



October 2022 e-Newsletter

**Fall Bulk Waste Collection, New Staff,
Day of Caring, School Bus Safety, and More!**

Fall is in the Air in Ferguson Township



We want to see more beautiful trees around the Township. Share a photo of your favorite autumn tree on our social media or tag us!



Ferguson Township Upcoming Events

October 15

Coffee & Conversation

October 17

Tree Commission Meeting

October 18

Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

October 24

Planning Commission

Regular Meeting

October 27

Pine Grove Mills Small Area

Plan Advisory Committee

Meeting

November 1

Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

November 8

Board of Supervisors

Worksession

November 9

Fall 2022 Neighborhood

Association Open Forum

November 10

Parks & Recreation

Committee Regular Meeting

Administration News

Hispanic Heritage Month

During the Board of Supervisors Meeting on October 3, 2022, Ferguson Township issued a proclamation which officially acknowledges the period of September

15 to October 15, 2022 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

We would like to take this time to recognize the great contributions of the Hispanic community towards our country's development, economy, and cultural identity.

Read more about Hispanic Heritage month, why these dates were chosen to celebrate it, and [view the proclamation](#).



Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Being in a situation of abuse can be hard to talk about and seem impossible to escape, but please know that there are resources available and people eager to help you.

If you or a loved one is in an abusive situation, please call:
Ferguson Township Police 800-479-0050
or
Centre Safe 814-234-5050/877-234-5050.

[More information](#)

Coffee & Conversation

Join Ferguson Township staff for our last Coffee & Conversation of 2022!

Stop in, enjoy free coffee, and get to know Township staff. This is a great chance to voice concerns, raise questions, and share ideas to improve our community.

Saturday, October 15 8:00-9:30am

Dunkin' Donuts

1430 North Atherton Street, State College

There is no need to RSVP for this event.

[Event details](#)



Get Active in Your Township!

Would you like to get involved and take an active role in your community? Ferguson Township is looking for residents to fill a number of Authorities, Boards, and Commissions (ABC) posts.

Most openings will start in January 2023 and a few posts are currently vacant.

Apply by November 1, 2022.

Current and upcoming openings:

- Planning Commission
- Zoning & Hearing Board
- Tree Commission
- Parks & Recreation Committee
- Tax Review Board
- Industrial & Commercial Development Authority
- State College Borough Water Authority Representative
- C-Net Representative

Email an **Application Form** to admin@twp.ferguson.pa.us or mail to:
Township Manager

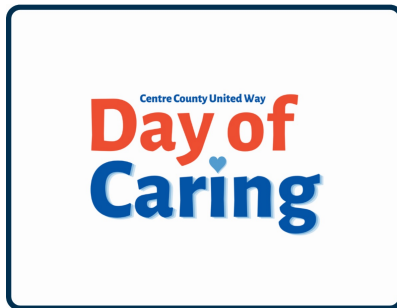
Ferguson Township
3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801



The graphic features the text "Get involved in YOUR COMMUNITY" in a stylized font, with "Get involved" in blue and "in YOUR COMMUNITY" in black. Below this, it says "Authorities, Boards & Commissions" in a smaller font, followed by "Vacancies" in a large, bold, black font. At the bottom, it includes the Ferguson Township logo and the text "Apply at: www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/residents/get-involved/pages/abc-vacancies". The graphic also contains four small icons: a factory, a tree, a person, and a landscape.

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Centre County United Way Day of Caring



The United Way Day of Caring is an event that takes place one day a year when volunteers take part in projects around the area to help people and non-profit agencies. Ferguson Township staff look forward each year to taking a break from the office, rolling up their sleeves, and helping Centre County United Way with community-based projects.

This year, the Day of Caring took place on Thursday, October 6. Two teams of Township staff rolled up their sleeves to help at two locations. Members of our road crew poured concrete

to create a new access ramp for **Strawberry Fields**. Strawberry Fields is an organization which provides comprehensive service and support for persons with disabilities and their families. Our second team of office staff painted an accent wall at the **Centre Region Active Adult Center**, a place for adults over 55 to socialize and take part in numerous activities and classes.



Our road crew team at Strawberry Fields

[View the slideshow](#)



Our office team at Centre Region Active Adults Center

[View the slideshow](#)

Regional & Community News + Events

Fall Bulk Waste Collection



Bulk waste collection for Ferguson Township residents will take place October 17-21 on your regular trash collection day.

This service is for residential customers of Waste Management only.

Follow the link below for more information and guidelines about what can and cannot be collected.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Halloween Trick or Treat

The Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) has set Halloween Trick or Treat for Monday, October 31 from 6-8pm.

