

New Supervisors & New Staff: Changes in Ferguson

Board Members were sworn in January 3, 2022 at the Ferguson Township Building

On January 3rd, 2022, Hilary Caldwell and Tierra Williams were sworn in at the Main Meeting Room at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building as new Ferguson Township Board Members. With Supervisor Lisa Strickland winning reelection, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors now consists of an all-female roster for the first time in the Board's 220-year history.

With spring comes change, and Ferguson Township is no exception this year. In this edition of the Ferguson Township print newsletter, we encourage you to get involved in our wonderful community. Thank you to the residents for all the positive support in this time of changes.



Photo: Halie Kines, Centre Daily Times

Farewell: David Pribulka, Ferguson Township Manager



David Pribulka, Ferguson Township Manager, formally announced his resignation at the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 3, 2022. Mr. Pribulka served Ferguson Township for over 9 years, beginning as Assistant Township Manager in October 2012. His official final day with Ferguson Township was on March 1, 2022.

During Dave's time at Ferguson, the township saw the construction of the new public works facility, an enhanced website and online services, increased community enagagement, and further efforts towards sustainability, We thank Dave for his service over 9 wonderful years, and for the progress made in Ferguson.

Ferguson Township wishes Dave the best of luck in his new role as Susquehanna Township Manager in Dauphin County, PA.



Meet Nick Beiling: New Communications Coordinator

Nick Beiling recently joined the Ferguson Township Administration office as the Communications Coordinator in February 2022, and previously worked for the New York State Legislature. Nick is eager to meet local and statewide elected officials, residents, local community groups, and work with community partners on the best ways to inform the public on happenings in Ferguson and the Centre Region.



Meet Larry Maginnis: New Township Arborist

Larry Magginis, a State College-native, has returned home from Oregon, where he served as the City of Portland's Urban Forestry - Tree Maintenance Operations Manager since 2011, to be Ferguson Township's new Arborist. The Arborist manages over 5,000 street trees currently located in Ferguson Township. In addition, the Arborist also reviews development plans, and performs inspections on behalf of the Township.



Meet Liza Ruhf: New Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant

Liza Ruhf, previously a paralegal for a law firm in Harrisburg focused on Children and Youth Services in Pennsylvania, is from Ohio and a graduate of Penn College (Associate's) and Ohio State University (Bachelor's). Liza will be assisting the Planning & Zoning Dept. with various projects and ensuring operations run smoothly.





General Township News

Township Manager Recruitment Efforts

The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors is engaged with a professional firm, GovHR, to lead the Ferguson Township Manager recruitment efforts.

The application period has closed, with 23 applicants applying for the position. The search has been extensive and vetted to ensure the most qualified candidate fills the position and serves on behalf of the residents of Ferguson Township.



As of March 29, 2022, the first round of interviews are scheduled with the Board of Supervisors, with a second round to be scheduled after all selected applicants have interviewed.

The Board and the Township will continue to keep our residents informed about the process, and an annoucement for a new Townhip Manager is expected in the coming weeks. Please contact HR Administrator, Angela Kalke, if you have any questions regarding the position at akalke@twp.ferguson.pa.us

Strategic Plan Update

The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors continues their work on crafting a strategic plan in corrdination with Township staff. The goal of the plan is to provide efficient, cost effective, and professional services to our residents in a fair, cooperative, ethical and honest manner. The Township seeks to manage its resources allowing planned, sustainable growth while also preserving the quality of life and its unique characteristics.



The Township has engaged in various public meetings and surveys about the plan since Fall of 2021, and continues to evaluate the information collected from the previous meetings and

surveys about the topic. For further inquiries on the status of the Strategic Plan for Ferguson Township, please contact Interim Township Manager, Centrice Martin at cmartin@twp.ferguson.pa.us

Tudek Park Participating in Centre Gives 2022

The Tom Tudek Memorial Park is participating in Centre County's largest online giving event, Centre Gives. Hosted by the Centre Foundation, this 36-hour online giving event runs from May 10 at 9 am until May 11 at 9 pm.

