

New Township Manager: Centrice Martin

Ms. Martin was appointed by the Board of Supervisors on April 19, 2022

On Tuesday, April 19, 2022, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors formally appointed Centrice Martin as the Township Manager for Ferguson Township during the Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Session.

Centrice has been employed by Ferguson Township since 2018, and held the positions of Assistant to the Township Manager, Assistant Township Manager, and most recently, Interim Township Manager. David Pribulka, former Ferguson Township Manager, provided his resignation to the Board of Supervisors on January 3, 2022, and his final day with Ferguson Township was on March 1, 2022, creating the vacant Township Manager position.



The Board of Supervisors engaged in a search to fill the position with professional firm, GovHR USA, over the course of fourteen weeks, and ultimately the Board of Supervisors elected to hire Interim Township Manager, Centrice Martin, after twenty-three applicants and two rounds of interviews with applicants.

Before employment with Ferguson Township, Ms. Martin graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees with Penn State, and was employed by the Borough of State College as Assistant to the Borough Manager for Community Engagement. Centrice also serves as a member to multiple community boards, including the Board of Directors for Discovery Space of Central Pennsylvania, the State College Borough and Centre County Task Force on Mental Health Crisis Service, the State College Borough & Penn State Task Force on Policing and Communities of Color, and as a founding member of the Pioneering Change Community. In addition to Ms. Martin's extensive experience and qualifications, her appointment will mark important firsts for the Township and Centre County, as she is thought to be the first Black Township Manager for any municipality in Centre County, and also the first female Township Manager for Ferguson Township.

New Ward II Supervisor: Jeremie Thompson



Jeremie Thompson was sworn in to the Board of Supervisors as the Ward II representative at the August 16 regular meeting. Thompson fills the Ward II seat after it became vacant on July 8. The term expires on December 31, 2023.

Mr. Thompson previously served as Chair of the Planning Commission.

Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors received a total of three applications for the position and conducted interviews with three candidates on August 10.







General Township News

Message From the Manager

Many thanks to all of the residents, business owners, and community members for the supportive and congratulatory cards, emails, and social media messages. I'm honored to serve as your Township Manager. Please join us at our next Coffee and Conversation held at Dunkin Donuts on October 15 at 8am.

New Hires

Meet Lyndsey Biddle: New Communications Coordinator



Lyndsey is a native of Happy Valley and graduate of Juniata College. She grew up on a small local farm but has spent a number of years working overseas in the fields of writing, editing, and education. Lyndsey will be responsible for all of the Township's communications efforts, including informing the public of local events, projects and updates via our website and social media. She will also be taking charge of our monthly e-newsletter and twice-yearly print newsletters. She is eager to support the Township in keeping all of our residents informed, up-to-date, and connected.

Meet Jaymes Progar: New Assistant Township Manager



Jaymes has over five years of municipal and public utility experience, having previously served Ferguson Township as GIS Technician since 2018 and as a GIS Analyst for Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority. Jaymes holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Point Park University and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Geographic Information Systems from Penn State University, where he is currently pursuing his master's degree in Geodesign with expected completion in 2022.

Meet Aaron Jolin: New Stormwater Engineer



Aaron grew up in the agriculturally rich areas of Adams County, PA, working many summers and weekends on a fruit farm through high school and after college. He graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Ag and Bio Engineering-Natural Resources. Working in the civil engineering industry since 2005, Aaron has a broad civil and environmental design background, working on both public and private projects, with a focus on water resources engineering and stormwater management. He is excited to serve the Township.

Meet Chris Leidy: New Building & Assets Superintendent



Chris Leidy enters the position having 15 years of municipal government experience with Ferguson Township, with the Road Crew (2 years) and as Road Crew Foreman (13 years). As the Building & Assets Superintendent, Chris will be responsible for management of all Township owned assets including buildings, equipment, traffic signals, storm pipes, and signs. He will also be responsible for all maintenance functions, and capital improvements for all municipally-owned buildings and facilities. Chris will use his expertise to assist sustainable construction and renovation projects, personnel management, evaluation of work methods, and expenditure

Thank You for Participating in Centre Gives 2022!

Centre Gives, the Centre Region's largest fundraising event aside from THON, was held May 10 - May 11, 2022.

