know About Black Bears

## Several Emergency Programs Available to Help Save Lives

In an emergency situation, having the right information when it is needed can often help save lives. There are several programs Township residents may utilize to either receive or give important information in emergency situations.

### Centre County CodeRed System

Centre County, through the Department of 9-1-1/Emergency Communications, subscribes to Emergency Communications Network's CodeRed mass notification system. It is a system that allows a large number of residents to quickly receive emergency notifications by phone, text, or email. Primary cell phone numbers are not in the system so residents need to subscribe to the notification service. To find out more information or to enroll, you may visit the Centre County government website at [centrecountypa.gov](http://centrecountypa.gov) and then search for "CodeRed." Residents may also call Emergency Communications at **814-355-6800** to register.

### Emergency Contact Information

This PennDOT program offers residents a chance to list their emergency contact information in a secure database only accessible by the resident and law enforcement officials in the case of an emergency. Participants can upload their emergency contact information by visiting [www.dot4.state.pa.us](http://www.dot4.state.pa.us), scroll to the bottom of the page and look for a graphic which says "Upload Emergency Contact Information."

### Yellow Dot Program

With this PennDOT program, residents may place a yellow dot sticker to be placed in their vehicle's window. This yellow dot sticker alerts emergency personnel that inside the vehicle, the resident has filled out information regarding their emergency contact, medical contact and medical information. Residents may register for the program and to receive their yellow dot by visiting [www.dot4.state.pa.us](http://www.dot4.state.pa.us), scroll to the bottom of the page and look for a graphic which says "Pennsylvania Yellow Dot."

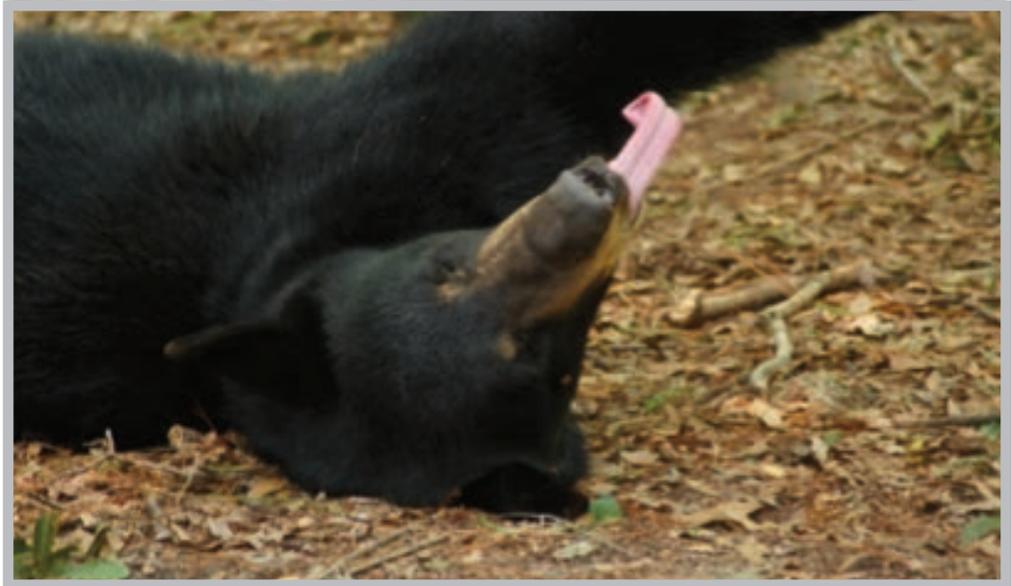
The Police Department receives numerous calls about black bear sightings, both in Township residential neighborhoods and in more rural areas of the Township. Fortunately, most bears pose a minimal risk. However, to avoid problems, residents should keep in mind the following tips based on information from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the state agency responsible for managing bears.

