

## THE FERGUSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER WWW.TWP.FERGUSON.PA.US

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2  
**Budget Executive  
Summary**

PAGE 3  
**The Township's  
Contribution to  
Schlow Library**

PAGE 4  
**Volunteer in  
Your Community**

PAGE 5  
**Special Brush and  
Leaf Collections**

PAGE 6  
**Stormwater**

PAGE 7  
**Ferguson Township  
Named One of PA's  
Safest Cities**

PAGE 8  
**Township Police  
Department Saves  
Money Using  
Alternative Fuel  
Vehicles**

PAGE 9  
**Township Receives  
Award from the  
Government Finance  
Officers Association of  
the United States  
and Canada**

PAGE 10  
**Bulk Waste Collection:  
May 19-23**

## Board of Supervisors News

A sincere thank you to **George Pytel** and **Bill Keough** for their long and dedicated service on the township Board of Supervisors. Both Mr. Pytel and Mr. Keough finished their terms at the end of 2013. As we thank Mr. Pytel and Mr. Keough, we also welcome two new members to the Board of Supervisors—**Steve Miller** and **Janet Whitaker**—who were elected by residents to serve our community. Mr. Miller previously served on the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board, and was chair of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission. He is currently the president of ClearWater Conservancy. Ms. Whitaker has served on the Science Park Recreation Pool board. She currently volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program and various church projects. Mr. Miller and Ms. Whitaker both have terms which expire December 31, 2018.



Pictured (l-r): **Steve Miller, Drew Clemson, Janet Whitaker, Dick Mascolo, and Elliott Killian**

## Coffee and Conversation Series: Our Next Event is Saturday, April 19th

The township is pleased to be continuing its Coffee and Conversation series in 2014! We held our first Coffee and Conversation of 2014 on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the historic Baileyville Community Hall (see our *Around the Township* piece on this community gem online at <http://goo.gl/s8yKQK>). At our January 18<sup>th</sup> event, 15 township residents came together to discuss multiple topics including water quality and service, road maintenance and traffic issues, the recently completed Whitehall Road construction project, citizen involvement and the upcoming township website redesign.

Now we invite you to join us for our next Coffee and Conversation event happening **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00–9:30 a.m.** at the café inside Giant Foods, 255 Northland Center. Join Mark Kunkle, Township Manager, and Dave Pribulka, Assistant Township Manager to discuss what's happening in our community.

Coffee and Conversation is an informal gathering between township personnel and residents... there is no agenda... just people coming together in the township to discuss what's working, and what's not working! We will have more Coffee and Conversation events this year and more details will be made available closer to the dates.

### TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS:

Dick Mascolo, Chairman  
Drew Clemson, Vice-Chairman  
Elliott Killian, Steve Miller, and Janet Whitaker

3147 Research Drive, State College, PA 16801  
814-238-4651 / Fax 814-238-3454  
[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
[info@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:info@twp.ferguson.pa.us)



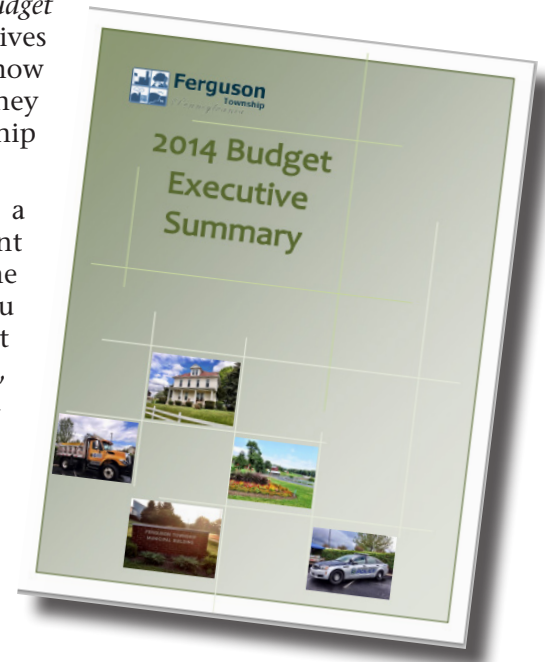
## Have Some Summer Projects Planned? You May Need a Permit.

If your summer plans include putting in a pool or deck, or repaving your driveway, please keep in mind those types of projects require a permit. Residents may visit us online at **[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)** or at the township municipal building, 3147 Research Drive, for more information on the proper paperwork. And now the township has new permitting software which makes it easier for residents to file paperwork and will soon allow applicants to check permit statuses online! Remember, permit application fees may apply and are due when the application is submitted.