Each year, Tom Tudek Memorial Park participates to raise money for the trust that bears its name, and this year the park was proud to raise \$2,794.00 towards its trust with 39 individual donations! Ferguson Township promoted the event through social media and by creating a video to highlight the great amenities of the park, featuring Doug and Pam Ford of the Snetsinger **Butterfly Garden at Tudek Park!**

Overall, Centre Gives participants donated a total of \$2.18 million towards local nonprofits via 15,577 individual donations. Thank you to the Centre Foundation and all the supporters of Tom Tudek Memorial Park this year!

General Township News

"Municipal Mixer" Held at Greenbriar Saybrook Park!

On Wednesday, August 3, 2022, Ferguson Township hosted its first ever "Municipal Mixer" event at Greenbriar-Saybrook Park!

The purpose of this event was for the Township, in coordination with HRG, to gain feedback from neighborhood residents about amenities they would like to see at Greenbriar Saybrook Park in the future as the Township conducts its master plan for Ferguson Parks.

In addition to offering an opportunity for public input on the future of Greenbriar-Saybrook Park, the event placed an emphasis on pedestrian and cycling safety. Ferguson Township Police were on-site to host a cycling safety and training course for younger riders at the park.



Representatives from Penn State Transportation Services were also in



attendance to highlight offerings such as the Penn State Bike Den, along with representatives from Penn State's Spin e-Bike Share Program to inform attendees of these services and details of these programs. A bike mechanic from The Bicycle Shop was also present to overview bicycles for safety and maintenance, along with a bike registration station provided by the Penn State Bike Den.

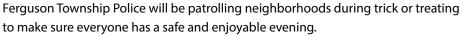
The Sunset Slush Happy Valley food truck was also present to allow residents to cool down at the hot event with an ice-cold snow cone!

And to top it all off, the Ferguson Township Public Works Department attended and hosted "Touch-A-Truck" for younger attendees to see the inside of a real public works vehicle!

Halloween Trick or Treat Schedule

As approved through the Council of Governments General Forum (COG), Halloween Trick or Treat for Ferguson Township will be held on Monday, October 31 from 6-8pm.

If there is inclement weather that evening, Halloween Trick or Treat will be moved Tuesday, November 1.





















Administration News

Want to Submit an Agenda Item at a Board Meeting? Here's How!

The Ferguson Township Administration and Board of Supervisors would like to remind residents of the possible ways to submit an agenda item for discussion at Board of Supervisors meetings.

As established and codified in Ferguson Township's Home Rule Charter, citizens of the township have the right to be heard, and the Township always accepts public petitions for consideration. Residents are always encouraged to participate in meetings and provide additional community input. Ferguson Township aims to be an inclusive and welcoming environment to all residents, and public discourse is always appreciated and considered.



If you or another Ferguson resident would like an agenda item to be submitted for discussion, here are three ways to provide this information:

- 1. Submit the request at an upcoming Board meeting
- Submit agenda item requests at an upcoming public meeting
- 3. Submit agenda item requests to the Board, or Board Chair via email (ldininni@twp.ferguson.pa.us)

Board of Supervisors Meetings take place at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building, and virtually, on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, and details for attendance are always found on the Ferguson Township website calendar on the home page at twp.ferguson.pa.us.

2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan Approved

The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors approved the 2023 - 2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) during their August 16, 2022 regular meeting.

The CIP includes a summary of major Township expenditures proposed across each department for five fiscal years. Capital items are generally defined as any item costing over \$2,500 and having a projected useful life of one year or more. The Township's Capital Improvement Plan aims to determine how much money the Township needs to fund its services, recommends allocating funds where they can be most useful, and serves as a tool to help guide planning for largescale expenditures to better ensure financial resiliency.

The CIP was presented by the Township Manager and reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at two special public meetings, as well as a mobile road tour.

Update on Police Chief Recruitment

Ferguson Township is now accepting applications for Chief of Police. The Township seeks a police professional committed to community engagement with an inclusive approach both inside the police department and Ferguson Township as well as within the Centre Region. The Chief will possess interpersonal skills and demonstrated leadership and management experience in law enforcement. The application deadline is September 23.

Township Manager Martin executed an agreement with GovHr to assist with the recruitment of the Chief of Police. The recruitment process has been underway since July 20th with the input and comments provided by approximately twenty-two (22) stakeholders, as well as a community input survey. The recruitment will involve a national search as well as local and regional. It is anticipated that the process will take approximately three months and there will be an opportunity for stakeholders to meet the finalists. Interviews of the finalists are anticipated to take place at the end of October with the intent that a candidate will be selected and able to begin with the Township in early December.