Rain date: Tuesday, November 1

Ferguson Township Police will be patrolling neighborhoods during trick or treating to make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable evening.



Secure Drop Box for Vote-by-mail Ballots at Township Building



The General Election will take place on November 8, 2022.

If you wish to vote in the upcoming election but are not already registered, please be aware that the last day to register is Monday, October 24, 2022.

For Centre County voters who plan to vote-by-mail, there will be a secure ballot drop box located at the main doors of the Ferguson Township Municipal Building located at 3147 Research Drive, State

College, PA.

Vote-by mail ballots may be dropped in the secure drop box at the Township Building from 9:00am Tuesday, October 25 until 9:00am Monday, November 7.

Please note, if you plan to vote using an absentee or mail-in ballot in the upcoming election, your completed application must be received by the Centre County Elections Office by 5:00pm on November 1, 2022.

To register to vote, request a vote-by-mail ballot, or for other information about voting in the November 8 General Election, visit centrecountyvotes.com.

(Edited on 10/19/2022 to correct start date that ballots can be dropped in the secure drop box, as the original date provided by the Elections Office changed.)

Public Works News

New GIS Administrator - Corina Fernandez

We warmly welcome the newest member of our Public Works team - Corina Fernandez. Corina has taken on the role of GIS Administrator.

As a GIS administrator, she will support all Public Works Department projects and direct technical work. Among other duties, she will coordinate GIS activities, manage geospatial databases, analyze data, and design digital maps.

Her background includes experience in research, education, and management. She has a BSc in Agricultural Engineering and a MSc in Regional Planning, with over 15 years of experience working with a range of GIS applications.

Corina moved to State College in 2014, together with her family. She is an outdoors enthusiast and is truly excited to be part of the Ferguson community.





Oak Wilt Pruning Moratorium to Be Lifted November 1st

With fall finally arriving to the Centre Region, the Township will be lifting its oak pruning moratorium from November 1 through March 31. The moratorium is currently in place to minimize the spread of oak wilt.

Oak wilt is caused by a fungus that clogs the water and nutrient conducting system of oak trees. All oak trees are susceptible; however, mortality is more prevalent in red oaks. Once infected, an otherwise healthy tree rapidly drops its leaves during the summer months and dies while adjacent, non-infected trees, still have green leaves.

Over time, the disease can spread to nearby oak trees through root grafting or long distances by sap-feeding beetles that carry the fungal spores to new trees.

Fortunately, [Township Resolution 2016-32](#) provides Township staff with an aggressive management strategy to mitigate the spread of oak wilt within the growth boundary and outside the growth boundary within R1 and RR zones. Infected trees are removed immediately and all trees within a 150 foot radius are treated with fungicide to prevent the spread to surrounding trees. This service is provided at no cost to the property owners within the treatment area.

Residents with oak trees on their property are urged to remain vigilant and routinely look for signs of oak wilt. Early detection is key to minimize the spread. Ferguson Township experienced one confirmed case in 2022.

Please note:

- It is unlawful to prune oak trees from April 1 through October 31, when beetles that spread the fungus are active.
- It is unlawful for individuals who work on your trees to use tree climbing spikes at any time of year, except for the purpose of removing the tree.
- Climbing spikes can open up wounds that make it easier for beetles to spread the fungus.

For more information regarding oak wilt, please visit these useful links.

[Penn State Extension](#)
[Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)

If you have any questions regarding your street trees or suspect oak wilt, please call 814-238-4651 or email the Township Arborist arborist@twp.ferguson.pa.us.

Centre County has been added to the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine List. A Quarantine and Treatment Order is in place to help prevent the spread of Spotted Lanternfly in Pennsylvania. Please take the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the Spotted Lanternfly by reviewing this [Spotted Lanternfly Alert](#) from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

2023 Township Stormwater Fee Credit and Exemption Application Period Has Closed

The application period for credits and exemptions to be applied toward Stormwater Utility Fee bills for next year has closed.

We are now reviewing applications. Please note that if you have not received confirmation of approval, your application is still under review. The Township will contact you if any information or modifications are required.

Follow the link below for more information about the Stormwater Utility Fee.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Brush & Leaf Collection

It's time to do some lawn care before winter weather hits! Our crew will be around for an additional round of brush collection starting October 17.

Leaf collection will continue daily until December 12 or winter weather / winter operations being (whichever comes first).

Upcoming brush collection dates:

- November 7
- December 5



Please follow the guidelines at the link below to help our crew work efficiently and safely.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Raindrops

- Pearls of Wisdom from a Stormwater Engineer -



Welcome to Raindrops, a new section of the Newsletter where we will review stormwater and water resources-related topics in Ferguson Township.