## 2014 Budget Executive Summary

Ferguson Township created a new publication entitled *2014 Budget Executive Summary* which gives residents better insight into how the township receives its money plus how and why the township spends it.

Included in the *Summary* is a breakdown of costs-per-resident for the services provided by the township. For example, if you were ever wondering about what it costs for police services, the total 2014 *operating* and *capital* cost of Public Safety per resident is \$158.72! As of the latest census in 2010, Ferguson Township had 17,734 residents. The township encourages residents to read the *Summary* to better understand the township's finances. A copy of the *Summary* is found online at **<http://goo.gl/Lgl8Za>**.



## Our Community is Bike Friendly!

Residents are advised to be on the look-out for additional bicycle traffic on the roadways, including stretches on Whitehall Road where new bike lanes have been implemented as part of PennDOT's 2013 road construction. Our area is fortunate to be recognized as a bike friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists. To learn more about area's bike friendly initiative, please visit the Centre Region Council of Governments online at **<http://goo.gl/1uT8Jc>**.

And speaking of cycling, don't forget National Bike to Work Day is scheduled for **May 16<sup>th</sup>**!



## Receive Timely Township Information

Get timely information delivered right to your inbox with our township email newsletter offerings. Currently the township has several free email newsletters available to residents including Police News, Board of Supervisors Agenda notices, and Public Works News (Leaf, Brush, and Road Closures). In addition, we offer a monthly eNewsletter which serves as a supplement to the biannual print newsletter you are reading right now! To sign-up to receive these notices, simply visit us online at **[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)** and look for the "Notify Me" link on the home page.

## Website Redesign

The township's website is undergoing some 'spring cleaning' of its own right now. We are currently in the process of redesigning the township's website. We hope to provide residents with easier access to township information and services. We will launch our new website in 2014. Our website, **[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)**, and eNewsletter will have more information once our new site is ready to go!

### Ferguson Fact:

*Registering your bicycle is free and provides valuable information in the event your bicycle is ever stolen.*

**Residents may register their bicycle at the Police Department by visiting 3147 Research Drive.**



## Information for Dog Owners

With the warmer spring temperatures, more of our neighbors will be outside. If you are a dog owner and outside with your pet, please clean up after your dog's droppings. We appreciate resident cooperation in addressing this problem!

Also, if you have a dog, don't forget about the dog park at Tudek Park. While dogs may roam unleashed in the penned area, the township Police Department wants to remind residents that dogs need to be leashed going into the Park. Also, dog owners are reminded Tudek Park has two dog areas—one for little dogs and one for big dogs. Please consider your dog's safety and keep them in the proper part of the Park.

Further animal concerns can be addressed by contacting Denny Brown, Ordinance Enforcement Officer, at the township office by calling **238-4651**.

## State College Area School District High School Project: Referendum Set for May 20th

A State High project referendum is scheduled for May 20th. The referendum is a question on the ballot that asks the electorate to either accept or reject a particular proposal. Residents will have an opportunity to vote yes or no regarding whether the district will incur \$85 million in debt for the project. Remember even if you are not affiliated with any party you may still cast a vote on this referendum.

Residents may find out more about the project, by visiting **[www.scasd.org/Page/20967](http://www.scasd.org/Page/20967)**. SCASD's website also has a property tax estimator at **[www.scasd.org/domain/1943](http://www.scasd.org/domain/1943)** which presents information on the high school project and potential tax implications.

## 2014 Watershed Cleanup Day: April 26th

The 18th Annual Watershed Cleanup Day is happening **April 26th, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** Over the past 17 years, Watershed Cleanup Day volunteers have removed more than 2,855 tons of waste from local streams, roadways, sinkholes, and illegal dumpsites. To learn more or volunteer please contact Lori at **237-0400** or **[lori@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:lori@clearwaterconservancy.org)**.

## The Township's Contribution to Schlow Library

A question we sometimes field from residents is, ***"Why doesn't Ferguson Township contribute to Schlow Centre Region Library?"***

The answer: The township **DOES INDEED** contribute to Schlow Library!

So, why do some folks think the township doesn't contribute to Schlow?