Administration News

Ferguson Township Says Thank You to Chief of Police

Chief of Police, Chris Albright, submitted his retirement resignation to the Board of Supervisors at their June 21 regular meet-

Throughout his 30 years of service to the Ferguson Township Police Department, Chief Albright strived to enhance the quality of life throughout the Township by working cooperatively to preserve the peace, enforce the law, reduce the fear and incidence of crime and provide a safe environment for the residents and visitors of the community.

A lifelong Ferguson Township resident, he officially began as Chief of Police on June 30, 2017. Before becoming Chief, he served as second in command of the Police Department. A graduate of State College Area High School, Chief Albright earned a degree from Penn State and a Masters of Science degree in Security Management from Bellevue University. His many roles in the Ferguson Township Police Department included traffic detail, bike patrol, hostage negotiator, field training officer, and member of the tactical response team. He also managed the department's vehicle fleet, handled internal investigations, and conducted background checks for new hires.



Chief Albright will officially retire mid-November and respectfully requests the Township not publicly acknowledge his retirement in the form of a special event. "It is difficult to accept his request, but I will honor and respect his wishes. On behalf of Ferguson Township, we thank Chief Albright for his dedication and service to Ferguson Township Police Department for 30 years," said Township Manager Martin. Sgt. Hendrick will serve as the Officer In Charge (OIC) beginning the end of business day on Friday, August 26, until Chief Albright's official last day which is expected to be on November 18, 2022.

Join Us for Coffee and Conversation!



Have a question or concern about services and operations, or anything happening in Ferguson Township? Hosted by a local business, Coffee & Conversation with Ferguson Township meets once every three months.

As an informal gathering of Township residents, Coffee & Conversation is an opportunity for residents to meet with Centrice Martin, Township Manager and other key Township staff available to attend. Residents are invited for an opportunity to offer suggestions, seek answers, discuss any questions or concerns specific to your community, and chat about living in the Township. While there is no agenda, Township staff also provide an update on current issues under discussion.

Coffee is on the house and there is no need to register to attend.

















Planning & Zoning News

Food Truck Ordinance Amended - Vendors to Operate in Parks in Ferguson Township

On March 15, 2022, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors amended Chapter 27—Zoning and now permits food trucks to operate in Township Parks and certain Right-of-Ways. All food vendors that would like to operate a food truck in the Township should obtain approval from the Department of Planning & Zoning.

The Township will be working in collaboration with Centre Region Parks & Recreation, the agency responsible for maintaining most parks in Ferguson Township. All vendors must complete the Food Truck Application found on the Ferguson Township website and obtain a zoning permit from the Department of Planning & Zoning.



While the food vendor is operating in Ferguson Township, zoning permits must be visible in the window of the trucks to inform residents and municipalities that they are licensed to serve food and operate within the Township.

Ice cream trucks continue to be exempt from these regulations. Food trucks are permitted to operate during park hours, and can operate in most right-of-way areas. Food trucks are not permitted to operate in Park Hills, Songbird Sanctuary, and Meadows Park and overnight parking is prohibited in all parks.

For all interested vendors, please see links on our website for the Ferguson Township Food Truck Application and information on yearly renewals and inspections.

Terraced Streetscape District Rewrite Public Input Meeting Held



Ferguson Township hosted the first round of community input sessions for the Terraced Streetscape zoning district rewrite on Wednesday, Augusts 31, 2022. Residents, business owners, landowners, and other interested parties were invited to attend one of two input sessions. To encourage as much attendance as possible, the Township hosted both an online meeting and an in-person open house.

The Terraced Streetscape District (TSD) is a mixed-use corridor along West College Avenue (State Route 26) from the boundary of State College Borough (Buckhout Street) to the intersection of Blue Course Drive. This district provides for a mix of

commercial and residential uses meant to be promoted at a pedestrian scale.

While the rest of the Township experienced significant development over the last decade, the TSD has not developed as envisioned. 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.

The overall goal of the input sessions was to gather a baseline understanding of what meeting attendees want to see in terms of zoning district changes, which could relate to permitted land uses, building height, required front, side, and rear yard setbacks, and other regulations.

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Finance & Tax News

2022 Tax Rates & Information

TAX Township Real Estate	RATE 2.422 mils	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		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









Finance & Tax News

Ferguson Township Financial State Deemed "Healthy" By Independent Financial Audit

At the July 19, 2022 Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, Baker Tilly, financial advisory firm, provided their presentation on the 2021 Ferguson Township Financial Audit they conducted and completed on behalf of the township.