### Bear Visiting Your Property

If a bear comes into a residential area, most often it is looking for food. And once a bear finds a food source, it will keep coming back. It is important for residents not to store any kind of food outdoors (including pet food), to clean grills, and to put trash out for pick-up the morning of collection. Also, residents should know it is against the law to feed bears and many times a fed bear becomes a dead bear. If you see a bear visit your property, there are two courses of action to take:

**Make loud noises or shout at the bear**, like you'd react to a dog getting in your trash, but **keep your distance**.

**Leave the bear alone** and clean up the bear's mess after it leaves.



### A Special Note About Pets

In addition to bringing in their food pans at night, residents should know bears generally keep clear of chained or penned dogs. Unleashed dogs, however, may be injured or killed by a bear so dogs should never be allowed to wonder too far from the house.

### A Direct Bear Encounter

Bears rarely attack people unless they feel threatened or provoked. While every bear is different—and it's important to remember these are wild and unpredictable animals—here are some suggestions:

**Stay Calm:** If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, leave the area calmly. While moving away, talk to help the bear discover your presence.

**Get Back:** Back away slowly while facing the bear and avoid direct eye contact. Leave the bear plenty of room to escape. If you are on a trail, step off on the downhill side and slowly leave the area.

**Don't Climb or Run:** Running may prompt the bear to give chase and nobody can outrun a bear. Don't climb a tree, instead stay on the ground and don't make sudden movements. If a cub is nearby, try to move away from it but also be alert for other cubs.

**Pay Attention:** Bears will use all of their senses to figure out what you are and some may stand upright or move closer in their efforts to detect odors. As scary as this sounds, don't consider this a sign of aggression. Once a bear identifies you, it will usually leave. However, if the bear stays, it may pop its jaws as a warning sign that it's uncomfortable. **That's a sign for you to leave.** Back away slowly and leave the area.

**Fight Back:** While bear attacks are extremely rare, if a bear does attack, fight back. Bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has a wealth of black bear information on its website [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us) and residents are encouraged to visit it to find out more information.

# Finance Department News

## Busy with Budget Work

Since May, the Finance Director, Department heads and staff, have been working on the **5 Year Capital Improvement Program Plan (CIP)**. The CIP is a 5 year financial planning tool that is used to forecast revenues and expenditures of the Township for the next five years with particular emphasis on the major capital projects. It is designed to plan for necessary capital expenditures (buildings, roads, equipment, etc.) required to provide services to the Township for the current and future years. However, it is not an official authorization to spend money.



After staff review and Board of Supervisor worksessions which were open to the public in July, the CIP was approved in August at the Board of Supervisors meeting. This year's CIP comprises the years 2014-2018.

This year's CIP information for 2014 provides a key component for the 2014 **Annual Operating Budget**. The Annual Operating Budget outlines the spending plan for Township operations in the coming year. It includes items such as operations, capital improvements, transportation improvements, parks, and staff salaries.

Work on the Annual Operating Budget begins in August and lasts through the beginning of December. Like the CIP, the Manager, Department heads, and staff provide information for the budget. The draft budget is then reviewed by the Board of Supervisors during work sessions in November. More information on the worksessions will be made available closer to the date and the public is welcome to attend. The draft budget document will be made available on the Township website for the public to review. The final Annual Operating Budget will be up for Board of Supervisors approval in December.

Residents are advised the 2013 Annual Operating Budget and the Capital Improvement Budget, as well as budget archives, are posted on the Township website. Simply visit [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us) then look for "Finance and Tax" and then "Budget Information." The 2014 information should be available later in the fall.

## CONTACT US! *We are here to help.*

**WEBSITE:** [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
**EMAIL:** [finance@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:finance@twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
**TELEPHONE:** 814-238-4651  
**ADDRESS:** Ferguson Township Finance Department  
3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA 16801

## Township Operations

### New Financial Software Replacement Goes Live October 1, 2013

In an effort to provide top-notch financial service for residents, the Finance Department has been in the process of migrating to new accounting software. The new system allows for many more reporting options as well as information gathering and reporting. It is also a system that allows the Township the possibility of adding new features in the future, should the need arise. The go-live date is set for October 1, 2013. Residents will not see any direct change on their end, but the system will allow for streamlined financial accounting and reporting.