Ferguson Township has elected not to participate in the Centre Region Council of Government's funding formula for Schlow Library, and that decision has made some believe the township doesn't contribute to the Library at all. However, Ferguson Township does have one representative on the Library's Board of Trustees and has continued to contribute money toward the operation of the library. The township's share is determined annually by the Board of Supervisors based on recommendations from Schlow and township staff. Factors that influence the township's share include the number of Ferguson Township residents useage of the library from the prior year, the amount of revenue the library receives from other sources, and other variables impacting the availability of township funds.

The following table outlines the township's contribution to Schlow Library:

Year	Township Contribution
2014	\$365,325
2013	\$339,096
2012	\$325,059
2011	\$318,685
2010	\$307,023

### Ferguson Fact:

***In 2014, the township will contribute \$365,325 (or \$20.85 per resident) to Schlow Centre Region Library.***

## Volunteer in Your Community

Ferguson Township has great residents who care about where they live. If you are a township resident who is interested in volunteering, we have a few possible outlets!

### **Authorities, Boards, and Commissions (ABCs)**

Residents looking to serve on groups which offer guidance and input on community matters may be interested in our ABCs. ABCs include groups such as Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Tax Review Board, and Centre Regional Parks and Recreation Representative, among many others. Residents interested in finding out more about ABC opportunities may do so online by visiting:

**<http://goo.gl/E6EFrs>**

### **Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-Median Programs**

Businesses, groups, or families interested in doing some outdoor work and helping to make our community more attractive may be interested in our Adopt-A-Road or Adopt-A-Median programs.

The township has several Adopt-A-Road options still available. Participants are recognized with a sign bearing their group's name which is placed at each end of the section of road they maintain. Participants are asked to commit to the program for 2 years and to clean their adopted road at least twice a year.

The Adopt-A-Median program is a new initiative from the township where participants are asked to keep a median area clean, attractive and well-kept. This



is volunteer endeavor which lets you and your group contribute to our community (and get outside for some fresh air!).

Please call Faye Drawl at **238-4651** or email at **[fdrawl@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:fdrawl@twp.ferguson.pa.us)** to join the Adopt-A-Median or Adopt-A-Road programs.

## Public Works Department News

### **Township Street Tree Replacement Program/Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update**

Saybrook and Foxpointe (Hunter's Chase) developments are scheduled to have neighborhood street trees removed and replaced this spring. The trees being removed are infected with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an insect that attacks any age and variety of ash tree and ultimately kills the infected tree. Symptoms can take 2-3 years to become visible with untreated trees dying 4-6 years after infestation. Unfortunately, treating infected trees is not considered a cost-effective option by the township as there is no cure for EAB.

Ferguson Township is responsible for approximately 600 ash trees (about 10% of the total 6,000 township street trees) located in right-of-way areas, generally in the space between roadways and sidewalks. Neighborhoods and streets hit particularly hard with EAB include Shellers Bend, Sylvanview, Hunter's Chase Foxpointe, Saratoga Drive, sections of Saybrook and Greenleaf Manor. Residents concerned about ash tree care on private property are encouraged to contact a local arborist to discuss treatment options and costs.



The work being done in Saybrook and Foxpointe (Hunter's Chase) is part of the township's overall EAB treatment plan. Other neighborhoods will also have infected trees removed and replaced over the next several years. In 2013 the township increased funding for street tree replacement to allow 150 trees per year to be replaced. At the current replacement rate, the township will need 3-4 more years for the EAB treatment plan. Dave Modricker, Public Works Director, is in consultation with an arborist and reviews infected areas annually to come up with the best treatment plan from year-to-year.

In order to offer the most economically beneficial solution when trees are to be planted, the township has budgeted for the new trees to measure 1 ½" to 2" in diameter. If a Home Owners Association (HOA) desires larger trees or different tree species than planned by the township, they may work with the township regarding a desired tree selection. HOAs should know, however, they will be responsible for the costs associated with upsizing any tree size.

Updated information on the township's EAB treatment plan will be posted online at our website (**[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)**) or in future editions of our print newsletter when available.

### **Ferguson Fact:**

*After nearly 30 years with the township, public works foreman Robert Tussey will retire later this year! From snowplow trucks to the wood chipper, Tussey has operated township vehicles and served all township residents at one point or another in his long career. We thank him for his many years of service and wish him well.*

## 2014 Public Works Projects

**Martin Street and Park Crest Lane Lighting**—Due to safety concerns expressed by residents and motorists, public works staff is researching scenarios and working with West Penn Power and CATA to make this area safer for pedestrians, especially those who use the nearby CATA bus stop, and motorists traveling the roadway.