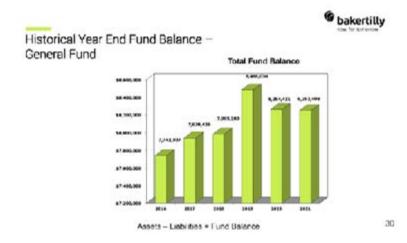
Each year, this audit is performed by a 3rd party vendor in order to ensure transparency and an unbiased assessment of Ferguson Township's financial standing and statements. This report is used for an annual update on Ferguson Township's financial stability and utilized for strategic planning purposes by the township.

Both the presentation and audit were executed by John Compton, CPA, Adam Hartzel, CPA, and Christine Zoerner, Senior Associate with Baker Tilly. The final product was submitted to Ferguson Township by July 31, 2022.



Baker Tilly's responsibilites for the audit included gathering evidence to support Ferguson Township's presented financial statements. The firm gathers evidence to affirm these financial statements are valid by confirming cash and investments with Ferguson Township's banking institutions and investment managers by reviewing amounts on deposit with those institutions.

In terms of findings, Ms. Zoerner indicated that the Township currently sits at \$8.2 million of unrestricted fund balances, equal to 246 days of spending for the Township, and is deemed "healthy" according to Baker Tilly's formula. These funds would allow Ferguson Township to meet future budget challenges if those difficulties were to ever arise.



Overall, Ferguson Township's finances are in a stable, and sound state according to the independent audit executed by Baker Tilly. To watch the full presentation, see the link to C-NET's coverage of the Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting at the QR Code below. The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Township website at the link provided by the QR Code below.

Full PowerPoint Presentation:



C-NET Video Coverage of Financial Audit:





Public Works News

Green Infrastructure at the Ferguson Township Building

reguson Township has made a conscious effort to be more environmentally friendly through a variety of measures - from solar panels powering the new Public Works Building, to pervious pavement, and grow zones - the Township has made strides in focusing on energy conservation and protecting the environment.



Ferguson Township's newly constructed Public Works Building #6 is pending LEED Gold certification, which is the second highest rating according to LEED, an organization with a mission to rate buildings to ensure, "healthy, efficient, carbon and cost-saving green buildings." The Public Works Building is equipped with an 108 kW solar panel array on the roof, consisting of 240 solar modules, and each one is measured at 450 watts. This push towards creating a new environmentally friendly Public Works Building led to further efforts at the Township to apply the highest standards in green energy and environmental conservation to the full campus.

In order to meet Ferguson Township's stormwater requirements, numerous projects were completed to guarantee full compliance. Bioswales were constructed along Research Drive, and turf grass was replaced with a native detentionary mix in these areas. Bioswales are defined by the EPA as, "vegetated, mulched or xeriscaped channels that provide treatment and retention as they move stormwater from one place to another." These systems slow the flow of runoff water while making it cleaner and safer for the environment. The sites of the bioswales at the township are designated as "Grow Zones", which are assigned areas that will not be mowed regularly to help provide natural and diverse habitat areas that bring environmental, educational and cost reduction benefits to the public.

Further efforts made to fully satisfy stormwater requirements include a rain garden, pervious pavement, reforestation, fuel capture, and installing a hydrodynamic stormwater separator. Reducing impervious areas allows for more water to reach soil and less stormwater runoff to the surrounding areas. Forming a fuel capture to prevent the township's gasoline and other fuel supplies from reaching the ground and stormwater is also crucial to restrict pollutants and harmful chemicals from reaching the soil and ecosystem.

Next time you drive by the Ferguson Township Municipal Building, feel free to stop by and check out all the progress made on these environmentally conscious efforts enacted by the Township!

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Public Works News

Oak Wilt Found On Beaver Branch Road

On Monday, September 12, Township Arborist, Larry Maginnis, confirmed the first known cases of oak wilt of the year in two trees at 757 Beaver Branch Road. Inspections are underway to determine affected trees in the surrounding area and to provide treatment. This area underwent a similar outbreak in 2018.

Oak wilt is a fungus that attacks all species of oak trees, but Red Oak and Pin Oak are the most susceptible. Once infected, an otherwise healthy tree rapidly drops its leaves during the summer months and dies while other nearby trees still have green leaves. Oak wilt can spread through root grafts to nearby trees, and can be carried by bark beetles that feed on an infected tree and then move to a healthy one.