Donations through the Centre Gives event qualify Tudek Park and other local nonprofits for a larger share of the \$200,000 stretch pool and additional prize money. Donations to the Tom Tudek Memorial Park Trust will help ensure the preservation of this place of extraordinary beauty, which features 30 acres of active recreation area and 61.5 acres of woodland.



Be sure to mark your calendars and help support this beautiful park nestled in our community!







General Township News

150th Arbor Day Celebration - Saturday, April 30, 2022

Please join Ferguson Township in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day at **Tom Tudek Memorial Park on Saturday, April 30 at 4:00 p.m!**

Ferguson Township is home to plentiful greenspace and always aims to protect and honor the trees and woodlands of the township. We are delighted to join the global holiday by emphasizing tree planting and care for our natural environment.

The celebration will also include activities, such as:

- · Arts and Crafts for Children
- Unveiling of a Self-interpretive Pop-Up Arboretum
- Guided Tree Walk with Township Arborist, Larry Maginnis



The event will conclude with a tree planting and an Arbor Day Proclamation. **Tom Tudek Memorial Park is located at: 400 Herman Drive, State College, PA 16803, and the festivities will kick-off at Pavilion #1.**

Recreation, Parks, & Open Spaces Plan Update

On April 5, 2022 at the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors Meeting, staff members from Herbert, Rowland and Grubic (HRG), Tracy Strickland & Nikki Mendinski, provided an update to the board about the Recreation, Parks, and Open Spaces Plan that the township has engaged in. The RPOS Plan provided to the board laid out a variety of goals that are to be achieved by the plan, including new inventory of Township parks and recreation facilities, fresh analysis of community needs and issues, along with reviewing and updating recommendations for:



- Actions, Priorities, Implementation and Potential Costs
- Master Site Development Plans for two (2) parks: Fairbrook Park & Greenbriar-Saybrook Park

A series of public input meetings and surveys have occurred since 2021, with stations set up at the Winter Market of 2021, an ongoing citizen survey, and a series of meetings in January 2022 hosted by Ferguson Township. These meetings and surveys have asked Ferguson residents to identify areas in parks in the township that are seen as a, "strength, opportunity, or threat" to the prosperity of the park and the township, along with an "idea wall" that asked residents to provide ideas for improvements to parks and open spaces in Ferguson Township.

The Board of Supervisors plans to review the presentation and data that has been gathered up to April 2022 to move towards a work session related to the plan tentatively in May 2022. HRG will continue to conduct surveys and arrange "Key Person & Stakeholder Interviews" relating to the myriad of parks and open spaces in Ferguson Township, with focus groups of local sports organizations, township staff, Centre Region Parks & Recreation, and civic groups.

To review the full update, head to our website and use: Home » Community » Residents » Play » Ferguson Township Parks.







Administration News

Songbird Sanctuary Park Master Plan Approved

The Board of Supervisors approved a resolution, February 1, 2022, to approve and adopt of Songbird Sanctuary Park Master Plan by resolution. Master planning for this park has been underway since 2019 with a steering committee, comprised of staff and residents, organized to have a multidisciplinary approach for a collaborative methodology. Back in July of 2019, the committee welcomed a combined total of 20 or more residents at the cul-de-sac on Owens Drive to participate in the master planning process. Ferguson Township also invited residents to complete an online survey to identify and prioritize their hopes for the park.



The Township acquired the 8.99-acre property that is bounded

by Owens Drive and Blue Course Drive. Guiding principles that informed the master planning process focused on the passive recreation and environmental benefits of the site. Since the first meeting, held April 8, 2019, the steering committee engaged the Parks and Recreation Committee, the community, and staff throughout the park master planning process for continued involvement and input to present a final master plan to the Board that reflects community interests and park needs. The Master Plan rendering will be made part of the resolution and presented to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration on Tuesday, February 1. Residents are encouraged to email Interim Township Manager Centrice Martin with questions on the master planning process for the prefinal draft of Songbird Sanctuary Park Master Plan.