**Road Paving Projects**—Staff is working on design of paving improvements for the following roads: Westerly Parkway, Vairo Boulevard, Marjorie Mae Street, Gateway Circle, Abby Place, Deepwood Drive, East Park Hills Avenue from Park Ave. to Circleville Road. Residents in those areas were sent a mailing and invited to an open house in March.

**Cold in Place Asphalt Recycling Projects**—A separate contract will be let to recycle some of the roads in advance of paving, specifically: Westerly Parkway, Vairo Boulevard, Marjorie Mae Street, Gateway Circle, Deepwood Drive. Staff is working on contract documents for the design.

**Rosemont Box Culvert and Selder's Circle Drainage Improvement Project**—Since 2013, township staff has been working on the permitting and design of improvements to the pipe system that conveys Slab Cabin Run through the Shadow Oaks Development. The current system is deteriorating and only conveys



the 2 year storm under Selder's Circle and the 10 year storm under Rosemont Drive. The planned system will convey the 25 year storm under Selder's Circle and the 100 year storm under Rosemont Drive. Staff is working with all utility providers on designing, scheduling, and cost sharing to allow this project to continue to construction in 2014.

**Fire Safety Training Trailer Storage Facility**—Staff has started planning and working on the preliminary design for this building to be located on Ferguson Township grounds and leased to the Centre Region Council of Governments.

## GRASS, BRUSH & LEAVES

### Township Grass Clipping Area

As a reminder to residents, in 2013 the township added its own grass clippings drop-off area located at the township municipal building, 3147 Research Drive. Once at the municipal building, residents should look for signs reading 'Grass Drop-Off.' Residents may drop off grass clippings from dawn-to-dusk, 7-days-a-week.

### Brush and Leaf Collections: *Times and Guidelines*

As a service to residents, monthly brush and leaf collection **begins on the first Monday of every month** and may take up to two weeks to have everything collected. Collections will begin the following day if Monday is a holiday. Brush and leaves must be curbside at 7:00 a.m. starting the first Monday of every month to be collected.

In order to help public works employees move more quickly through the collection process, it would help if residents adhered to the following guidelines. *Please also know township employees will not spend more than 15 minutes at any one location.*

#### **Brush Collection Guidelines:**

- Trees and limbs up to six inches in diameter and 15 feet in length will be collected.
- Brush should be visible. Place along the edge of the roadway or piled behind the curb but not blocking the sidewalk.
- Brush must have all ends facing in one direction.
- Mixed or twisted piles will not be collected.
- Roots, stumps, garden material will not be collected.
- Crews will not enter private property to collect brush.
- Brush will not be collected from lots being cleared for construction purposes.

#### **Leaf Collection Guidelines:**

- Leaves should be raked to the curb but not onto the street.
- Leaves should be kept in a separate pile from the brush. Different equipment is used to collect the leaves.
- Fence posts, boards and bricks should not be in the leaf pile. These things can damage the collection equipment.
- Do not bag the leaves.
- Ornamental grass and garden residue free of soil and rocks may be placed at the curb with your leaves

### **Save the Dates: Special Brush and Leaf Collections**

In addition to the monthly collections, the township will also have two special brush and leaf collections during 2014: **beginning April 21st** and **beginning October 20th.**



## Stormwater

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, 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 that can be



taken to 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.

- Always use household and lawn care products in accordance with instructions.

- Be conscious of what lies "downstream" when washing cars or applying lawn care products.
- 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 check [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us) and search for keyword "stormwater management", or contact the Township Engineer at **238-4651**, or by email at [rseybert@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:rseybert@twp.ferguson.pa.us).

## Mailboxes: Proper Placement Helps Ensure They Do Not Get Struck by Snow Plows

Residents are reminded the front face of the mailbox should be located one foot from the edge of the roadway pavement and the bottom of the box should be 42 inches to 48 inches above the road surface. There must be three feet of clear zone below the mailbox, measured from the road surface. This includes any attached newspaper receptacle. This allows room for the township plow truck to clear snow from the street without damaging your mailbox.

If a mailbox is hit by a plow, the township typically replaces it with a standard 4 inch by 4-inch wooden post and standard mailbox ***providing your mailbox originally met the township standards***. The township will not replace ornamental or decorative fixtures which many times extend into the clear zone.

