



January 2023 e-Newsletter

2023 Meeting Schedules, Coffee & Conversation,
Q&A with Chief of Police, and More!



Authorities, Boards & Commissions Meeting Schedules for 2023

Board of Supervisors

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00pm.

Board of Supervisors Worksessions

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:15pm.

Planning Commission

Meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:00pm.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4:00pm.

Tree Commission

Meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30pm.

Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Committee

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 4:00pm.

Zoning Hearing Board

Ferguson Township Upcoming Events

January 21

Coffee & Conversation

January 23

**Planning Commission Regular
Meeting**

January 26

**Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan
Advisory Committee**

Organizational/Regular Meeting

February 7

**Board of Supervisors Regular
Meeting**

February 8

**Board of Supervisors
Worksession**

February 9

Parks & Recreation Committee

February 13

Meets only if there are items to discuss. All meetings will be advertised ahead of time in the *Centre Daily Times*. (in-person format)

** The above is a list of typical meeting schedules. Please check the [calendar](#) on the Ferguson Township website for precise dates and times, as some meetings do not follow the typical schedule.*

Follow us on social media:



[Planning Commission Regular Meeting](#)

[February 20](#)

[Presidents' Day \(Offices Closed\)](#)

[February 21](#)

[Tree Commission Regular Meeting](#)

[Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting](#)

[February 23](#)

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

[February 27](#)

[Planning Commission Regular Meeting](#)

Administration News

Coffee & Conversation

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Saturday, January 21, 2023
8:00am-9:30am

Baileyville Community Hall
210 Deibler Road
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865

 **FERGUSON**
Pennsylvania

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. Township Manager, Centrice Martin, as well as Chief of Police, John Petrick, will be in attendance among other representatives of the Township.

Join us **Saturday, January 21, 2023**, from **8:00am-9:30am** at the historic Baileyville Community Hall, located at **210 Deibler Road, Pennsylvania Furnace**.

There is no need to RSVP for this event.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Events This Month

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- January 1 New Year's Day
- January 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 16 Religious Freedom Day
- January 22 Lunar New Year
- January 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Lunar New Year Proclamation

We are pleased to announce that at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on January 17, 2023, the Board passed a proclamation to officially recognize Lunar New Year.

If you would you like to present an item for discussion during the DEI portion of the agenda at an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting, please fill out our [DEI Proposal Form](#).



LUNAR NEW YEAR PROCLAMATION



On January 11, Ferguson Township recognized National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Over 27.6 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking.

Visit the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services [Office on Trafficking in](#)



48th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King JR Memorial Banquet - A Testament of Hope

Ferguson Township was honored to be represented at the 48th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Banquet which was held on Sunday, January 15, at the Bryce Jordan Center.

Board of Supervisors Chair, Lisa Stickland, Planning Commission Member, Shannon



Ferguson Township recognized Religious Freedom Day on January 16.

Persons website to read more about what human trafficking is, how to spot it, and to learn what you can do to prevent and stop it.

Holliday, and Township Manager, Centrice Martin were in attendance.

Board Supervisors Take on New Roles in the New Year

The Board of Supervisors Organizational Meeting took place on January 3, 2023. The Board voted for Ms. Lisa Strickland to be the Chair of the Board of Supervisors for 2023.

Additionally, the Board voted for Ms. Patricia Stephens to be the Vice Chair.



Accepting Applications for CATA and C-NET Board of Directors

Ferguson Township is accepting applications to fill the following volunteer roles:

- C-NET Representative
- CATA Representative

The application period will be open until February 13, 2023.

C-NET is the Government and Educational Access Network for Centre County. The duties of the Board include approval of the annual budget and capital purchase plan, review of several policies each year, and the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director. The C-NET Board of Directors meets quarterly.

The Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) provides public transportation for Ferguson Township residents via Centre Line and The Loop. The CATA Board of Directors is responsible for determining transit policy, preparing operating budgets, approving routes, scheduling, setting and adopting fees, and supervising staff operations. Ferguson Township's CATA Representative serves on the Board for a five-year term. The CATA Board of Directors meets monthly.

Interested applicants should fill out an [application](#) and apply by email to admin@twp.ferguson.pa.us or by mail to:

Township Manager
Ferguson Township Municipal Building
3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801

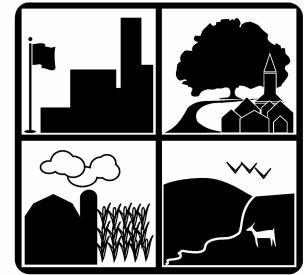


CURRENT VACANCIES

Welcome Authorities, Boards and Commissions Representatives

We would like to extend a warm welcome and show of appreciation to the following representatives who have taken on new roles or have been reappointed to continue to serve on one of Ferguson Township's Authorities, Boards and Commissions (ABCs).

