New Supervisor: Corey Gracie-Griffin

The Board of Supervisors appointed, and swore in, Mr. Corey Gracie-Griffin as the Township's new At-Large Supervisor on November 15, 2022.

Supervisor Gracie-Griffin has extensive experience in the fields of architecture as well as civil, structural, and environmental engineering.

He is the Associate Dean for Research and Engagement as well as an Associate Professor of Architecture at Penn State Altoona.

His own research focuses on how to make new and existing buildings healthier, more productive, and resilient while simultaneously reducing their impact on the planet.

New Chief of Police: John Petrick

On December 13, 2022, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors formally appointed John Petrick as the Chief of Police. Chief Petrick officially started in his new role on January 3, 2023.

Ferguson Township engaged in a national search to fill the position with professional firm, GovHR. Recruitment for the position began on July 20, 2022, 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 graduated with a degree in political science from New York University and graduated from the New York City Police Academy, Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy, and FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

He began his career in 1987 with the New York City Police Department where he served as an intern before becoming a police officer. As Patton Township Chief of Police, he oversaw his agency's accreditation by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and received convictions on two high-profile cases. He went on to work as Penn State Chief of Police Administration and, most recently, Chief of Police for Ephrata Borough, Pennsylvania.

Welcome the 2023 Board of Supervisors

At the annual Board of Supervisors Organizational Meeting on January 3, 2023, the Board voted for Ms. Lisa Strickland (At-large) to serve as Chair for 2023. The Board voted for Ms. Patricia Stephens to serve as Vice Chair. Ms. Stephens is a representative of Ward 3.

Other members of the Board include Ms. Laura Dininni (Ward 1), Mr. Jeremie Thompson (Ward 2), and Mr. Corey Gracie-Griffin (At-large).

Board Adopts Anti-Discrimination Ordinance
And Establishment of Regional Human Relations Commission

The Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors adopted an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance and the establishment of a Regional Human Relations Commission at the regular meeting on February 7, 2023.

The Anti-Discrimination ordinance is enacted to ensure that all persons enjoy the full benefits of citizenship and are afforded equal opportunities, unburdened by unjust discrimination, for housing, employment, and use of public accommodation regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, source of income, disability or handicap, presence of a service/assistance animal, pregnancy, marital or familial status or family responsibility.

The Regional Human Relations Commission will have jurisdiction to hear complaints brought before it under the terms and provisions of this Ordinance and the ordinance establishing the Commission enacted by the participating Municipalities.

Five Proclamations Adopted for the Month of May

At the regular meeting of the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors on April 4, 2023, the Board adopted five proclamations recognizing events and initiatives taking place in May this year.

- May 1-31: Bike Month
- May 7-13: Public Service Recognition Week
- May 15-21: National Police Week
- May 21-27: National Public Works Week
- May 21-27: Emergency Medical Services Week

Follow Ferguson Township on social media and check the Township's website at **www.twp.ferguson.pa.us** for related special events and stories.

Retirement of Finance Director, Eric Endresen

Ferguson Township extends congratulations and gratitude to recently retired Tax & Finance Director Eric Endresen. Endresen concluded 19 years of service for the Township on March 10, 2023. He requested not to have a gathering, but the Township presented him with a thank you card and gift card for his service.

Susquehanna Accounting and Consulting Solutions will provide interim financial management and leadership for the Township under the direction of Corey Troutman, Managing Shareholder, and Ed Zack, Senior Consultant. Recruitment for the Tax & Finance Director position began the week of March 13.

Township Commits to Purchasing 90% Solar Energy

On February 21, 2023, the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors made a commitment to the purchase of up to 90% of the Township's energy needs from solar power.

This commitment is part of the Solar Power Purchasing Agreement (SPPA), which is a commitment to invest in solar energy and will offer the Township economic, environmental, and social benefits.

What's the benefit?

- annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 310 MT (metric tons)
- equivalent to CO_2 emissions from 60.3 homes' electricity use for one year
- equivalent to carbon sequestered by 367 acres of U.S. forests in one year
- projected savings of $3,400 in the first year
- projected savings of between $50-$75,000 over the 15-year life of the project

In 2012, the Township adopted a Community and Environmental Bill of Rights which calls for the "Right to a Sustainable Energy Future. All residents in Ferguson Township possess a right to a sustainable energy future, which includes, but is not limited to, the development, production, and use of energy from renewable and sustainable fuel sources."

The Board of Supervisors went on to adopt a Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions Resolution on June 19, 2017. The Resolution calls for the Township to achieve net zero green house gas emissions by 2050. Ferguson Township's commitment to the SPPA brings the Township one step closer to these goals.

More information about the SPPA can be found at: www.crcog.net/sppa-project

Coffee and Conversation

Join Ferguson Township staff Friday, July 14, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Naked Egg Café located at 320 Pine Grove Road, State College for a chance to ask questions, share concerns, and discuss happenings in the Township.

Whom to Contact in an Environmental Emergency

If you notice anything out of the ordinary, such as gaseous smells or oily residue in streams or groundwater, please directly contact the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at
(570) 327-3636. The DEP will then communicate with the Township and Emergency Management Services.

For any emergency, you can dial 911 and the appropriate entity will be dispatched to assess the situation.

You can sign up for Centre County CodeRed for notifications of emergencies happening in the area sent directly to your phone. Visit centrecountypa.gov/2050/Emergency-Safety-Resources for more information.

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

New Admin Staff

Executive Assistant: Paula Brown

As the Executive Assistant, Paula supports the Township Manager. Her responsibilities include liaising with staff and stakeholders, preparing agendas for Board meetins, coordinating events, and Township correspondence. She was previously employed at Penn State for over 30 years in administrative roles.

GIS Administrator: Corina Fernandez

As Geographic Information System (GIS) Administrator, Corina supports the Township by coordinating GIS deliverables and managing geospatial databases. She has a BS in Agricultural Engineering and a MS in Regional Planning, with over 15 years of experience working with a range of GIS applications.

Township Implements Civic Clerk Software

Software Enables Transparency and Convenient Access to Public Records

Ferguson Township partnered with CivicPlus to implement its CivicClerk agenda and meeting management solution. Ferguson Township will use the software to streamline the automation of its agenda and meeting minutes management processes and enable convenient access by citizens to public records.

CIVICCLERK

CivicClerk also allows authority, board, and commission members to participate in live meetings remotely anywhere from any Internet-enabled device.

Citizens will also benefit from such conveniences as the ability to download PDFs of agendas, meeting minutes, agenda packets, and other documents, and have access to a dedicated citizen portal with email subscription capabilities.

Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan Approved

The Board of Supervisors approved the 2023 Recreation, Parks and Open Space (RPOS) Plan on February 21, 2023.

The Plan assesses the status of the Township's existing parks and recreational resources, offers a 10-year outlook for improvements and additional amenities, provides updated park Master Site Plans for Greenbriar-Saybrook Park and Fairbrook Park, plus identifies funding opportunities and priorities.

The 2023 RPOS Plan includes:

- the addition of walking and bicycle paths.
- upgrades and additions to playgrounds.
- more opportunities for passive recreation and outdoor/nature based activities.
- expanded recreation opportunities for families, teens, and people with disabilities.

Scan the QR to view the full 2023 RPOS Plan.

Master Plans Adopted for Two Local Parks

Greenbriar–Saybrook Park and Fairbrook Park

On March 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Greenbriar-Saybrook Park Master Plan. The Fairbrook Park Master Plan was adopted at the following Board meeting on March 21, 2023. The Plans serve as an overall blueprint for improvements and changes that will be prioritized for future work on the parks.

Greenbriar-Saybrook Park is located in a residential community at 1386 North Foxpointe Drive. Fairbrook Park is a 29-acre park located at 1210 Tadpole Road on the south side of Whitehall Road between Tadpole Road and the Fairbrook Subdivision.