### Township Reviewing New Phone System

The Township is currently reviewing vendors for a new communications system. No longer are communications systems just telephones. Commonly referred to as unified communications, systems are capable of voice, voicemail, email, video, enhanced conferencing, and faxes. The current Township phone system software and hardware is no longer supported and the Township must switch to a new system. No matter which vendor the Township selects, the new system will provide enhanced communications, both internally and externally, and ultimately improve the efficiency of service delivery from staff to residents.

## Comprehensive Annual Finance Report

Since 2009, the Finance Department improved the Township annual financial report by issuing a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This combines an independent audit report, the annual financial report and 10 years of statistical information on the township finances. Having the 10-year history allows Township management to observe trends and better manage the Township finances.

The CAFR is also submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association for review and possible recognition. The Township is pleased to have received the CAFR award for the past 3 years and hopes to obtain this honor for the current year.

The CAFR is available on the Township website by visiting [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us) then look for "Finance and Tax" and then "Audit Information." A hard copy is also available at the Township offices at 3147 Research Drive.

## Other Township News

# Ferguson Township's Agricultural Land Preservation Efforts a Model for the County

Ferguson Township residents share a common interest: Preserving and maintaining a rich agricultural lifestyle that has existed in the Township for centuries. It is no surprise that the Township leads Centre County in acres held in Conservation Easements and acres located in Agricultural Security Areas (ASA). Both programs are administered through a collaboration of state, county, and local funding and help guarantee the preservation of the highest quality farmland.

Centre County's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program offers farmers a monetary settlement in exchange for their lands' development rights. Placing farmland in an ASA protects a farmer's right to farm free of nuisance ordinances and other land restrictions.

"The PACE Program benefits the County in a number of ways. First and foremost it protects prime farmland and soils for future generations. Over the course of the program, every dollar contributed by the County and municipalities has seen a return of 6 dollars from the State Bureau of Farmland Preservation and the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Those dollars benefit the landowners themselves, but as the farmers re-invest those dollars into their farms, a ripple effect is created that enriches the local economy and agricultural community," said Sarah Walter, Senior Planner at Centre County Planning & Community Development and the staff contact for the County's agricultural preservation program.

For more information on how to participate in these programs, visit Centre County's website at <http://centrecountypa.gov> or call Sarah Walter at **814-355-6791**.

With the addition of the approximately 140-acre Deibler Farm in March, the Township now boasts 2,586 acres of farmland with permanent Conservation Easements. That represents over a third of Centre County's entire PACE Program. As recently as July, the Township's Board of Supervisors welcomed 54.9 acres of land belonging to Amanda G.

Rockower to its ASA, bringing the total number of acres in the township protected by an ASA to an astonishing 16,383. The dedication of local farmers and residents to protecting and preserving the township's agricultural heritage has made Ferguson Township the model in Centre County land preservation efforts. It is the participation in programs such as these that ensures the continued viability of farming in Ferguson Township for generations to come.



## ✧ Ferguson History ✧

State College Area School District students went back to class on August 27th. Did you know Ferguson Township Elementary has been located at the same address on West Pine Grove Road since 1932? Originally, the school housed grades 1-9 whereas today the school is home to grades K-5. While the school finished renovations and new construction in August 2011, the original building façade remains the same today as it was in 1932.

