



Township of  
**FERGUSON**  
Pennsylvania

FALL 2021

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

Follow us!



## Protecting our Air, Water, & Natural Areas

### *Ferguson Township's Green Infrastructure Policy*



Homestead Park

If you have driven down Whitehall Road, you may have noticed that the Ferguson Township Municipal Building has some new vegetation on its property. While it may look like unkempt grass with weeds from afar, up close, it is an intentional ecosystem that has a positive environmental impact on both rainfall and our native wildlife.



Coffee & Conversation

Known as bioswales, these channels are built into the ground to transport water and have the secondary purpose of removing debris and pollution. Here at the Ferguson Township offices, our bioswale begins near the new Public Works building on Research Drive and runs down Whitehall Road, ending in the southeast corner of the site.



Ferguson Township Building

A bioswale is one example of green infrastructure that has been implemented in Ferguson Township. Green infrastructure refers to an interconnected network of open space consisting of natural areas and other green features that protects ecosystem functions and contribute to clean air and water. Green infrastructure is an evolution of the typical "gray infrastructure", systems of gutters, pipes, and tunnels, that communities have used to manage water.

The Township continually receives requests by residents, staff and the Board to convert passive areas within parks such as Cecil Irvin Park, Fairbrook Park, Tudek Park and Haymarket Park into green infrastructure areas.



Ag Progress Days

Ferguson Township recognizes the importance of maintaining the condition, accessibility and safety of its naturalized environments which is why the Green Infrastructure Policy was adopted. The focus of this policy is to establish a procedure on how to process requests and how to better maintain the condition and safety of the naturalized environments within Township Parks.

Now, residents can submit requests to Ferguson Township to evaluate a proposed park to implement green infrastructures such as meadows, grow zones, & pollinator gardens & plots.



Bioswale on Whitehall Rd

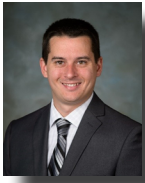
The Green Infrastructure form can be found on the Township's website: **Services » Online Services » Applications, Brochures, Forms & Agreements**

Thank you for helping keep Ferguson Township green!

# General Township News

## Manager's Blog: Holding Government Accountable Through Strategic Planning

**By David Pribulka, Township Manager**



Government – especially at the local level – is constantly evolving. Generally, that's a sign of a healthy, engaged community. As elected and appointed officials carry out their terms, they do so with the understanding that the horizon of the Township far outlasts their tenure. Having had the privilege of working with many boards and committees over the last nine years, I've become familiar with the values and competencies that make effective local leaders – fairness, honesty, compassion, and, perhaps most importantly, accountability. Truly accountable governance reaches well beyond the voting booth. Citizens expect, and rightfully so, that public policy, even when unpopular, align with community values and common goals. Moreover, as new officials take their seats, accountable governments ensure stability and continuity even in pursuit of new agendas and priorities. Comprehensive and community-driven strategic planning is the foundation of true accountability.

This is only the first step. Even the most comprehensive and well-crafted strategic plans do little more than collect dust if not worked into all operational and capital pursuits of government. There should not be a single program, policy, or initiative developed unless it can advance a goal in the Strategic Plan, as established by the Board of Supervisors and buoyed by public support. Ferguson Township is about to embark on a comprehensive update to its 2017 Strategic Plan. I challenge you all to participate in the development of this update; and, moreover, to continue to hold your local government accountable throughout its implementation. Stay tuned to our website, social media, and eNewsletter for more information on how you can participate. Thank you for making Ferguson Township a special place to live, work, study, and visit.

## Thanks for Participating in Centre Gives!

The Tom Tudek Memorial Park participated in Centre County's largest online giving event, Centre Gives. Hosted by the Centre Foundation, this 36-hour online giving event ran from May 11 at 9 am until May 12 at 9 pm.

Centre Gives received a record \$2.24 million in donations. Tudek Park more raised \$3,160 with over 40 donors!

Thank you to all the donors for helping the continued development of Tudek Park as a community asset.



## Get Involved in Your Community!

Ferguson Township offers opportunities for residents and others to help shape decisions that affect the community. Please visit our "Get Involved" page on our website to see upcoming opportunities to make a difference in your community.

