



December 2022 e-Newsletter

2023 Operating Budget Adopted, New Board Supervisor, Police Department Welcomes New Chief, and More!

From all of us at Ferguson Township, we wish you and your family a peaceful holiday season and a very happy New Year!



Follow us on social media:



Ferguson Township Upcoming Events

December 26

Christmas Holiday (Offices Closed)

January 2

New Year's Holiday (Offices Closed)

January 21

Coffee & Conversation

* 2023 meeting dates for Ferguson Township Authorities, Boards, and Commissions will be finalized soon and advertised in the Centre Daily Times as well as on the [Township's website](#). Check back soon for upcoming events in January 2023!

Administration News

Coffee & Conversation

You are warmly invited to attend the first Ferguson Township Coffee & Conversation of 2023!

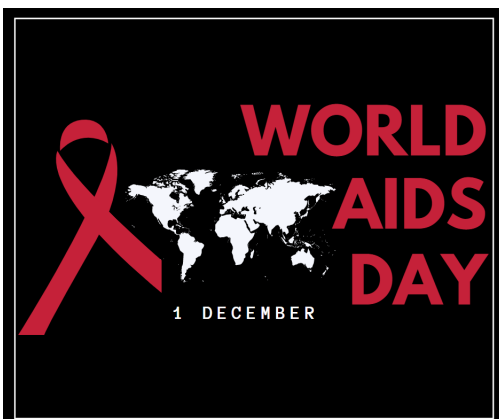
This event is an informal gathering at which residents and Township staff discuss happenings in the community and address questions and concerns over a free cup of coffee.

Join us Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 8:00am-9:30am at the historic Baileyville Community Hall, located at 284 Diebler Road, Pennsylvania Furnace.

There is no need to RSVP for this event.



World AIDS Day



December 1 was World AIDS Day. According to the World Health Organization, an "estimated 38.4 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2021."

Ferguson Township would like to emphasize the importance of this annual event which aims to raise awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic around the world and to promote the development of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Learn more about what HIV is, how it can be prevented, living with HIV, treatment, and more at [hiv.gov](#).

Board of Supervisors Welcomes a New Member

The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors appointed and swore in Mr. Corey Gracie-Griffin as the Township's new At-Large Supervisor at the regular meeting on Tuesday, November 15.

Supervisor Griffin brings with him extensive experience in the fields of architecture and civil and environmental engineering. He is currently Associate Professor of Architecture at Penn State Altoona and serves at the same campus as Associate Dean for Research and Engagement.



We welcome Supervisor Gracie-Griffin to the Board and look forward to benefiting from the experience and insight he will bring to the leadership of the Township.

[READ MORE](#)

Meet Our New Executive Assistant

We recently welcomed Mrs. Paula Brown to the Township's administrative team.

Taking on the role of executive assistant, Paula's organizational and problem-solving skills are helping greatly to keep things running smoothly here at the Township.

She was previously employed at Penn State for over 30 years in administrative roles.

Paula is a lifelong resident of Central Pennsylvania and has lived in State College for over 27 years.

When not busy keeping the administration offices in order, this Grandma-to-be enjoys travel, bicycling, camping, kayaking and spending time with her husband and two spoiled cats

Welcome aboard, Paula!



Regional & Community News

Christmas and New Year Refuse Collection Schedule

The Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority has announced that there will be **NO CHANGE** to the refuse and recycling collection schedule for the Christmas and New Year's holidays this year.

Collection will take place on your regular day.

The Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) Refuse and Recycling Program has issued a reminder that when **EXTREME WEATHER** poses a safety hazard to collection employees or residents, trash and recycling may be suspended or delayed.

When collection is suspended or delayed, COG will post a notification on their website at www.crcog.net/refuse. They also have an email distribution list for alerts which you can sign up for on their site.

WM, the area's waste management service provider, will send a phone and text blast when trash collection is suspended. Sign up for service alerts through your online account under *Managing Your Preferences*.



2023 Refuse and Recycling Rate Changes

The Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) works with the Centre County Refuse and Recycling Authority (CCRRA) to serve residents of Ferguson Township in managing the collection of waste and recycling throughout the community.