# Around the Centre Region

## Musser Gap Greenway Project Update

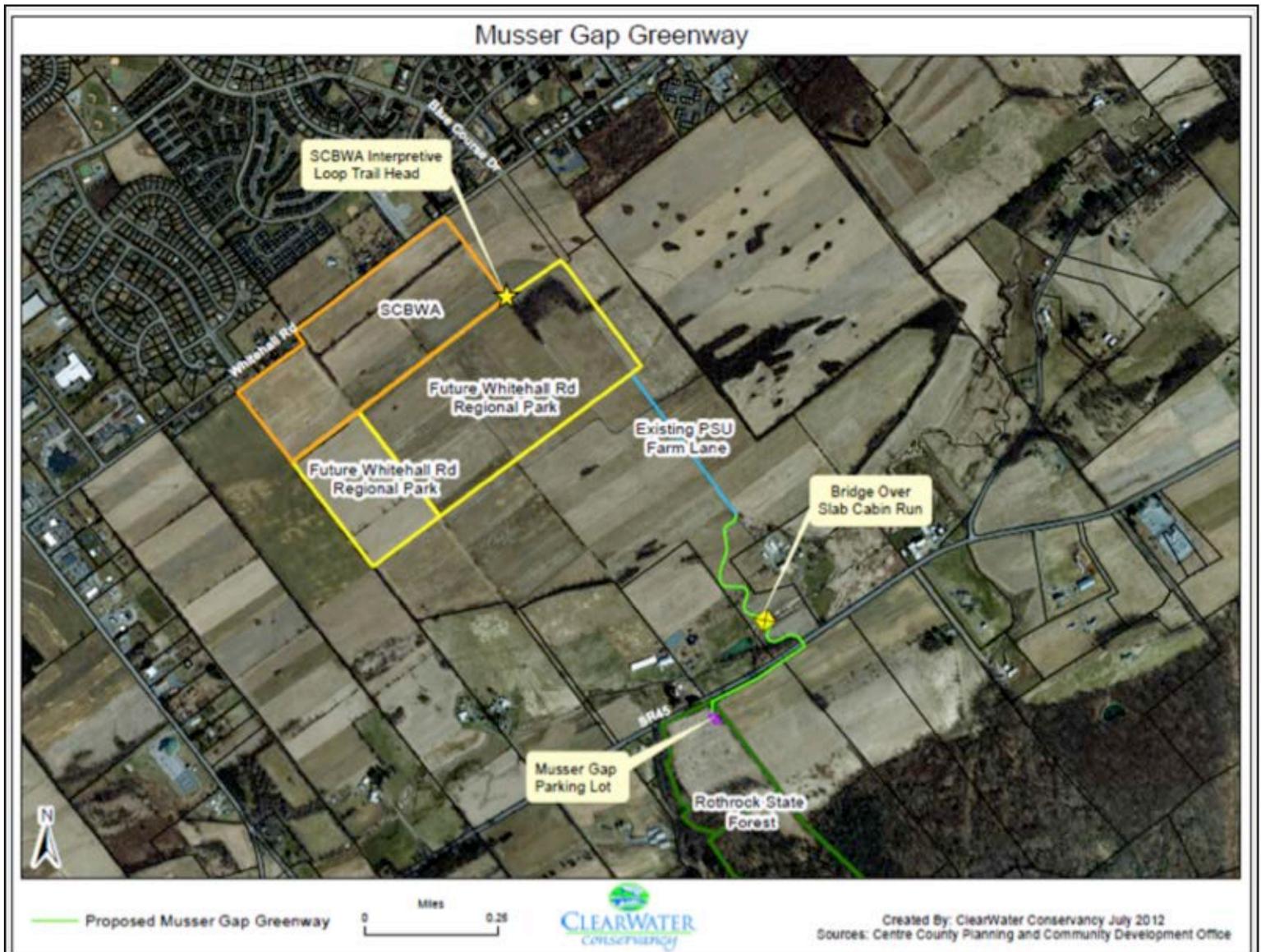
Construction of the new Musser Gap Greenway, a recreational connection between Rothrock State Forest and Whitehall Regional Park, is scheduled to begin in September and be completed by December. The effort is a partnership between ClearWater Conservancy and Penn State University.

The Greenway will link the Musser Gap parking area off of State Route 45 in Rothrock State Forest to the soon-to-be developed Whitehall Regional Park on Whitehall Road. Once complete, residents and visitors using the existing Centre Region bikeway system will be able to bike from downtown State College to Rothrock State Forest.

The 423-acre Musser Gap property was conserved by ClearWater Conservancy in 2006 and transferred to Rothrock State Forest in 2007. The Musser Gap Greenway will be located entirely on Penn State University farmland and will also cross SR 45 (Shingletown Road) and Slab Cabin Run.

ClearWater Conservancy is also partnering with Penn State University to plant a riparian buffer along Slab Cabin Run as part of this project.