This month's topic: Watersheds- more specifically, surface water watersheds in Ferguson Township.

Surface waters are any body of water above ground, including streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and reservoirs. Bodies of water may be:

- **ephemeral** (containing water only for short times or during rainfall events producing stormwater runoff)
- **intermittent** (containing water during seasonal daylighting of the water table)
- **perennial** (containing water year-round)

Ferguson Township's surface waters

Ferguson Township is located at the headwaters (the highest source) of two of the six major sub watersheds of the Susquehanna Basin/Chesapeake Bay- the Juniata River and West Branch of

the Susquehanna.

On the west side of the Township, surface waters drain to the Juniata River via smaller tributary streams including Beaver Branch, Halfmoon Creek, Warriors Mark Run as well as the main branch of Spruce Creek. Spruce Creek drains to the Little Juniata River which drains to the Juniata River. The eastern half of the Township drains to the West Branch of the Susquehanna via tributary streams including Slab Cabin, Big Hollow and Thompson Run – all of which drain to Spring Creek. Spring Creek drains to Bald Eagle Creek which drains to the West Branch of the Susquehanna.

Rainfall, absorbed into the ground and/or generating runoff from roofs, streets, driveways, lawns, farm fields and forest, provides the source for surface waters.

Downstream impact

Residents of Ferguson are lucky to live in the headwaters. For the most part, we don't experience any significant negative cumulative impacts on our water resources from upstream sources.

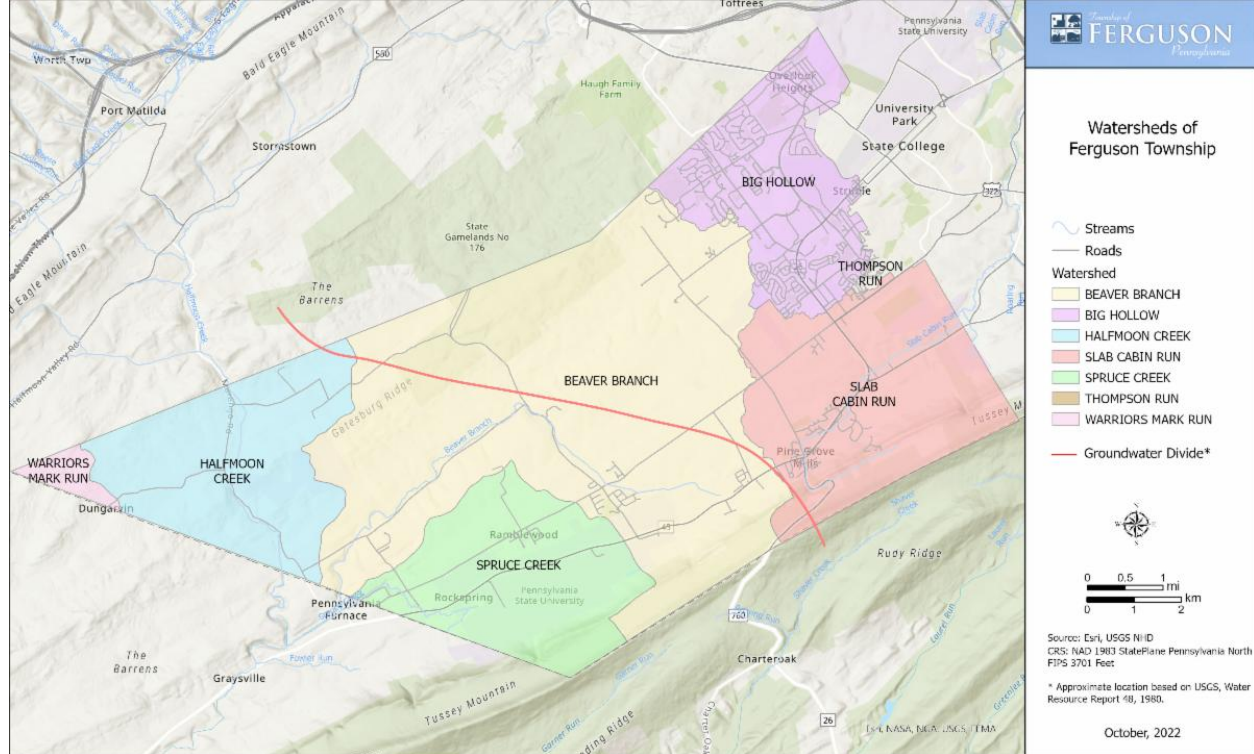
Folks who live downstream are impacted by upstream practices. As a resident, consider how source water, which is generated when rain falls on your property, may be impacted by your practices. Do you apply excessive fertilizers or herbicides to your property? Is your car leaking fluids? Do you blow leaves or grass into the street? Are you washing your car in a driveway connected to a storm drain system?