- Mr. Jerry Binney - Planning Commission
- Ms. Lewis Steinberg - Planning Commission
- Ms. Jennifer Eccleston - Planning Commission Alternate
- Ms. Stephanie Rocco - Zoning Hearing Board Alternate
- Mr. Ford Stryker - State College Borough Water Authority Board
- Mr. Marc McDill - Tree Commission
- Mr. Scott Pflumm - Tree Commission
- Mr. Doug Miller - Parks & Recreation Committee
- Mr. Dan Harner - Industrial & Commercial Development Authority
- Ms. Lisa Rittenhouse - Industrial & Commercial Development Authority



[ABC Homepage](#)

Regional & Community News

2023 Refuse Collection Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Centre Region Council of Governments is conducting a 2023 Refuse and Recycling Customer Satisfaction Survey.

As the contract administrator, the COG Regional Refuse & Recycling Program is responsible for monitoring customer satisfaction and gathering feedback on potential changes to the refuse and recycling collection contract. Your participation in the survey will help to identify possible improvements and priorities going forward.

This survey is for Ferguson Township residents with weekly curbside refuse collection service.



[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Crisis Intervention Training Held at Ferguson Township

Local police and other first responders concluded the 22nd session of a specialized 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training program on Friday, January 13th.

Congratulations to Ferguson Township Officer Bryan Greene on his graduation from this week's CIT training.



[READ MORE](#)

Public Works News



THE TOWNSHIP TREEBUNE

Larry Maginnis, Township Arborist

Issue No. 8

Township Provides 24/7 Tree Emergency Response

With the arrival of winter storm season, the Township experiences an uptick in unpredictable tree failures. These failures are often hazardous and cause disruptions that need to be mitigated. Fortunately, the Township has a 24/7 tree emergency response protocol to ensure these tree emergencies are addressed in a timely manner.

A tree emergency can be defined as an imminent threat to public safety or infrastructure that is time sensitive. Trees blocking or threatening safe use of public rights-of-way including roads, bike lanes or sidewalks must be abated. Other tree hazards include partially failed trees or uprooting/leaning trees that threaten the roadway below. It is especially important that downed trees do not hinder access for emergency service vehicles.



The Township's Public Works Department is well trained and outfitted to respond to various types of tree emergencies. Once an emergency is reported, a team of responders is dispatched immediately and can mitigate the hazard in a very short time. All debris from Township owned trees is removed. If a private tree falls onto the right-of-way, Township staff will clear the roadway and remove debris within reason. The remaining debris will be neatly stacked on private property for the adjacent property owner to dispose of.

Please **do not approach a downed tree if utility wires are present.** For tree-related inquiries, please contact the Township Arborist at 814-238-4651 or arborist@twp.ferguson.pa.us.

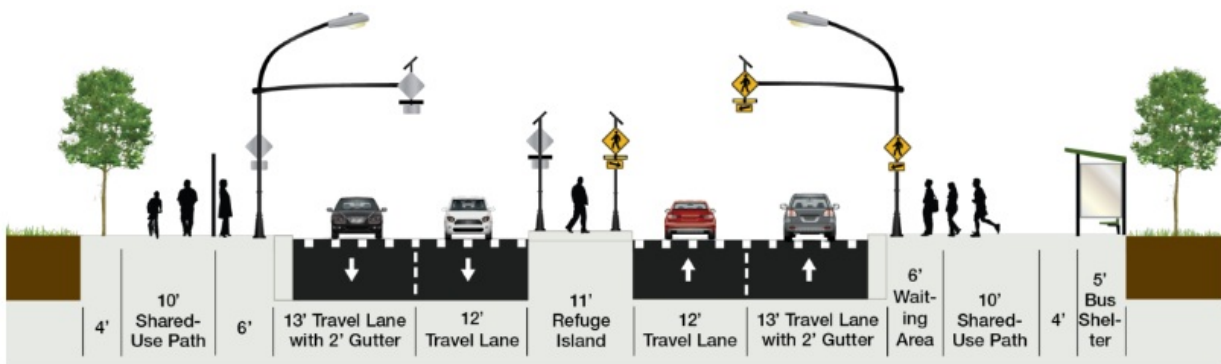
TREEBUNE ARCHIVE

Blue Course Drive Paving Project



As part of Ferguson Township’s **2023 Operating Budget**, the Township plans to resurface a portion of Blue Course Drive between Circleville Road and Martin Street and implement some mobility improvements that were recommended in the Northland Area Mobility Study that was completed in 2019. The design for these improvements will be completed in-house by Township staff for construction this summer. The street will not be closed during construction, but lane restrictions and delays can be expected.