Specific guidelines can be obtained from your local post office or by calling the township's Public Works Department at **238-4651, Dept 2**, or by e-mail at [pw@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:pw@twp.ferguson.pa.us).

## CONTACT US! We are here to help.

**WEBSITE:** [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
**EMAIL:** [fergusonpwweb@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:fergusonpwweb@twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
**TELEPHONE:** 814-238-4651  
**ADDRESS:** Ferguson Township Public Works Department  
3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA 16801

## Microsurfacing

As part of Ferguson Township's roadway maintenance program, each year a number of streets are selected for a process called microsurfacing. This year, the following streets are slated for treatment:

**Holly Circle**

**Wells Terrace**

**McClary Court East**

**McClary Court West**

**Chownings Court**

**Herman Drive**

**Deerfield Drive**

**Bristol Avenue west of Saratoga Drive**

**Gatesburg Road from Tadpole Road (to a point 1.9 miles west)**

Residents on those streets will also receive a notice via mail. Microsurfacing is a cold-mix paving prevention technique that has been used annually by Ferguson Township on residential roads for almost 20 years. If a resident lives on a road scheduled for microsurfacing, they will receive a notice via mail. For more information on microsurfacing, visit our website at [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us), the "Public Works" then "Microsurfacing."

# Police Department News

## Ferguson Township Named One of Pennsylvania's 50 Safest Cities

Ferguson Township was recently named one of Pennsylvania's 50 safest cities by SafeWise, an online resource which provides reviews of safety and security products. SafeWise used independent research, including the most recent FBI Crime Report information, for their list. Ferguson Township ranked 38<sup>th</sup> on the SafeWise ranking and is the only municipality in Centre County to make the list!



SafeWise wrote of the township: "Boasting approximately 50,000 acres of mostly undeveloped land area, Ferguson Township is one of the best places in the state to find your own little piece of Heaven on Earth. The rural landscape and calm pace of life keep Ferguson residents fiercely protective of their land and each other. The township reported a surprisingly low number of violent crimes for a town with close to 20,000 residents. With a strong police force of over 20 sworn officers, Ferguson takes the safety and security of its citizens seriously."

## April 26th: National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at Walmart

Ferguson Township police and Patton Township police will join together for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. On **April 26, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**, law enforcement personnel will be at the Walmart Pharmacy, 1665 N Atherton St., to provide a convenient and safe way of disposing of unwanted and unused prescription medications. All individuals turning in medications will remain anonymous.

The event will also help educate the public regarding the potential for prescription medication abuse and problems which can arise from having unused prescription medications available.

## Parking: Keep Children Safe with These Tips

When you leave your child in a vehicle, whether it's locked or not, you are endangering the child in many ways. The Ferguson Township Police would like to remind you that leaving a child under the age of six in a vehicle that is out of sight of the driver is illegal. Additionally, parking, stopping or standing vehicles in a fire lane is illegal not only because of the fire hazard but because it obstructs the view of other vehicles to children entering the parking lot. So please help keep the children of our community safe by parking in a parking stall and taking your children with you.

## Centre County Alcohol Task Force and Blue-White Weekend

Penn State's Blue-White weekend is happening **April 11-13** and the Centre County Alcohol Task Force will be conducting extra patrols! Officers from Ferguson, Patton and Spring Township Police will participate in these alcohol details. Proactive enforcement will continue to be conducted all year in an aggressive effort to reduce alcohol, and alcohol/drug related crimes in our community. Have fun, but be smart and safe—don't drink and drive!

## Township Police Officer Receives International Award

Officer Travis Park was the recipient of the CIT Inter-



national Officer of the Year Award at the organization's annual conference last fall. Officer Park, a seven year veteran of the township police department, is the first Pennsylvania officer to receive a CIT International Award.

CIT International is a non-profit membership organization which strives to develop crisis intervention team programs throughout the United States and abroad. CIT International's membership is comprised of law enforcement personnel, mental health providers and advocates working to improve how citizens are served in crisis situations.

With the Officer of the Year Award, Officer Park was recognized for his ongoing training, promotion, and work of CIT not only in Ferguson Township, but in Centre County and other counties across the state.

## CONTACT US! We are here to help.

**WEBSITE:** [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
**EMAIL:** [police@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:police@twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
**TELEPHONE:** 800-479-0050 (to file a police report in a NON-EMERGENCY situation)  
**ADDRESS:** Ferguson Township Police Department  
3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA 16801



## Police Department's Annual Bicycle Rodeo!

Please join township police at the Ferguson Township Annual Bicycle Rodeo on **June 7th**, from **11:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.** The Rodeo will be held in the Weis Market parking lot at 1471 Martin St. Please bring your children with their bike and helmet to this educational and exciting event. Please note children will not be permitted to ride without a helmet.