Proclamations: Lunar New Year, Black History Month, & Women's History Month Celebrations



The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors were proud to honor the diversity of the Centre Region by issuing proclamations for the Lunar New Year, Black History Month, and Women's History Month.

Proclamations for these holidays and celebrations are meant to highlight the creative and cultural contributions of Asian Pacific Desi American residents, African-American residents, and women across the Centre Region, and all proclamations were the first of their kind for Ferguson Township.



January saw the Board issue the 2022 Lunar New Year proclamation, February for Black History Month, and March for Women's History Month. Adding to the gravity of the Women's History Month proclamation, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors, for the first time in its history, is comprised of an all-female roster.



The Board will continue to be conscious of upcoming cultural and societal celebrations, and will always be sure to consider honoring these events to make residents in our community feel welcome and heard in their local government.









Administration News

CRCOG Regional Refuse and Recycling Pilot Program

The Centre Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) Regional Refuse and Recycling Program serves residents of Ferguson Township as well as Benner, College, Harris and Patton townships as their designated refuse and recycling agent. CRCOG initiated a pilot program for refuse and recycling collection start time at 6:00 a.m. instead of 7:00 a.m. between Memorial Day and Labor Day of this year. The intent of the pilot program is to assess the impact, or success, of the change and to more fully understand the benefits and any issues that arise, before permanent changes are considered.



In response to this program, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors are seeking input to understand how to advocate for you in response to this pilot program.

We are asking that residents submit their comments by responding to the **Pilot Refuse and Recycle Program Online Comment Form**. This information will be shared and reviewed by Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors and staff as well as CRCOG to determine how best to meet the needs of township residents and expressed public health concerns of Waste Management employees post pilot program.

Access the form by visiting our website:

Government » Administration » Refuse Pilot Program » Resident Refuse & Recycling Comment Form (https://www.twp. ferguson.pa.us/administration/webforms/resident-refuse-recycling-comment-form)

Your comments will be valued and appreciated. The Pilot Refuse and Recycle Program Online Form is designed for residents to provide comment and should take less than 5 minutes to complete. This form will be available until Friday, September 2, 2022. Responses to this form will be monitored and provided to the Board of Supervisors at Board of Superivosrs Regular Meetings held between May 31, 2022 and September 2, 2022.

Planning & Zoning News

Planned Rewrite of Terraced Streetscape Zoning District

Since its inception in 2011, the Terraced Streetscape District (TSD) has not developed as envisioned through the zoning ordinance and design manual. Several obstacles presented themselves to the development of the district, including, but not limited to pedestrian connectivity, traffic, and market demand challenges with property owners.

Elected Officials and the Planning Departments within Ferguson Township and State College Borough have expressed an interest in working together to overcome these challenges and create a walkable, mixed-use neighborhood that creates a gateway into both municipalities. The district starts at the Ferguson Township-State College Borough line just west of Buckhout St and West



Terraced Streetscape District Map

College Ave. It runs the length of West College Avenue stop to Blue Course Drive. MACKIN Engineering, along with Ferguson Township and State College Borough, will engage in this rewrite and plan for 3 public meetings in the future for citizen input.







Planning & Zoning News

Reminder: Updated Grass & Weeds Ordinance

With spring fast approaching, Ferguson Township would like to remind residents about our Grass & Weeds Ordinance, which was recently amended in December 2021 after our most recent spring and summer.

The most significant change to the Ordinance was the increase in permitted height of managed turf grass from six inches to eight inches. Other changes to the ordinance include incorporating "Grow Zones" into the definition of "Green Infrastructure." Please note that this ordinance applies to the R1 Residential District (Yellow areas on the 2020 Zoning Map).



Full guidance can be found on our website following: Planning & Zoning » Ordinance Amendments

Amendments to Official Ferguson Township Map



Ferguson Township is in the process of updating the Official Map of Ferguson Township. The Ferguson Township Official Map identifies priority areas for future growth — land where the Township may want to develop parks, streets, roads and natural area conservation.