**[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/residents/get-involved](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/residents/get-involved)**

# General Township News

## Important Information Regarding Trash Service

Advanced Disposal has been acquired by Waste Management. Here is what residents need to know:

- Residents' account number have changed. The new number is located on residents' invoice.
- If residents wish to sign up for autopay, they must set up a new online account with Waste Management at [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) (click on "login" to create an account).
- New customer service contacts are:
  - Call: 866-272-6861
  - Email: [wpacustomerservice@wm.com](mailto:wpacustomerservice@wm.com)



**Call or email the Centre Region Council of Government's Refuse and Recycling Program Administrator, Shelly Mato at 814-234-7198 or [recycler@crcog.net](mailto:recycler@crcog.net) if you have any questions.**

## Thanks for Celebrating Parks & Recreation Month with Ferguson Township!

Throughout the month of July, Ferguson Township celebrated Parks & Recreation month by highlighting our Township parks and hosting contests through our social media!

Our most popular contest was the "Where Am I?" photo contest. Each week a picture of one of our parks was posted on our social media for residents to guess what park it was taken in. We had over 50 entries and gave away 4 day passes to Welch Pool to our randomly selected winners. One of the pool passes was given away during our Tag Us! contest. Residents were invited to visit one of our parks, take a picture, and tag us on social media using the hashtag #FergusonParks.



Friday, July 16, was designated Parks & Recreation Professionals Day. The Director of Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR), Pam Salokangas, was featured in an interview as part of Ferguson Township's effort to promote park and Recreation Month in Ferguson Township. Ms. Salokangas shared CRPR's role with Ferguson Township parks and gave a shout out to the dedicated professionals and staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide the high-quality programs and infrastructure desired and expected in our parks. Visit our YouTube channel to watch!

This month was a way to celebrate the benefits that parks & recreation has on our community. Parks and recreation build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens. Our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors.

Tune in July 2022 to learn about the events and contests happening next year to acknowledge the importance of parks and recreation.



# Administration News

## New Board of Supervisor Member Sworn In

During their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 7, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors appointed Pam Steckler to the recently vacant Ward II Board of Supervisor position.

Former Board Member Prasenjit Mitra had to resign his position due to no longer living in Ferguson Township. The Board had thirty days from the effective date of the resignation, August 2, to appoint a qualified individual as provided in Article II of the Home Rule Charter to fill the seat until the next municipal election. The Board of Supervisors conducted interviews for potential applicants during a Special Meeting and selected Ms. Steckler to fill the position, which she will serve until December 31, 2021.



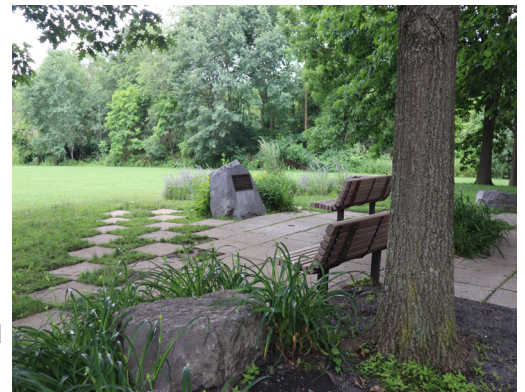
Per the PA Election Code, Centre County will notify the political parties and request a nominee from each to face off in the November General Election (Section 979). This means that this year's election will include two vacant At-Large seats, and one vacant Ward seat. The winner of the Ward vacancy will serve the remainder of Mr. Mitra's unexpired term (two years) and will then be eligible to seek re-election to serve for an additional full term.

Ferguson Township greatly appreciates Ms. Steckler for filling the Board's vacancy.

## Recreation, Parks & Open Space Plan Update

During their regular meeting on July 19, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors awarded a contract to consulting firm Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) to update the Ferguson Township Recreation, Parks, and Open Space (RPOS) Plan.

The RPOS Plan provides a long-term outlook and vision for Ferguson Township parks, recreation facilities, and open space. The update will drive near-term and long-range planning, ensure Township parks provide recreational opportunities for all members of our community, direct decision-making, and resources toward a defined vision for the future. The Township's RPOS Plan was last updated in 2009.



The Parks and Recreation Committee held a kick-off meeting with staff, Committee members, Nichole Mendinsky, HRG Project Manager, and her team. The group discussed and reviewed project scope, proposed schedule, goals for the plan, and public engagement process.

The public is invited to attend Parks and Recreation Committee upcoming meetings to receive updates and get involved on the master planning process for RPOS Plan Update.

**Visit the Ferguson Township Recreation, Parks, and Open Space (RPOS) Plan project page:  
Home » Community » Residents » Play » Ferguson Township Parks**



# Administration News

## Homestead Park New Playground Equipment

There is a new place for kids to play coming to Homestead Park!

In the open space area of Homestead, located in the northern side of the park, behind the Yorkshire Circle cul-de-sac, new playground equipment will be installed as detailed in the Homestead Park Master Plan.

In collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Committee, Ferguson Township staff reviewed feedback from residents living near Homestead Park for consideration on playground equipment options. Staff anticipates playground equipment will be installed by the end of 2021. Subscribe to the Ferguson Township e-newsletter for updates on this project.



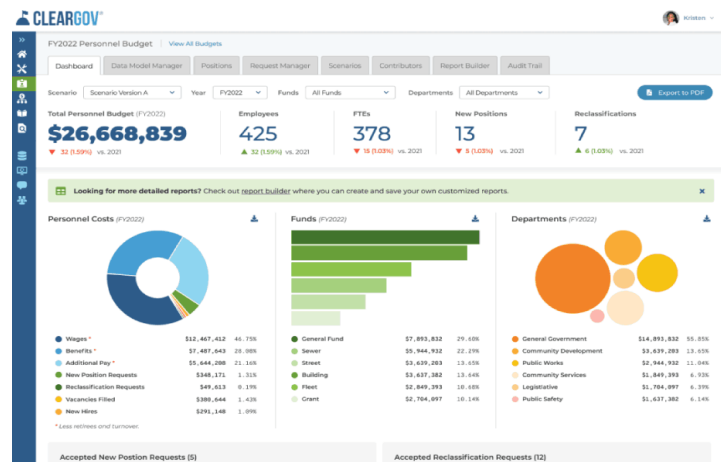
For questions about this project, please contact Centrice Martin, Assistant Township Manager at [cmartin@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:cmartin@twp.ferguson.pa.us) or 814-238-4651.

## Finance & Tax News

### Ferguson Township Implementing ClearGov's Digital Budget Book

Ferguson Township is making its budgets more accessible and easier to view online. ClearGov's Digital Budget Book software will be used by Ferguson Township. This software will allow residents to view the Township's Annual Budget not as a static PDF but as an interactive document. With improved visuals, mobile & ADA optimization, looking at the budget to view the Township's individual funds and budgeting trends has never been easier.

Finance staff have been working diligently to implement this new technology. It will be available for residents to use in the coming months.



To learn more visit [cleargov.com](https://cleargov.com) or contact Finance Director, Eric Endresen at [eeendresen@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:eeendresen@twp.ferguson.pa.us) or 814-238-4651.

# Finance & Tax News

## 2021 Tax Rates & Information

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

## 2022 - 2026 Capital Improvement Plan Adopted!

The 2022 - 2026 Capital Improvement Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors during their September 7 regular meeting.

The Ferguson Township's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) outlines plans for capital expenses of \$2,500 or more with a life span of more than one year, including such projects as buildings, roads, and the purchase of major equipment and vehicles.



Some exciting projects highlighted in the CIP are the Playground Safety and Contingency Program; the Saybrook/Greenbriar Park Master Plan; the Pollution Reduction Plan; and Park Hills Drainageway;

Next up for the Finance Department is the Operating Budget. The Operating Budget is a one-year look at the future and is an official budget for the Township. Departments will provide their budgets by the end of October to be reviewed by the Township Manager and Finance Director. The Board of Supervisors will review in the middle of November during Special Meetings. The Budget will then be adopted in December.

**View the Capital Improvement Plan by visiting our website: [Government » Finance & Tax » Capital Improvement Plan](#)**

# Planning & Zoning News

## Apply for a Short Term Rental Today!

With Football season just around the corner, there is no better time to get your property set up for a short-term rentals with a permit!

Here in Ferguson Township, property owners are permitted to operate short-term rentals with some restrictions. The regulations are intended to balance the economic opportunity created by Short Term Rentals with the need to maintain the Township's housing supply and protect the right and safety of owners, guests and neighbors.



By permitting this type of use, the Township's goal is to balance the economic opportunity created by Short Term Rentals with the need to maintain the Township's housing supply and protect the rights and safety of owners, guests and neighbors. The short-term rental must provide one off-street parking space per bedroom available for rental. It is important to remember that short-term rentals are subject to enforcement of the Township's noise, nuisance and property maintenance related ordinances.

Ferguson Township requires a permit prior to operating a Short Term Rental and a one time fee of \$25 with the submitted application. Application packets can be found on our website in the Planning & Zoning Department under "Applications, Forms, & Permits". Please contact the Zoning Administrator in the Planning and Zoning Department at (814) 238-4651 to obtain a permit.



# Planning & Zoning News

## Sign Ordinance: Political Signs

November is around the corner and with that local Municipal Elections! Residents will soon be displaying signs on their properties supporting their favorite candidate.

Under the Ferguson Township's Sign & Billboard Ordinance, Political Signs are considered "personal expression signs" which are permitted in the Township and don't require a sign permit. Residential lots may have up to three temporary signs in the yard.