Both Plans include provisions to make the parks more ADA accessible, add play equipment, exercise stations, bocce courts, landscaping, bike racks, and more!

The Fairbrook Park plan provides additional walking trails, site amenities and enhanced natural areas while maintaining existing sports facilities, including the baseball field.

New Public Works Staff

Road Crew: Wayne Warefield

Wayne is a Bellefonte native who joins the Public Works team with a background in large equipment operation. He previously worked for a building company for which he operated a boom truck. His responsibilities include road maintenance, winter operations, repair work, and more.

Road Crew: Dave Elders

Dave previously worked for Mt. Poconos Public Works for 17 years, and later as custodian at State College Area High School. Dave has served as a volunteer firefighter for 42 years and has volunteered since 1997 as a Santa for numerous organizations and causes, including Breakfast with Santa, churches, nursing homes, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Road Crew: Craig Anderson

Before joining Ferguson Township's Public Works Crew, Craig surveyed pipe systems throughout the United States, traveling to all but two states. On the road crew, his responsibilities include brush and leaf collection, road maintenance, operating large equipment, and much more.

Changes to Parking on Butz Street

Motorists on Butz Street should be aware of new parking restrictions which were made in an effort to ease traffic congestion and make the street safer.

The new regulations limit where and how long cars can be parked along the section of Butz Street between Calder Way and Grass Alley.

The Board of Supervisors authorized the Township Engineer to complete a parking study of the area in December of 2021. The study was completed in December of 2022, and the Board adopted the ordinance on January 17, 2023.

Blue Course Drive Paving Project

The Township plans to resurface a portion of Blue Course Drive between Circleville Road and Martin Street and improve drainage. 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 Township Treebune: Mulch Volcanoes

The incorporation of mulch can be a valuable tool in enhancing both the image of your landscape as well as the health of your plants and trees. It serves a variety of functions in that it retains moisture in the hot summer months, prevents weeds from establishing, and provides a buffer to protect trees from errant lawn mower and string trimmer damage. As an additional benefit, as the mulch breaks down, nutrients are introduced to the soil and help improve soil conditions.

Unfortunately, the over application of mulch can have adverse effects on trees in the long term. There is currently a landscape industry phenomenon of over mulching that is proving to be one of the largest human related threats to landscape trees. The over mulching often manifests itself in the shape of a mound or "volcano" around the trunk of the tree.

| Mulch Volcano | Girdling Roots Below Mulch | Properly Mulched Tree |

There are a number of ways mulch volcanoes can negatively impact trees. When soil is placed around the tree trunk, the tree will grow adventitious or girdling roots around the trunk. As the tree and roots grow, a strangling affect occurs and the tree can suffer a slow demise and affect the stability of the roots and tree. In addition, it causes decay of the inner bark tissue which is responsible for spreading nutrients throughout the tree, including its root system, ultimately impacting the tree's ability to feed itself.

Stressors weaken the trees and leave them vulnerable to other pathogens, such as insects or diseases. By eliminating over mulching, we decrease these stressors.

When mulching your trees, the conventional wisdom is to mulch outward not upward. For smaller trees, a rule of fours is commonly used. Apply it 4 inches thick, 4 inches away from the trunk, and 4 feet outward. For mature trees, it is also 4 inches thick, 4 inches away from the trunk, and as wide as possible.

If you employ a landscape maintenance contractor, strongly advise and educate them to ensure over mulching and mulch volcanoes do not occur, as there may be a financial benefit for them to over mulch.

Please do your part to ensure the long-term survival of your trees and landscape by identifying these shortfalls and addressing them. Please remember, it is unlawful to volcano mulch Township street trees.

If you have any questions regarding your street trees, contact Township Arborist Larry Maginnis arborist@twp.ferguson.pa.us or call 238-4651.