Additional project partners include the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Bureau of Forestry, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, Ferguson Township and State College Borough, Bikes Belong, Kodak American Greenways and neighboring landowners.



# A World of Back-to-School Resources at Schlow Library

Did you know that Schlow Centre Region Library has wonderful free resources for your child or teen as she or he returns to school this fall? Schlow's wealth of fun, educational information can help get the school year off to a great start!

Along with books, DVDs, magazines, newspapers and other print materials, Schlow offers free online resources that are available 24/7 with a valid library card and password. Here's a handy list of useful aids for homework help or leisure time reading:

**Homework Help** -- a directory of websites covering all areas of the curriculum, including math, science, social studies and languages.

**TumbleBookLibrary** -- animated, talking picture books which teach young children the joys of reading.

**TumbleBookCloud** -- read-along titles for elementary, middle school, and high school students.

**TumbleAudioBookCloud** -- audiobooks for children of all ages.

**BookFlix** -- a new resource pairing fictional video storybooks with nonfiction informational films.

**Transparent Language** -- a digital language learning system for over 70 languages.

**Overdrive** -- thousands of downloadable ebooks and audiobooks.

**Freegal** -- millions of downloadable songs from Sony's music catalog.

**Zinio** -- over 100 current children's and adult magazines downloadable in full-color.

**AskHerePA** -- provides research help 24/7 from librarians across the country.

**Newsbank** -- electronic editions of newspapers from across the USA, including the Centre Daily Times.

**Biography Reference Bank** -- biographical articles on over 470,000 individuals.

**AP Images Archive** -- searchable database of current and historical photographs.

**Novelist** -- fiction and nonfiction book reading lists for all ages in a wide variety of categories.

**World Book Online** -- the renowned online encyclopedia.

**EBSCO Magazine's Online** -- a searchable database for magazine articles that you can access home. Includes Background Notes on Scientific American, Sports Illustrated and more.

For more information, don't forget your most valuable library resource - the library staff that can assist you with your information quest! Stop by Schlow, visit [www.schlowlibrary.org](http://www.schlowlibrary.org), or call **814-237-6236**.

*"If I was a book, I would like to be a library book, so I would be taken home by all different sorts of kids."*

~ Cornelia Funke

## Schlow Parking Update

Friendly Schlow staff members have been greeting customers at the Library's parking lot entrance during peak periods to direct drivers to open spaces. When the lot is full, the attendant provides a map to nearby borough parking lots and garages. Newly seal-coated and striped in May, the lot now has wider spaces, making the lot safer and minivan and SUV owners very happy! There is also a convenient new 15-minute space, flashers required, for quick library stops. This fall a new gate system requiring validation will be installed - details to be announced!



The **UAJA Compost** facility located at 1576 Spring Valley Road, State College, is open year round Monday – Friday; 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (except for holidays).

**UAJA Compost** has been proven by landscape professionals as well as homeowners to be an excellent source of organic matter and nutrients necessary for the establishment and maintenance of lawns and gardens. Soils that lack organic matter are susceptible to nutrient leaching which can contribute to ground water contamination. **UAJA Compost** can significantly reduce the need for chemical fertilizing and watering. **UAJA Compost** increases moisture holding capacity and reduces soil erosion. Since it holds more moisture, you won't have to water as often. **UAJA Compost** is a soil conditioner, not soil substitute.

For availability, more information or to schedule a tour of the facility please call 814-238-5361

\$5.00 per cubic yard or \$2.00/car with container

For trucks and/or trailers  
you **MUST HAVE A**  
**TARP/COVER!!**



## Bulk Waste Collection: October 14-18, 2013

Advanced Disposal (formerly Veolia Environmental Services) will collect old furniture, bedding, carpeting, appliances, and tires (some restrictions apply). Remember to have all items at the curb by 7:00 a.m. 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. Look for additional information to be included in the 4th quarter billing insert in the October invoice or go online to <http://crcog.net/refuse> (Residential Program).