Signs are prohibited in the Township's Right-of-Way, the area between the sidewalk and street. Alternatively, if there is no sidewalk, it is typically the area between the utility poles and the street.



**If you have any questions, please contact the Township's Ordinance Officer at (814) 238-4651, extension 3737, or send an email to: [ordinance@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:ordinance@twp.ferguson.pa.us).**

# Police News

## Protect Yourself From Scams

Phone and cyber crimes have been on the rise in recent years, especially social security and unemployment scams. The Ferguson Township Police Department has received multiple calls from residents regarding scams with gift cards. Here are a couple of tips from our Police Department to better protect yourself:

- Do not pay anyone in gift cards such as iTunes cards;
- Think twice before paying someone over the internet;
- Do not answer calls from unknown numbers or hang up immediately;
- If a government agency or company calls and asks for personal information, tell them you'll contact them on your own (Use the customer service number listed on their website or bill). Do not use the number provided by the caller.
- If you have elderly family or friends, talk to them about common scams and teach them to protect themselves.
- NEVER give out personally identifiable information (PII) such as account numbers, social security numbers, email addresses, or driver's license numbers.



**If you believe you have been targeted by a scammer, please contact the Ferguson Township Police Department at (814) 238-4651 or [police@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:police@twp.ferguson.pa.us)**

# Police News

## School Bus Stopping Law

The State College Area School District is back in session as of Tuesday, August 24th and the local police departments of the Centre Region would like to remind residents of the traffic laws for school buses.

More buses will be on the roadway this year than last, so please do your part to keep our students safe. If you are ever uncertain what to do when you see flashing yellow or red light, safely come to a stop.

In Pennsylvania, it is illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and stop arm is extended. Motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop arm extended. Offenders will face a \$250 fine, 5 points on their driving record, and a 60-day license suspension.

Each School bus in State College Area School Districts is equipped with cameras to ensure the safety of its children. Any violations will be recorded and sent to the police for prosecution. Here are a couple of rules to follow developed by PennDOT:



Learn more about this law at [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov)

## Lock Your Doors: Car Break-ins in Ferguson Township

The Ferguson Township Police Department has had numerous thefts from unlocked cars reported. Items that were stolen from the various vehicles include laptops, purses, and handguns.

As a reminder, we ask residents to never leave items inside your car that can be observed from the outside. We also remind residents to lock your vehicle each time you leave it unattended and try to park your vehicle in a well-lit area. While we live in a safe community, installing surveillance cameras on your property can offer an additional layer of security.



**If you are the victim of a break-in, please contact the Police as soon as possible.**

# Public Works News

## Celebrating the Crew: National Public Works Week

May 16 to May 22, 2021 was National Public Works Week. This national week exists to celebrate the men and women across the country who provide and maintain our infrastructure. The services our Public Works crew provide are essential to keep our community running. Here in the Township, Public Works is responsible for Brush & Leaf Collection, capital improvements projects, fixing roads, & stormwater management.



Throughout the week, Ferguson Township highlighted the public works crew by posting short clips on social media of them working around the Township and talking about what their job means to them. Please visit our social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube) to watch!

Thank you to all of our Public Works crew who make daily life here in Ferguson Township possible!

## Stormwater Credits & Exemptions Due September 30

The Ferguson Township Stormwater Fee will be applied on property owners' tax bills in spring of 2022. As part of the Stormwater Management Utility Ordinance, property owners are encouraged to review credits and exemptions that are available to reduce their stormwater utility bills.



The Agricultural Properties Partial Exemption Policy allows properties that meet the definition of "agricultural use" & have less than 30 percent impervious coverage to apply for a partial exemption. This exemption limits the maximum fee assessed to twice the median assessment fee imposed on all other properties in the Township. Each residence on the property is also assessed one Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU).

The Non Profit Exemption Policy provides a full (100%) exemption from the stormwater utility fee to an organization exempt from taxation, or would qualify from exemption from taxation under § 501(c)(3); § 50.1(c)(13); or § 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code and assessed an annual stormwater utility fee payment that equals or exceeds one percent (1%) of the organization's total (taxable or non taxable) annual revenue prior to deductions for applicable credits or exemptions.

The Economic Hardship Policy provides a full (100%) exemption to individuals and families who earn less than or equal to two hundred percent (200%) of the Federal poverty Income Level by household size as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services. A fifty percent (50%) exemption shall apply to individuals and families who earn less than or equal to two hundred and fifty percent (250%) of the Federal Poverty Income Level by household size as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Property owners can reduce their stormwater fee up to 40 percent by applying for various credits as outlined in our Stormwater Credit Manual. Some of these include adopting an inlet, disconnected downspouts, & turf nutrient management.