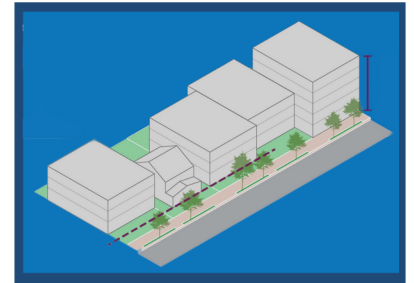## New Planning & Zoning Staff

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Fallecia Ehrmann

As Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Officer Ehrmann's duties include enforcing Township ordinances, as well as parking and zoning regulations. She is a graduate of South Hills School of Business and Technology's Criminal Justice Program, and has a background in public safety, including security at State College Area High School and acting as a special fire police officer for Boalsburg.

Terraced Streetscape District Rewrite Update

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 did not develop as envisioned.

Mackin Engineers & Consultants was hired by the Township to manage the zoning rewrite project. The first public input session was held August 31, 2022, followed by a design charette on October 11, 2022. The Board received an update presentation on January 17, 2023, based on input received thus far. The Township hosted a second public meeting on March 15, 2023, to provide an update to the public and move towards finalizing rewrite options.

New Parking Ticket and Permit Management System

On March 14, 2023, the Township's new mobile-friendly parking ticket and permit management system went live. The T2 System provides the Township with the tools and technology needed to manage parking and mobility, while its real-time citation data allows customers to pay for a ticket, view photos related to a citation and submit appeals from their mobile device. The Township will still accept payment in-person, by cash or check, at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building.

Scan the QR code or visit www.tocite.net/twpferguson/Portal to get a parking permit or pay a ticket.

Streets Requiring Permits

Rushcliffe Street, Beaver Avenue, Butz Street, Highland Alley, Corl Street, Hoy Street, and Osmond Street
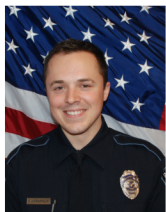
Who needs to register?

Both homeowners and tenants parking in the areas above need to register. Homeowners with parking permits are required to register their vehicles annually in the T2 System for free; tenants are required to register their vehicles annually for a fee of $15.

New Police Department Staff

Officer: Will Daubenspeck

Officer Will Daubenspeck joined the Ferguson Township Police Department in December 2022. He is a 2020 graduate of Penn State, as well as a graduate of the Municipal Police Academy located at Harrisburg Area Community College.

Prescription Drug Collection

Did you know that the Ferguson Township Police Department is a year-round prescription drug drop-off site? The site is part of a local law enforcement and community initiative to educate the general public about the current opioid addiction crisis and the potential for abuse of medications.

The Ferguson Township collection box provides a safe, convenient, responsible and confidential way to dispose of prescription drugs. Unused medications are accepted during regular business hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday.

Location: Ferguson Township Police Department
3147 Research Drive, State College

Lock Crime out of Your Home

Exterior Doors, Garage Doors, Sliding Glass Doors & Windows: Keep locked when you are leaving your residence. Do not give criminals easy access to your residence. Locked entries discourage most criminals. They will usually move on to an easy opportunity.

Security Cameras: Consider installing doorbell or other security cameras that provide real-time alerts to your mobile device. These cameras have been helpful in solving many crimes.

Environmental Design: Keep bushes and shrubs trimmed so criminals can't hide around your residence and have time to make entry.

Lighting: make certain that the exterior of your residence has sufficient lighting so that unwanted individuals can be easily seen. Install dusk to dawn lights and motion detector lights. Check regularly to make sure your outdoor lights are operational.

Alarm System: Consider installing an alarm system to notify police. An audible alarm should scare off most burglars. It will not only alert you, but neighbors as well.

Get to know your neighbors: Have them keep an "eye" on your residence when you are away and to report any suspicious activity to police.

2023 Tax Deadlines

With tax season upon us, our Finance & Tax Department would like to remind all of our residents of upcoming due dates.