The last update to the map was in 2017. The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors have reviewed amendments to the map over the past year. Township Authorities, Boards, and Commissions such as the Planning Commission and the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan have also reviewed the amendments drafted by staff.

The timeline for public engagement and comment begins here:

Board Meetings:

- June 21—Ms. Dininni requested a discussion topic about the Musser Gap Trail being included on the OM map
- July 19th—That discussion continued.
- September 7th—The Board directed staff to draft an amendment to the OM.
- December 13—Board reviewed the draft and the draft ordinance will be prepared and presented for advertisement for public hearing at a future meeting.

PC Meetings:

December 7—PC reviewed the draft amendments as provided by the Board and recommended approval of amendments.

PineSAP:

January 27—Draft amendments, as presented to the Board, were reviewed on December 13 for review and comment.

Parks & Rec:

March 10th—Draft amendments were reviewed as presented to the Board on December 13 for review and comment.









Planning & Zoning News

Zoning & Land Development Ordinance

The Board of Supervisors directed staff to draft and post a RFP seeking professional planning services to rewrite the Terraced Streetscape (TS) and design standards. The authorization to enter into a contract with Mackin Engineering to start the project is was on the Board's agenda for the April 5th meeting. To learn more, see our website (twp.ferguson.pa.us) or contact our Planning and Zoning Director, Jenna Wargo, at jwargo@twp.ferguson.pa.us

Finance & Tax News

2022 Tax Rates & Information

TAX Township Real Estate	RATE 2.422 mils	EFFECTIVE DATE January 2022	COLLECTOR Ferguson Township	DUE DATES April 30 Discount period ends June 30 Face amount ends December 31 Last day to pay on time for the year
County Real Estate	7.84 mils	January 2022	Centre County	April 30 Discount period ends June 30 Face amount ends December 31 Last day to pay on time for the year
School Real Estate	46.0875 mi	July 2021-2022 school year	Ferguson Township	August 1 First installment due August 31 Discount period ends October 31 Face amount ends December 31 Last day to pay on time for the year
School Earned Income	.95 percent	July 2021-2022 school year	Centre Tax Agency at State College Boroug	h
Township Earned Income	1.4 percent	January 2022	Centre Tax Agency at State College Boroug	h
Local Services	\$52 per year	January 2022	Centre Tax Agency at State College Boroug	h
Transfer Tax	1.25 pecent		Centre County	

DISTRIBUTION OF TAXES

Earned Income Tax Rate

1.4 percent for the Township and .95 percent for the School District

Real Estate Transfer Tax

1.25 percent for the Township .5 percent for the School District .5 percent for Centre County

(This tax typically is split between the buyer and the seller; the balance is paid to the Commonwealth)

Local Services Tax

\$47.00 for the Township & \$5.00 for the School District

Please be aware that most homeowners will need to pay supplemental real estate tax bills not covered by escrow











Police News

Meet New Officers: Bryan & Cherese!



On March 17, 2022 at 2:00pm, the Ferguson Township Police Department formally welcomed two new police officers to the force, Bryan Greene & Cherese Greene. Magisterial District Judge Casey M. McClain read each officer their oaths of office and were sworn-in together surrounded by friends and family.

Bryan and Cherese, who are siblings, grew up in nearby Milesburg, PA, and are locals to the Centre Region. Both are graduates of Bald Eagle Area High School, and both are also graduates of nearby Lock Haven University.

Bryan previously worked with the Lock Haven City Police Department, and also served in the United States Air National Guard for seven years. Cherese worked with the Centre County Government in the Mental Health Department before attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Police Academy.

We are happy to have Bryan & Cherese on board, and we look forward to them meeting residents and serving the community.

General Scam Safety

Don't be a victim to scams. There are many different methods scammers are using to steal your money. Here are some helpful tips to avoid losing money to these criminals.

Scammers can and do spoof their phone numbers. The scammers can make it look like they are calling from a local agency. Before providing any personal information over the telephone, be absolutely positively sure whom you are speaking to.