Bicycle officers will lead your child through a safety course, teaching them

lifelong bicycle skills. Certified bicycle technicians will also be available to check your child's bike safety features, and certified seat belt technicians will be available to check your child's car seat. In addition, you will be able to register your bike to assist in its return to you in the event it is lost or stolen.

Please come join us for free food and great times on your bike! We hope to see you there!

## Residents May Register for Upcoming Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program

If you are a township resident looking to learn more about what to do in an emergency, then the CERT program is for you. The next program is being held **April 24, 25 and 26**. Contact Stephen Mershon, Centre Region CERT Coordinator, by email at **[CERT@CentreRegionEMA.com](mailto:CERT@CentreRegionEMA.com)** for more information on this and upcoming CERT programs.

## Township Police Department Saves Money Using Alternative Fuel Vehicles

By: Sergeant Robert Glenny Jr.

The Ferguson Township Police Department recently converted two more Chevrolet Police Package Tahoes into Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)/gasoline bi-fuel vehicles and now has a total of three CNG Tahoes in the fleet. The recent conversion was done with the aid of a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Natural Gas Vehicle Program which covers approximately half of the total conversion costs.

The Police Department started using the first CNG Tahoe in mid-May 2013 and realized immediate fuel savings of just under \$2100 in that six month period. At that rate, it will take about two and a half years to pay for the conversion costs of one vehicle. Should prices remain

constant, the township will save in excess of \$10,000 on fuel costs over the life of a vehicle, and if the township converts all the police fleet to bi-fuel CNG vehicles and can maintain the 85% CNG to Gasoline ratio, savings could exceed \$25,000 per year!

Since the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) operates their fleet of buses on CNG and they are conveniently located across the street from the township building, CATA and the township entered into an agreement whereby CATA sells CNG to the township for their vehicles. Thanks to CATA for being a good neighbor and helping us save you money.





## Please Don't Feed the Bears!

The PA black bear population continues to increase and last year the police department responded to over 35 calls about nuisance bears in Ferguson Township neighborhoods. Feeding the bears is adverse to their welfare as they lose their healthy wariness of people. This change sets up a dangerous situation for interaction, particularly in populated areas, and therefore it is now illegal to feed the bears.



Bears love bird feed, food scraps and pet food. Please take in bird feeders at night, and keep trash cans clean and secured in a garage or shed until the morning of collection. Barbecue grills should be kept free of accumulated grease and gardens and fruit tree areas should be kept free of spoiled yields.

Cubs leave the den in early April, watch their mother's every move, and learn by imitating her. Once bears find easily accessible food sources, they will keep coming back, sometimes for years after the food source has been removed, so please help keep your neighborhood safe and don't teach bears that a good place to find food is in your yard!

## Door-to-Door Salesperson Tip

The Police Department wishes to remind residents that commercial entities need to have a permit from the township in order to sell door-to-door. So, if you get a knock on the door from a salesperson, ask them first to see their permit to make sure they are registered. If they don't have a permit, use caution and contact police. Also, PA law requires that home improvement contractors who perform \$500 worth of work or more at a private residence must have a state registration number. Visit <http://www.attorneygeneral.gov> for more information.

## Finance Department News

### Township Budget News

Township's Annual Operating Budget began January 1, 2014. The Annual Operating Budget outlines the spending plan for township operations during the year. It includes items such as operational costs, capital improvements, transportation improvements, parks, and staff salaries. Residents may access the entire Annual Operating Budget – which gives line-by-line revenue and expenditure information--online through accessing this shortened URL to the township website: <http://goo.gl/IFmfyK>.

The Annual Operating Budget is financed, in part, with tax dollars from residents. We are pleased to report there was no tax increase for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

To learn more about the township's budget, residents may also find our 2014 Budget Executive Summary helpful in getting a friendly overview of township expenditures and revenue. Residents may access the 2014 Budget Executive Summary by visiting: <http://goo.gl/Lgl8Za>.

### Township Operations

#### New Software Programs Implemented at Start of 2014

##### Accounting System Software

At the start of the year, the township began using Springbrook Software for its accounting system software. The change gives the township more reporting and sharing possibilities. In addition, the new software is modular based and it will allow the township to add more modules as needed in the future.