# IMPORTANT TRASH & RECYCLING DATES FOR 2013

## HOLIDAYS:

If your weekly pickup day falls on or after the following Holidays, your trash and recycling service will be delayed by one (1) day during the week of the holiday:

September 2 – Labor Day

November 28 - Thanksgiving Day

July 4 – Fourth of July

December 2 – First Day of Buck Season

December 25 – Christmas Day

## FALL BULK WASTE WEEK

October 14 – 18, 2013

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Monday – Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority

Refuse and Recycling website:

<http://crcog.net/refuse>

## CATA Provides Ferguson Residents with Numerous Options and Benefits

CATA provides a number of transportation options for those living in Ferguson Township, and specifically ones that can help reduce one's carbon footprint and save thousands of dollars annually!

The **CATABUS** system provides convenient and reliable bus service on twenty-one routes serving the Centre Region and beyond, all for only \$1.50 per trip. (Seniors 65 and over with a Senior Transit ID card and children under 40" ride free!)

The **CATACOMMUTE** program provides a variety of ridesharing options for those traveling into and out of the area, specifically through complimentary ride-matching services and carpool and vanpool programs.

The benefits are many:

### Using CATA's services saves money.

Fewer fill-ups at the gas pump, fewer repairs and maintenance costs (oil changes, tires, windshield wipers, brakes, etc.), and less wear-and-tear on your vehicle result in more money in your pocket and a longer useful life or increased trade-in on your vehicle.

And more money in your pocket means more money to spend within your own community, which equates to a boost in the local economy, a larger retirement supplement and emergency fund, and more for that special vacation, event, or college education.

### It improves our environment.

Fewer fill-ups at the gas pump, fewer emissions and fewer vehicles on the road provide for cleaner air, improved personal health and thus fewer doctor visits, less dependence on foreign oil, safer highways and reduced insurance premiums.

### It provides valuable personal benefits.

Public transportation and ridesharing allows for less stress, a relaxed commute when you don't want to drive, networking opportunities and more time to read a book or newspaper, knit, write to-do lists, sleep, catch up on your social accounts etc. All of this can result in better health and fewer doctor appointments, improved attendance and better work morale, access to valuable information and services, and new friendships.

For those senior 65 and over and persons whose disabilities prevent their use of the local **CATABUS** system, CATA also provides inexpensive curb-to-curb paratransit service through its **CATARIDE** program. Cash fare for senior citizens 65 and over is \$3.00 per trip (one-way). Cash fare for passengers eligible for paratransit service under ADA is also \$3.00 per trip (one-way). General Public Fare is \$20.00.

For more information on the many transportation options available to residents, please visit [www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com) or contact the CATA office at **814-238-CATA (2282)**.



## NEW! CCRRA Vinyl Siding Recycling

The Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority (CCRRA), located at 253 Transfer Road, will now accept post-consumer vinyl siding at a discounted rate of **\$20 per ton**.

To qualify for this reduced rate, the **acceptable load** should include only the following: **Vinyl Siding, Corner Posts, and J-Channel**.

**Unacceptable load items** include the following: No vinyl shutters, no vinyl with insulation attached, no organics to include paper, wood, plastic, metal or glass

Loads containing these items will be charged the normal MSW tipping fee of \$67 per ton.



**TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON**

3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA 16801

PRSRT STD  
**US Postage**  
**PAID**  
State College, PA  
Permit No. 213



A flattened box takes up less space in the truck, which equates to less trips to the recycling center. Help keep our process efficient and costs low.

- 1. Remove all packaging materials.
- 2. Flatten cardboard.
- 3. Place next to or in your red curbside bin.
- 4. Paperboard (cereal, cracker, tissue boxes) should be recycled with mixed paper – not cardboard.
- 5. No pizza boxes.

**BREAK DOWN YOUR BOXES!**

**~ CLIP AND SAVE ~**  
**REFUSE AND RECYCLING**  
**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**Advanced Disposal**  
Contact for questions about your service or billing .....**237-3713**

**Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority**.....**238-7005**

**Recycling Hotline**  
For information on what you should and shouldn't put in your red recycling bin...**238-6649**

**COC Administration**  
Contact for questions regarding program requirements and problem resolution.....**234-7198**

<http://crcog.net/refuse>