Township Ordinance 1023 declares that it is unlawful to prune oak trees from April 1 to October 31each year, as this is the time beetles that spread the fungus are most active. It also declares that it is unlawful to climb oak trees using spurs or spikes for any reason except tree removal.

Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study Report Accepted by Board of Supervisors

The final version of the Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study Report was completed, and accepted by the Board of Supervisors at the July 5, 2022 Regular Meeting. The study advanced ideas originally identified in the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan and developed additional recommendations based on input from the Mobility Study's first public meeting in October 2021, and second public meeting in April 2022. A survey was distributed to community members from April 2022 until May 2022 to provide input on the materials presented at the 2nd Open House. The objective of the Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study was "to evaluate the transportation issues, concerns, and opportunities identified in the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan and identify concepts and recommendations to address those items and improve overall safety and mobility."

Governor Tom Wolf announced that \$700,000 was awarded to Ferguson Township through TASA (Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside) funding on April 20, 2022, specifically for improving pedestrian access in Pine Grove Mills. This funding was considered when producing concepts and plans for this project, and are noted in various concepts.



Homestead Park Playground Now Open Installation of a new playground at Homestead Park is now complete for residents and families to enjoy!

The playground was under construction until spring of 2022, and minor modifications were recently finalized to allow for safe use of the facilities. The orange plastic fencing around the playground has been removed and the playground is now available for public use.

The newly constructed playground is the first in Ferguson Township to feature a poured-in-place fall surface, which is shock absorbent and provides cushioning for potential falls from users of the playground.

The Ferguson Township Public Works Department asks that parents inform children to avoid areas around the playground being planted with grass and avoid areas laid with hay. These areas are prone to being muddy, and will cause the playground to become dirty if children play in these areas and use the new playground.







Public Works News

The Township Treebune: Summer Heat and Street Trees

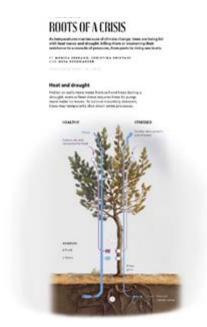
Pennsylvania has always been a state of excellent water. Average annual precipitation across the state is about 40 inches per year, usually well dispersed throughout. And Centre County falls right in that average. Droughts have occurred, but overall there tend to be adequate water resources to support our abundant tree and plant life.

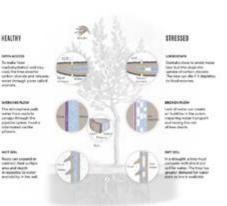
Paying attention to climate change models, and changing weather patterns, the expectation is that Pennsylvania will see an overall increase in precipitation, but the frequency and regularity of rainfall events will decrease – models say that we will see warmer days and more intense storms with periods of dry spells and periodic droughts occurring interspersed throughout the year.

What does a changing climate mean for street trees in Ferguson Township? It might mean more periods of drought that could stress trees and cause forest health issues or tree death.

Just like you and your home, trees have preferences for where they will thrive. Some like more wet soil; some can tolerate drier, sandy areas. While most trees have a wide range of conditions they can live in, planting the right tree for the right site means that a tree's ability to thrive will occur in those areas that meet its desired conditions. Pay attention to soil characteristics (dryness/wetness, acidity, depth), heat tolerance, and water requirements, and plant trees that will do well in the site you have planned for them.

In times of drought, water your trees, not your lawn. Trees compete with grass for water. Short, intense rainfall is often only enough to water the grass and its shallow roots. Deep soaking to get at the tree roots means the trees will have adequate moisture to beat the heat of summer. Supplement your yard and street trees as we go through dry spells.





Courtesy National Geographic Young street and yard trees with trunks smaller than 3 inches in diameter, need 15 to 25 gallons a week through deep soaking. Trees that have larger trunks are assumed to have a larger root system to draw upon in times of water stress. However, in severe drought, they too will suffer.

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 <u>www.crcog.net</u>

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 www.crcog.net/em

Centre Region Parks & Recreation

Phone: (814) 231-3071 <u>www.crpr.org</u>

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 Leaf Schedule

April 4

May 2 June 6

April 18

August 1

October 3

September 6

November 7

December 5

April 4 May 2 June 6

July 5 August 1

September 6 (Due to Sept. 5th

2022 Brush Schedule

July 5 (Due to July 4th Holiday)

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