##### Code and Zone Permitting Software

At the beginning of 2014, the township began using new permitting software from Tyler Technologies. The new software will have links to pertinent regional information

and later this year residents and developers will be able to check permit status updates online.

### New Information Technology Provider

Also at the start of 2014, the township moved its IT support systems to Hinton & Associates, Inc. This change will save the township money with its IT support services, while maintaining the level of information technology support the township needs.

### New Phone System

In February, the township replaced its phone system. The previous phone system was no longer supported and needed to be replaced with a more modern digital system.

## Township Receives Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA)

Ferguson Township is proud to announce it has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement recognizes high standards in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Residents may view the 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) online at shortened township URL of <http://goo.gl/XfVJKj>. The CAFR provides detailed information regarding the financial condition of the township. The CAFR was prepared by the township's Finance Department and the financial statements were audited by the firm ParenteBeard LLC of State College.

# Around the Centre Region

## Bulk Waste Collection: May 19-23

Advanced Disposal (formerly Veolia Environmental Services) will collect old furniture, bedding, carpeting, appliances, and tires (some restrictions apply). Remember to have all items at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on your regular collection day. No loose piles of debris will be removed – they must be bagged or bundled in order to be collected. Due to truck restrictions, no metal or wood items in excess of 5 feet in length can be accepted. Residents are asked to consider donating usable items to local charities. Please remember that up to 3 smaller bulky items (under 40 pounds each) may be placed curbside for regular weekly collection. Look for additional information to be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter billing insert in the April invoice or go online to <http://crcog.net/refuse> (Residential Program).



## Recycling Works for My Business Program



The Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority (CCRRA) has unveiled the **Recycling Works for My Business** recognition program awarding Centre County businesses and institutions that are recycling. The *Recycling Works for My Business* recognition will be given to all county businesses that contract recycling services or have reported recycling by other methods such as the use of drop off facilities or back hauling. Participating businesses will receive a window cling to applaud their efforts in responsible waste management and to promote recycling in Centre County.



This fall CCRRA will award their first *Green Business Partner* distinction to county businesses that are demonstrating a higher commitment to sustainability. CCRRA is available to help your business improve your waste management program and to provide recycling education. For more information on the recognition program or to request assistance with your recycling program, contact the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority at [www.centrecountyrecycles.org](http://www.centrecountyrecycles.org) or at 234-7005.

## Centre Region Parks & Recreation Your Recreation Destination! Spring 2014 Programs & Events

Centre Region Parks & Recreation has a new look, but we still proudly offer some of the best programs and events in the Region! CRPR IS Your Recreation Destination for quality programs and events at a real value, that we feel benefit the members of our community! There is something for all ages, so visit [www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org) today.

- April brings several community special events for the spring season. Join us on April 13 – Earth Day Birthday Event at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center from 2-5 p.m. Easter is celebrated a few times with the Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt for Teens in grades 6-8 on Wednesday, April 16 at 8 p.m. at MMNC and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 at Orchard Park at 2 p.m. The fun doesn't stop with April. In May, CRPR hosts the Hershey's North American Track Meet – Local Competition and the MLB & Scotts Pitch, Hit & Run Local Competition. Those details will be in the Summer Guide, available on Sunday, April 27. For all of our amazing community special events, please visit [www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org).
- The Centre Region Senior Center is holding the Gadgets for Grown Ups Series to help participants better understand their e-readers or iPads. Please contact the Senior Center at 231-3076 or visit [www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org) for more information or to register for this and many other senior programs.
- CRPR has a wide variety of youth and adult sport programs available each season. Adults can get active this spring with the Women's Slow Pitch Softball League, the Adult Recreation Softball League, as well as the "35 & Over" and "45 & Over" Men's Slow Pitch Softball Leagues. For youth, CRPR is the destination for Tennis Lessons, Coed Field Hockey (in cooperation with the PSU Lady Lions Field Hockey Team), Indoor Swimming Lessons or Spring Break Camps at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

Along with the scheduled programs, there are many beautiful municipal parks in the Centre Region. Take a power walk around the loop at Tom Tudek Memorial Park or play a round of Disc Golf at Circleville Park in Patton Township. Visit the CRPR website at [www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org) to see what each park in the region has to offer. This is a wonderful time of year to be outside!



The arrival of warm weather also means that it's time to look towards summer!