The mobility improvements include constructing a median with a mid-block pedestrian crossing near the existing bus stop, as well as overhead lighting and a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) to warn motorists of pedestrian crossing activity. Coordination with CATA will occur regarding bus boarding area improvements to be implemented with this project. Further mobility improvements may be completed in future years as recommended in the mobility study as funding becomes available.



Blue Course Drive Mid-Block Crossing with overhead- and ground-mounted signs

Raindrops

- Pearls of Wisdom from a Stormwater Engineer -



The **previous article** in the *Raindrops* series reviewed the watersheds in Ferguson Township, our location at the headwaters of two of the Major Chesapeake Bay Sub Watersheds (Juniata and West Branch of the Susquehanna), as well as how impacts to headwaters are sometimes not as visible locally, as they are downstream in a watershed. Stormwater from Ferguson Township ultimately ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. Check out this **map of our local watersheds**.

On January, 5th, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) released the 2022 **State of The Bay Report**, which showed an unchanged score in 2022. Click the link below for more information.

[READ MORE](#)

Update on Terraced Streetscapes District Rewrite

Mackin Engineers & Consultants presented an update on the Terraced Streetscape District Rewrite at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

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. Mackin was hired by the Township for the Terraced Streetscape Ordinance Rewrite Project, and after holding public meetings and a design charette, their presentation at the January 17 Board meeting showcased multiple options for the redesign.

Click the link below to learn more about the redesign options and watch [the presentation](#) recorded by C-NET.

[READ MORE](#)

Public Hearing on Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance Amendment Request

At the Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting on January 3, 2023, the Board received a draft amendment to [Chapter 27, Zoning, Section 710—Wireless Communications Facilities](#).

The goal of the proposed amendment is to update the code to reflect technological advances since this ordinance was last amended in 2015 and to resolve digital disparities within the Township that COVID-19 exposed.



The Board tabled the amendment and requested additional information from staff that was presented at the January 17, 2023 meeting, after which, the Board authorized to hold a public hearing prior to giving consideration to the amendment of the ordinance. The public hearing will be held at the next Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

Reminder to Clear Snow on Sidewalks



Since the first snowstorm of the year, our Ordinance Officer has given out many citations due to residents failing to remove snow and ice from sidewalks. The Planning & Zoning Department would like to remind residents of Ferguson Township's Sidewalk [Snow Removal Ordinance](#).

From October to April, property owners are responsible for clearing the **full width** of the sidewalk along their property **within 24 hours** after snow or ice fall has stopped. This includes clearing dedicated paved streets within apartment complexes.

If there is a violation, the property will receive a written notice of warning. The violation must be corrected within 24 hours and failure to correct the violation will result in additional notices and appropriate fines. Continued offenses can lead to legal action.

2022 State of Planning Report



STATE OF PLANNING
ANNUAL REPORT
2022

At the January 17, 2023 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission Chair, Mr. Jerry Binney, presented the 2022 State of Planning Report.

View the information covered in the presentation:
[2022 State of Planning Report](#)

Police News



Q&A with Chief of Police, John Petrick

Ferguson Township Chief of Police, John Petrick, started his new role with the Police Department on January 3, 2023 and was officially sworn in on January 20, 2023.

In order to better get to know our new Chief of Police, we sat down and did a Q&A.

Click the link below to see what Chief Petrick has to say about his experience, initiatives, and goals for the Department.

[READ MORE](#)

Badge to Badge: Peer Trauma Support for Officers in Centre County

Badge to Badge of Centre County is a peer trauma support program spearheaded by Detective Brian Wakefield of Ferguson Township PD.

On January 11, 2023, Det. Wakefield was recognized by the Centre County Crisis Intervention Team for his efforts in the development and implementation of this important program.

[READ MORE](#)



Ferguson PD Welcomes Officer Will Daubenspeck to the Department

The Ferguson Township Police Department is pleased to welcome new recruit, Officer Will Daubenspeck.

Officer Daubenspeck was sworn in at Magisterial District Judge Casey McClain's office on Thursday, December 20, 2022.

[READ MORE](#)



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

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

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](#)

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[Active Development Proposals](#)

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[Ordinance Enforcement,
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