Scammers send emails pretending to be a legitimate company, friend or supervisor. If you come across a potential scam, be sure to:

- Verify the email address.
- Before taking action, contact the company, friend or supervisor directly to verify the validity of the request.

Scammers often use pressure and threats to get you to act immediately

- Don't fall victim to the pressure.
- Obtain callers information but verify the legitimacy by reviewing previous bills, Internet search or other method
- Call a friend or local police to help verify the information

Government agencies DO NOT accept payments using Green-Dot or MoneyPak, gift cards or money transfers. If someone calls you claiming to be the police or IRS, and demands that you pay a fine or tax using any of those methods, it's a scam. If you are unsure, get contact information from the person calling, hung up and contact your local police for help verifying the information.









Public Works News

Ferguson Township Public Works Building Goes Solar

In January 2022, Ferguson Township flipped the switch to "ON" for the 240 solar panels installed atop its Public Works Building 6. This solar system is comprised of 240 roof mounted 450 watt solar panels with inverter expected to generate 108 kilowatts of power. The energy consumption modeling for the building and size of the array are intended to produce a net zero energy building.

David Modricker, Public Works Director, reading from the Basis of Design for the building stated:



Pictured: Ferguson Twp Staff, Public Works Solar Roof Project

....Ferguson Township adopted a Community and Environmental Bill of Rights in 2012. Among other things, it guarantees the right to 'a sustainable energy future.' Our most recent Strategic Plan commits us to excellent services, fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and renewable energy. This building enables us to achieve those goals with high-performance work environments, sound long-term energy conservation and onsite renewable energy, and exceptional attention to environmental impacts. The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors adopted a Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions Resolution on June 19, 2017. The Resolution calls for us to make a plan for achieving net zero emissions no later than 2050, and to engage our governmental and nongovernmental peers in the same. Finally, we are a Sustainable Pennsylvania Gold Certified community. This LEED Gold (certification pending) Public Works building helps us pursue goals aligned with our guiding documents and build on our reputation.

At 10:00am on January 28, 2022, Ferguson Township came closer to achieving its environmental goals for the future.

Post-Winter Mailbox Adjustments

After a long winter and plowing season, mailboxes can become damaged if not properly spaced along township roads.

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

- Position your mailbox 41" to 45" from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox or point of mail entry.
- Place your mailbox 6" to 8" back from the curb.
- 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.

"The spring is a great time to reset your mailboxes from potential damage from the winter," said David Modricker, Public Works Director for Ferguson Township. "Be sure to follow the US Postal Service guidance, and if it's in compliance with that, it will also be in compliance with Ferguson Township standards."

MS4 Permit











Public Works News

Route 45/Route 26 Construction

Construction is underway at the intersection of Route 25 & Route 26 in Ferguson Township as of March 4, 2022. The improvement is a \$5 million project through PennDOT, and is expected to be completed by mid-November of 2022.

"Concrete barrier will be installed, and Route 26 traffic will be shifted as necessary to allow construction of a temporary roadway. The temporary road will provide twoway traffic during the majority of the project. Traffic on Route 45 may also encounter

restrictions during the beginning phases to allow for roadway widening" per a PennDOT press release.

Full Press Release: https://www.penndot.pa.gov/regionaloffices/district-2/pages/details.aspx?newsid=2189



The project also aims to increase lighting for further safety, and also includes adding a traffic signal and turning lanes to increase safety and provide less congested traffic in the area. We ask Ferguson residents to be patient and cautious as they drive through the area, and be respectful of the work being completed by the construction crews. Subscribe to PennDOT for ongoing updates.

Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study Open House #2

As part of the ongoing Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan, Ferguson Township is hosting a second open house to display plans and proposals for the Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study. We invite the public to provide feedback and input on these proposals, concepts, and recommendations by viewing the presentation available by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting: (https://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/public-works/pages/pine-grove-mills-mobility-study).

The Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study Open House #2 will be on April 18, 2022 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building in the Main Meeting Room, and also virtually by Zoom. Please see our website for details on the Zoom link.