While these examples may seem minor on an individual level, the collective accumulation of such practices can have a significant negative impact on downstream surface water. If you have ever enjoyed walking down Spring Creek Canyon, fishing or floating on Spring or Spruce Creek, or boating on the Juniata or in Bald Eagle Lake, keep in mind that we are a part of those watersheds as you enjoy the beautiful world out there.

Find your watershed

Can you find which watershed you live in on the map below? Now find the red line (approximated based on WRR 48-1980) on the map. While the majority of Ferguson Township's surface waters drain toward the east end of the Township, groundwater on the northeast side of the red line flows to the Spring Creek Basin (contrary to surface flows). Where does your ground water drain to? Adding to this natural wonder, a significant portion of stormwater runoff does not make it to streams via surface flows, rather draining directly into local aquifers via Karst geology ("sinkholes"). More on Karst in the future!

[Click here to zoom in on the map.](#)



If you ever have any stormwater or watershed related questions or concerns, please contact the Ferguson Township [Stormwater Engineer](#).

Police News

New Ordinance Enforcement Officer - Fallecia Ehrmann

We would like to introduce you to Ferguson Township's new Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Fallecia Ehrmann. Officer Ehrmann was sworn in on Thursday, October 6, 2022.

As she gets settled in her new role, Officer Ehrmann will be working closely with residents, our Police Department, as well as the Township's Planning and Zoning Department.

Officer Ehrmann was born and raised right here in Ferguson Township. Her focus on family and safety are values that will benefit the Township greatly as she strives to keep the community secure and beautiful.



Officer Ehrmann with Ferguson Township Manager, Centrice Martin

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Donate Gift Cards for Local Families in Need



The holiday season is a time for family and showing each other how much we care. To make the holidays brighter for local families in need, we are collecting donations of \$25 gift cards to Giant, Weis, or Walmart which will be added to holiday care packages.

We will be accepting gift cards at the police station until November 2.

3147 Research Drive
State College, PA

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Operation Safe Stop



Tell your friends and family - stopping for school buses with flashing red lights is the law.

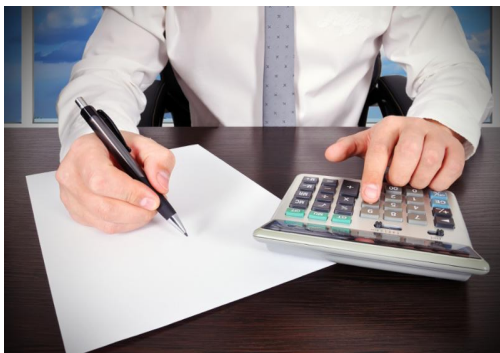
Passing a stopped bus puts children's lives at risk and results in hefty penalties for the driver, including five (5) points tacked on to your driving record, loss of your license, as well as fines.

Ferguson Township Police will be participating in Operation Safe Stop on October 19, as part of School Bus Safety Week. We will be out in the community at targeted bus stops to watch for bus red light violators.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Finance News

Upcoming Township 2023 Budget Review



The Township's budget for 2023 is currently being prepared. It will be reviewed by the Board twice in November and will then be made available to the public. There will be a public review session in December and the budget will be finalized before the end of the year.

The budget will be made available on Ferguson Township's website and updates on the times of the public review meeting will be posted on our site as well.

Planning & Zoning News

Signs, Signs Everywhere

As the General Election approaches, you may notice more and more signs appearing in yards promoting residents' favorite candidates.

While signs of personal expression are permitted, we would like to remind everyone where they can

and cannot be placed.

The space between the sidewalk and the street is the Township right-of-way. Signs may NOT be placed in this space. In areas with no sidewalk, this is generally the area between utility poles and the street.



Signs may be placed on the property owner's side of the grass with a limit of three (3) signs per residential property.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Take Our Poll

How do you prefer to stay informed about updates and happenings in Ferguson Township?

Social Media

Select

Check the Township's Website

Select

Print Newsletter

Select

e-Newsletter

Select

Pamphlets / Flyers Received in the Mail

Select

Emails from the Township

Select

[\[Ferguson Township Website\]](#) | [\[Contact Us\]](#)
[\[C-NET Recorded Meetings\]](#) | [\[Community Calendar\]](#)

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, &
Questions](#)

[Ordinance Enforcement,
Questions and Complaints](#)

[Stormwater Fee Study](#)

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