Residential refuse rates are adjustable annually based on two variables: tipping fees and fuel costs. For 2023, refuse collection rates will increase by \$0.63 for full-service customers and \$0.24 for low-use service.

Recycling collection costs are either adjusted annually according to the same variables or they are set by CCRRA. For 2023, CCRRA has set a rate of \$8.50 per month for residential curbside recycling collection, compared to a cost of \$5.94 per month in 2022.

Service	2022		2023	
	Monthly Rate	Quarterly Rate	Monthly Rate	Quarterly Invoice
Regular (up to 8 bags) Service	\$20.19	\$60.57	\$23.38	\$70.14
Low-Use (1 bag/week) Service	\$16.58	\$49.74	\$19.38	\$58.14
Regular + At-Door Service	\$30.19	\$90.57	\$33.38	\$100.14
Low-Use + At-Door Service	\$26.58	\$79.74	\$29.38	\$88.14

America Recycles Day



Tuesday, November 15 was America Recycles Day, also known as, National Recycling Day.

If your household does not already recycle, now is the time to begin! It's an easy way to prevent waste that could take hundreds or years to break down from cluttering the ground and water.

Click the link below to find out what can and cannot be recycled in Ferguson Township or visit www.centrecountyrecycles.org.

[READ MORE](#)

Offerings from CATA

CATA is making improvements to its longstanding vanpool program through a partnership with Commute with Enterprise. The program matches riders who have similar work shifts in similar areas and who are interested in riding together.

People who commute to or from State College and are interested in joining the program can visit the [CATA website](#) and scroll down to click on [CATA COMMUTE](#). For more information, email [CATA](#) or [Commute with Enterprise](#).



CATA is also offering gift certificates for holiday gift giving this year. Gift certificates are available in any amount starting at \$15 and can be used towards the purchase of CATA services, including OnePasses, tokens, and Youth Passes. Call the Customer Service Center at (814) 238-2282 for questions. Tickets can be purchased at CATA's Customer Service Center at 108 E. Beaver Avenue in State College.

Centre LifeLink Membership for 2023

The 2023 Centre LifeLink Membership campaign is officially under way. Each fall, Ferguson Township residents are encouraged to enroll as a Centre LifeLink member, ensuring them that they will have no out-of-pocket expenses for unlimited emergency ambulance service provided by Centre LifeLink EMS.

Memberships are available now and residents in Centre LifeLink's coverage area will receive a membership brochure with information on how to

participate.

Residents in Ferguson Township should have received membership information in the mail, and registration is also open online at www.centrelifelink.com.



Finance News

Ferguson Township 2023 Operational Budget Adopted



The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors held two special meetings on November 9 and November 10, 2022 to review the Township's 2023 Proposed Operating Budget.

The 2023 Draft Operating Budget was presented to the Board at the Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting on December 6, 2022.

Following input and adjustments, the Board voted to adopt the 2023 Operational Budget at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 13, 2022.

Click the link below to view the final Adopted 2023 Budget.

[Adopted 2023 Budget](#)

Public Works News

Sharing the Roads with Snowplows



With snow blowing and an oversized vehicle to maneuver, plow drivers have extremely restricted visibility. They rely on their mirrors which leaves a large area behind the plow in a blind spot, so please be sure to follow at a safe distance of no less than four car lengths.

Plows drive slowly and, at times, need to suddenly stop or move around parked vehicles, so please do not try to pass.

Ferguson Township's road crew will be out clearing our community's roadways as soon as snow starts to stick. We have about 100 miles of road to cover, and our

crew works around the clock to keep the roadways clear. The Township typically has four single axle plows and two T-tags out clearing roads, as well as a large tandem axel plow working in the western part of the Township. All of our plows have side wing plows to perform the work of what two plows could accomplish.

Please help give our plow drivers access to the roads by removing your car from the street as soon as snow starts to settle.

Be aware that **following two inches of snowfall**, until 48 hours after the end of snowfall, **all vehicles must be removed from the road**. Any remaining vehicles will be ticketed and possibly towed.

Click the link below to read more about Ferguson Township's winter operations.

[WINTER OPERATIONS](#)

2023 Dog Licenses Now Available

All dogs three months and older must have a dog license by January 1 of each year. Licenses help to identify your dog so that it can be returned to you should it stray or get lost. Owners of non-licensed dogs may face penalties.