To be considered eligible, property owners must apply by September 30th of each year and receive approval status for a partial/full exemption. Exemptions and credits are NOT automatically applied to any property and must be applied for every year. Credits will continue to renew annually subject to the credit feature being maintained and functional.

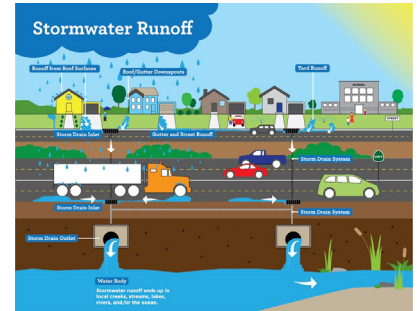
**Apply for credits & exemptions by visiting the 'Stormwater Fee' tab on our website's homepage or [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/public-works/pages/stormwater-credit-exemption-forms](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/public-works/pages/stormwater-credit-exemption-forms)**



# Public Works News

## Protecting Our Water Quality

Do you know where your stormwater goes? When it rains, pollutants from pet waste, cars, and lawns can find their way into our streams and groundwater through stormwater runoff. You can help protect our streams and groundwater by minimizing these pollutants. Since 2003, Ferguson Township has been required to participate in a Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated program for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4).



The purpose of this program is to control the inflow of pollutants into the Township's storm sewers and drainage ditches. Products such as oil, antifreeze, detergents, litter, animal wastes, fertilizer, pesticides and sediment from erosion can be washed into the storm drain system during rain storms or by melting snow. Eventually this untreated storm water flows into our streams and aquifers and can impact water quality.

The MS4 program contains six measures designed to reduce these "nonpoint sources" of water pollution. Two of these measures include public education and public participation. It is important that all of us recognize our role in protecting the environment. Steps you can take to help protect water quality include:

- Never dump automotive waste materials or used household products into a storm drain, anywhere on the ground or in a basement sump pump. Report any other similar activities that you observe.
- Always use household and lawn care products in accordance with instructions and dispose of excess material properly.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash or in a manner that wash water drains into lawn areas to be filtered into the ground and not onto the street.
- Avoid long term exposure of uncovered soil stockpiles, establish vegetation to prevent erosion.
- Clean up pet waste and dispose in a method that will prevent introduction into storm sewers and ditches.

The Township continues to implement the other programs related to; monitoring for illicit discharges, inspecting stormwater facilities, monitoring construction activities, and implementing good housekeeping practices.

**For additional information online visit our website: Government » Public Works » Stormwater Management, or visit [MS4Partners.org](http://MS4Partners.org). You can also contact the Township at 814-238-4651, or by email at [pw@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:pw@twp.ferguson.pa.us).**

## 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](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/home/pages/stay-informed)

Township of Ferguson  
3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA 16801



PRSR STD  
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State College, PA  
Permit No. 21

## Community Partners

### Centre Region Council of Governments

Phone: (814) 234-7198

[www.crcog.net](http://www.crcog.net)

### Centre Region Parks & Recreation

Phone: (814) 231-3071

[www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org)

### Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority

Phone: (814) 238-7005

[www.centrecountyrecycles.org](http://www.centrecountyrecycles.org)

### Centre Regional Planning Agency

Phone: (814) 231-3050

[www.crcog.net/planning](http://www.crcog.net/planning)

### Centre Region Code Agency

Phone: (814) 231-3056

[www.crcog.net/codes](http://www.crcog.net/codes)

### Alpha Fire Company

Phone: (814) 237-4127

[www.alphafire.com](http://www.alphafire.com)

### Centre Region Emergency Management Office

Phone: (814) 235-7838

[www.crcog.net/em](http://www.crcog.net/em)

### Schlow Centre Region Library

Phone: (814) 237-6236

[www.schlowlibrary.org](http://www.schlowlibrary.org)

## 2021 Brush Schedule

April 5  
April 19  
May 3  
June 7  
July 5  
August 2  
September 6  
October 4  
November 1  
December 6

## 2021 Leaf Schedule

April 5  
May 3  
June 7  
July 5  
August 2  
September 6  
October 4  
October 18  
November 1 - **continuously every working day until hampered by winter weather and winter operations or until December 15, whichever comes first**

## 2021 Trash & Recycling Schedule

**Thanksgiving Day - November 25: Collection will be delayed one day Thursday & Friday.**

**There will be no change in collection for Christmas or New Year's Days.**

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

**Spring Bulk Waste Week: May 10—14**

**Fall Bulk Waste Week: October 18—22**



Township of

**FERGUSON**  
Pennsylvania

Phone: (814) 238-4651

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