An online community survey will also be available for public feedback from April 18 until May 2, which will be used to gain insight on the project once all the materials from the open house have been displayed. The survey will be available at:

https://tinyurl.com/PGMMobility

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY AND VIEW THE MEETING MATERIALS!





YOUR INPUT MATTERS WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:







MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT https://tinyurl.com/PGMMobility











Public Works News

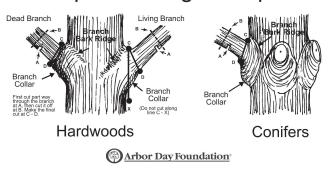
The Township Treebune: Proper Tree Pruning

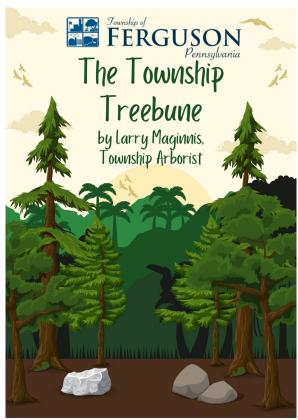
With spring finally arriving and Township monthly brush collections about to begin, a number of residents are working feverishly to get their tree pruning completed and out to the curb. We would like to take this opportunity to provide some helpful hints in order to support you and encourage proper tree pruning principles.

Tree pruning is very much a science and the standards for tree care have evolved to minimize the short term and long-term effects of pruning while maximizing the benefit for the homeowner. Before you begin pruning, visit this treemendous resource: www.treesaregood. org for some helpful hints. This website is chock full of information to help the homeowner maintain their trees properly throughout their life cycle.

A majority of homeowner tree pruning occurs for clearance purposes. Whether you are raising the canopy above a sidewalk, driveway, planting bed or pruning away from a structure be sure to adhere to proper pruning principles.

Proper Pruning Principles





To prevent the tearing of bark, employ this Three-Cut-Method as shown in the illustration. Practice identifying the branch bark ridge and branch collar at every branch attachment before you begin pruning. Regardless of where on the tree the branch cut is performed, never leave a long stub. To remove a branch, the final cut should be just outside the branch bark ridge and collar at the branch collar. To reduce the length of a branch, be sure to make the final cut at a branch attachment using the same principles.

Sign up for our e-Newsletter!

In addition to our bi-yearly print newsletters, Ferguson Township sends out a monthly e-Newsletters & Meeting Agendas! Sign up to be on one (or all) of our mailing lists! Start receiving information directly to your inbox and stay in the know!



www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/home/pages/stay-informed









Township of Ferguson 3147 Research Drive State College, PA 16801



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

Community Partners

Centre Region Council of Governments

Phone: (814) 234-7198 www.crcog.net

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority

Phone: (814) 238-7005 www.centrecountyrecycles.org

Centre Region Code Agency

Phone: (814) 231-3056 www.crcog.net/codes

Centre Region Emergency Management Office

Phone: (814) 235-7838 <u>www.crcog.net/em</u>

Centre Region Parks & Recreation

Phone: (814) 231-3071 www.crpr.org

Centre Regional Planning Agency

Phone: (814) 231-3050 www.crcog.net/planning

Alpha Fire Company

Phone: (814) 237-4127 www.alphafire.com

Schlow Centre Region Library

Phone: (814) 237-6236 www.schlowlibrary.org

2022 Brush Schedule

April 4

April 18

May 2

June 6

July 5 (Due to July 4th Holiday)

August 1

September 6

October 3

November 7

December 5

2022 Leaf Schedule

April 4

May 2

June 6

July 5

August 1

September 6 (Due to Sept. 5th

Holiday)

October 3- continuously every working day until hampered by winter operations or until December 12, whichever comes first

2022 Trash & Recycling Schedule

Labor Day - September 5 Thanksgiving Day - November 24 Christmas Day - December 25

If your pickup day falls on or after any of these dates, there will be a one-day delay.

Spring Bulk Waste Week: May 9—13 Fall Bulk Waste Week: October 17—21

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: April 29 - April 30



Phone: (814) 238-4651 www.twp.ferguson.pa.us