- Registration for Summer Camps started Feb. 3! Check out all the great activities & field trips planned for the KIDventure Day Camps; the creative themes for Wee KIDventure Camps, and all the exciting ways to explore Millbrook Marsh at Wonderful Wetlands Camp. It will be the talk of the town.

- CRPR offers several Specialty Camps such as Youth Fly-Fishing Camps, Outdoor Explorer Camps, Gross Outdoors Camp, Theatre Camps, as well as Kayak, Canoe, Boating Adventures, Geo-caching and Nature Art Camps. Check out all the details at [www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org). CRPR offers a camp experience for children ages 3 through 12th grade. Make this a summer to remember for your child(ren).

## Schlow Library News – Spring 2014

### Schlow's New Website

By the time you receive this newsletter, Schlow's new website will be ready to welcome you!

Browse the catalog, request books, research purchases in Consumer Reports, play games on Tumblebooks, and much, much more at [www.schlowlibrary.org](http://www.schlowlibrary.org). Our patrons' enthusiasm for downloading free eBooks, audiobooks, music and magazines continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and the new site makes doing so easier than ever!

### Schlow's New Parking System

Schlow has also installed a new parking system for the convenience of our patrons and visitors. Located next to the Library and accessible from Allen Street, Schlow's lot is available for free to anyone while they are in the Library.

With more than 1300 visits each day to Schlow, demand for parking can be considerable. Although we can't guarantee a space, especially during programs or other busy times, the new system will help ensure that as many spaces as possible are open to Library visitors.

The ticket-and-gate set up is similar to our previous system. Just bring your ticket into the Library for easy validation at one of our new parking validation stations when you arrive and just before you depart. We look forward to seeing you!

### 2014 Centre County Reads Author to Appear at PSU's HUB-Robeson Auditorium

"America's funniest science writer." – *Washington Post*

This year's lively community read is ***Packing for Mars***, and we are delighted to be joining our Centre County Reads partners in welcoming author Mary Roach for an entertaining evening of space exploration! Please embark on "A Voyage with Mary Roach" at 7:00pm, Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### 2014 Pennsylvania One Book Author to Visit Schlow

Join us on Monday, May 5 at 6:30pm to meet Susan Stockdale, award-winning author and illustrator of the wonderful ***Stripes of All Types***. Filled with beautiful pictures of animals from around the world, each striped creature is shown in action in its natural habitat: "Prowling the prairie, perched on a peak, crawling on cactus, and camped by a creek."

As the *Washington Post* says of her work, "If the paintings are the feast, Stockdale's words are the dessert."

Schlow strongly supports the Pennsylvania One Book, Every Young Child program, which promotes early literacy by emphasizing reading early and often to children, as well as engaging them in conversation and lively activities around books.

### Fizz, Boom, READ this Summer at Schlow!

Summer is always a lively time at Schlow, with an abundance of activities and a seemingly infinite choice of things to read. This year's Summer Reading Programs feature a wonderful array of events and prizes, and exciting STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) themes. Sign up begins June 1 for "Fizz, Boom, READ" for babies to age 12, "Spark A Reaction" for teens, and "Literary Elements" for adults. Please join us!



Looking to visit a shortened URL listed in our newsletter? You may also scan in this code using your mobile device:



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

3147 Research Drive  
State College, PA 16801

PRSRT STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
State College, PA  
Permit No. 213

~ CLIP AND SAVE ~  
REFUSE AND RECYCLING  
TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**Advanced Disposal**  
Contact for questions about your service or billing .....237-3713

**Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority**.....238-7005

**Recycling Hotline**  
For information on what you should and shouldn't put in your red recycling bin ...238-6649

**COC Administration**  
Contact for questions regarding program requirements and problem resolution .....234-7198

<http://crcog.net/refuse>

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION  
Refuse and Recycling website:  
<http://crcog.net/refuse>

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority  
Monday – Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**IMPORTANT TRASH & RECYCLING DATES FOR 2014**

**HOLIDAYS:**  
If your weekly pickup day falls on or after the following Holidays, your trash and recycling service will be delayed by one (1) day during the week of the holiday:  
May 26 – Memorial Day  
July 4 – Fourth of July  
September 1 – Labor Day  
November 27 – Thanksgiving Day  
December 1 – First Day of Buck Season  
December 25 – Christmas Day

**SPRING BULK WASTE WEEK**  
May 19 – 23, 2014

**FALL BULK WASTE WEEK**  
October 13 – 17, 2014

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**