Ferguson Township 2023 Real Estate Tax Important Dates

March 1 - Tax bills were mailed out. If you did not receive yours, contact tax@twp.ferguson.pa.us or call (814) 238-4651
April 30 - Last day to pay with a 2% discount
June 30 - Last day to pay face amount
December 31 - Last day to pay timely for the year, with a 10% penalty

State College Area School District 2023 Real Estate Tax Important Dates

July 1 - Tax bills will be mailed out
August 31 - Last day to pay with a discount
October 31 - Last day to pay at face amount
December 31 - Last day to pay timely for the year, with a penalty

Township's 2023 Operating Budget Approved

The Ferguson Township Operating Budget for fiscal year 2023, beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2023, was adopted at the Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting on December 13, 2022.

You can view the detailed Budget at:
www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/finance-tax/pages/2023-budget.

Stay Up-to-Date

There are lots of ways to stay connected and current on what's happening in Ferguson Township!

Visit us at www.twp.ferguson.pa.us or scan the QR code to sign up for email notifications on your preferred topics:

Constant Contact

Follow us on social media:

FergusonTwpPA

FergusonTwpPA

FergusonTownship

Township of Ferguson

Senator Langerholc Sets Up Ferguson Office Location

On December 1, 2022, the new senatorial district maps went into effect, making Senator Wayne Langerholc the representative of Ferguson Township in the 35th Senate District. Constituents can receive services Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Senator's Centre County office location, which is in Ferguson Township, at 341 Science Park Road, Suite 201, State College, PA 16803, or by calling 814-806-1197.

Senate district offices assist constituents with many services, including PennDOT registrations, status reports on legislation, birth certificate applications, property tax and rent rebate forms, notary applications, unemployment compensation questions, and more. Visit Senator Langerholc's website www.senatorlangerholc.com for more information about constituent services.

Spring Bulk Waste Collection

The rates paid by residential customers in the Regional Refuse and Recycling Program include a free bulk waste collection each spring and again in the fall. Spring bulk waste collection will take place May 22 through 26 on your regular collection day.

Please visit www.crcog.net/refuse for full guidelines, and call Waste Management if you are unsure whether your items are too large or heavy to be collected.

✓ Do:

- Put smaller items in a container, such as a trash bag or a can (leave a note on the can if you do not want it to be taken)
- Roll and tie up carpet
- Remove doors from appliances (limit to one of each kind of appliance)
- Place electronics separately from other items

✗ Don't:

- Leave items in a loose pile
- Place items in cardboard boxes
- Bag larger items
- Put out metal or wood items longer than four feet
- Put out items that are too large or heavy to be safely lifted by two workers

Regional Partners

Centre Region Council of Governments Phone: (814) 234-7198 www.crcog.net	**Centre Region Emergency Management** Phone: (814) 235-7838 www.crcog.net/em

Centre Region Code Agency Phone: (814) 231-3056 www.crcog.net/codes	**Centre Region Parks & Recreation** Phone: (814) 231-3071 www.crpr.org	**Centre Regional Planning Agency** Phone: (814) 231-3050 www.crcog.net/planning

Alpha Fire Company Phone: (814) 237-4127 www.alphafire.com	**Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority** Phone: (814) 238-7005 www.centrecountyrecycles.org	**Schlow Centre Region Library** Phone: (814) 237-6236 www.schlowlibrary.org

Township of Ferguson
3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801

Township of FERGUSON
Pennsylvania

Phone: (814) 238-4651
www.twp.ferguson.pa.us

2023 Brush & Leaf Collection Schedule

Place loose piles curbside by 7 a.m. at the start of each collection week.

Leaf Collection

April 3 & 17

May 1

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 5

October 2
(then daily until December 11 unless winter weather prevents collection)

Brush Collection

April 3 & 17

May 1

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 5

October 2 & 16

November 6

December 4*
(unless weather prevents collection)

2023 Refuse & Recycling Schedule

Holiday Delays

There will be no collection on the following holidays, with a one-day delay for the rest of that week:

May 29 - Memorial Day
July 4 - Independence Day
September 4 - Labor Day
November 23 - Thanksgiving Day
December 25 - Christmas Day

Collection begins at 6 a.m.
May 30 - September 1

Bulk Waste Collection
Spring: May 22-26
Fall: October 16-20

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event
April 28-29

Pre-register at www.centrecountyrecycles.org