There are ten locations throughout the country that issue annual dog licenses:

Area	Location	Address	Phone
Bellefonte	Centre County Treasurer's Office	Willowbank Office Building 420 Holmes Street	(814) 355-6700
Bellefonte	Lyons Kennels	1826 Zion Road	(814) 355-3974
Milesburg	Valley Ace Hardware	224 Water Street	(814) 355-5451
Millheim	Hosterman & Stover Hardware	190 West Main Street	(814) 349-8321
Pleasant Gap	Adrian's Dog House	141 East College Avenue	(814) 359-1223
Port Matilda	Port Matilda Boro Building	400 South High Street	(814) 692-0092
State College	Patton Township Building	100 Patton Plaza	(814) 234-0271
State College	The Pet Pub	507 Benner Pike	(814) 954-8962
State College	Wischoy Pet Food Co.	424 West Aaron Drive	(814) 231-8711
Stormstown	Halfmoon Township Building	100 Municipal Lane	(814) 692-9800

Lifetime licenses are only available through the **Treasurer's Office**. To obtain a lifetime license, your dog must be microchipped, and you must submit with your application a Permanent Identification Verification (PIV) form completed and signed by your veterinarian or kennel.

Get Familiar with Your Township's Ordinances

Overview of Township Ordinances

Ferguson Township employs a full-time Ordinance Officer to enforce Township ordinances relative to grass and weeds, animal control, parking, winter sidewalk maintenance, and more.

Residents can explore our full **Code of Ordinances** to learn about requirements and penalties for noncompliance or view our pamphlet which gives a basic overview of Township ordinances by clicking the link below.

4651 or [by email](#).

You can reach the Township's Ordinance Officer at (814) 238-

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Police News

Township Appoints New Chief of Police



On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors formally appointed John Petrick as Chief of Police during the Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Session.

Ferguson Township engaged in a national search to fill the position with professional firm, GovHR. Recruitment for the position began on July 20th with input and comments provided by 22 stakeholders, as well as a community input survey. The two-month application period yielded 25 applications from 9 states, including 13 resumes from Pennsylvania.

Chief Petrick comes with over 32 years of law enforcement experience and 20 years of command level experience as Chief of Police. He will officially start his new role on January 3, 2023.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

A Reminder About Safe Winter Driving

Need your wipers?



Turn your
headlights
on too!

It's the law.

PA Vehicle Code Law 4302



Winter brings with it many hazards for motorists, including shorter daylight hours leading to lower visibility, and inclement weather which also obstructs the roadway, creates dangerous driving conditions, and hampers visibility.

According to **PA Vehicle Code Law 4302**, drivers must turn on their headlights in the following situations:

1. Between sunset and sunrise.
2. Any time when the operator cannot discern a person or vehicle upon the highway from a distance of 1,000 feet due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, including rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog, smoke or smog.
3. Any time when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to precipitation or atmospheric moisture, including rain, snow, sleet or mist.

Remember, when you are having difficulty seeing out your windshield, others are also having trouble seeing you. Turn on your headlights to be seen!

[\[Ferguson Township Website\]](#) | [\[Contact Us\]](#)

[\[C-NET Recorded Meetings\]](#) | [\[Community Calendar\]](#)

Learn More About Township Authorities, Boards, and Commissions

[Planning Commission](#)

[Parks & Recreation
Committee](#)

[Board of Supervisors](#)

[Tree Commission](#)

[Zoning Hearing Board](#)

[Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory
Committee](#)

[Tax Review Board](#)

[Industrial & Commercial Development
Authority](#)

Helpful Links

[Finance & Tax](#)

[Planning & Zoning](#)

[Police Department](#)

[Public Works](#)

[2021 Tax Rates and Information](#)

[Active Development Proposals](#)

[Prescription Drug Collection](#)

[Brush and Leaf Collection](#)

[2022 Operating Budget](#)

[Past Initiatives](#)

[How to Contact Police](#)

[Tree Education Fact Sheets](#)

[2022 - 2026 Capital
Improvement Plan](#)

[Zoning 101](#)

[Helpful Tips](#)

[Current Contracts](#)

[Maps, Ordinances, Permits, &
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[Ordinance Enforcement,
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