

Penn Township Butler County Newsletter

Spring 2026



Municipal News

Budgeting, Finance, Grant Proposals, Parks & Recreation

Community Groups Supporting our Township!

Penns Men

Penn's Men is a local men's group of ordinary men who are dedicated to quietly supporting neighbors in need, performing work for God and his people through acts of service, friendship, and community involvement. The group supports residents who may need additional assistance, reflecting the spirit of compassion and generosity. If you or anyone you know could use support from the Penns Men and/or would be interested in joining their efforts, please reach out at PO Box 51, Renfrew, PA 15056. You may also attend their monthly meetings, which are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Township Building.

The Founder of this wonderful local group, Don Callen, sadly passed away on January 20, 2026. The work this organization has done and will do meant a great deal to Don. A fun historical fact about Don was that he attended the dedication of the Butler Grand Airport back in 1929 as an infant alongside his father. If anyone would like to donate to this amazing organization in memory of Don, please send donations to PO Box 51, Renfrew. Your donations will support township residents in need and demonstrate community support for Don and his family. A tree and/or bench will be placed at our Harcrest Park in remembrance of his dedication to making our community a wonderful place to live.

Boy Scout Troop 53

Troop 53 is a small, boys' troop of Scouting America meeting at Nixon Methodist Church, under the charter of Penn Township Supervisors. Troop 53 strives to be active in our host church and local community. At Nixon Methodist, we assist with trunk or treat, Scout Sunday service, roadway clean-up projects, and more. In Penn Twp., we participate in events such as the Memorial Day ceremony, the Halloween Parade and Party, Community Day, and others.

Although our troop is small, we are an active group. We meet every Monday evening to work on merit badges, rank advancement, scout skills, and practice for events. We also enjoy game nights, projects, and special events. Our scouts participate in scouting events throughout the year, such as Klondike Derby, First Aid Meet, Merit Badge Tech Academy at BC3, and other council activities. Our Troop has many camp-outs throughout the year and has traveled to places such as Benezette, Gettysburg, and Laurel Caverns, as well as general camping weekends. We also attend Scout Resident Camp every summer, where the boys spend a week camping, earn merit badges, swim, hike, zipline, and participate in camp-wide activities. Summer camp is a highlight of the year for most scouts.

Scouting can be expensive, so our troop also works on several fundraising opportunities. The boys sell popcorn in the fall, hoagies and cakes during the holidays, and this spring they will sell flowers. Through fundraising, the boys can fund their activities and develop skills such as salesmanship, communication, and hard work.

Troop 53 is always looking for new members and adult volunteers. If you see us around town, please stop by to visit. We look forward to meeting you! Contact us at troop53pennntp@gmail.com for more information!

Butler Ambulance Services

As some of you may know, Penn Township does not have its own ambulance service. We rely heavily on the Butler Ambulance Service. EMT membership provides discounts and significant support for the organization, helping to deliver services to surrounding communities like ours. Please take the time to check out our website and learn how to obtain a membership today. This not only supports their organization more than donations alone but also ensures you and your loved ones are protected in the best possible way when you need it the most.



Township Building Hours

*Monday- Thursday
7 AM-5 PM*

**The Board of Supervisors
Meetings are held on the 2nd
Tuesday of every month at 6 PM**

**Planning Commission
Meetings are held on the 4th
Tuesday of every month at 6 PM**

**Tax office: Andraya Gealey
penntwptx@gmail.com**

**The Tax collectors' hours are
posted on the tax cards.**

**“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured
by the compassionate actions of its members. - Coretta Scott
King**



Public Works Department

Roadways, Stormwater, & Infrastructure

As spring approaches, here are a few reminders:

As winter comes to an end, the Road Department is shifting into "spring" operations. Our crew has been busy assessing winter damage, planning improvements, and preparing the road system. We remind residents and motorists to slow down & remain alert in work zones for the township crew and any contractors working within the township & beyond. Cooperation & patience are always appreciated by those as well. Please remember that while road closures & detours are inconvenient for most of us, they are in place primarily for safety. In most cases, residents are permitted to return to their homes in these instances unless a hazard is present. However, other people passing through the area are asked to take an alternative route.

As winter comes to an end, now may also be a good time to check in on your mailbox and make plans for repairs or replacement of the box or post. When any "digging" in your summer plans are involved, please be sure to contact Pennsylvania One Call at least 3 days prior to excavation. It is a free service for homeowners & more information is available at pa1call.org. Please follow USPS guidelines when installing new mailboxes & posts.

As previously mentioned in the previous newsletter, the township is not responsible for damaged mailboxes during snow removal procedures. As a friendly reminder, please do not place trash cans on the roadway & should be kept off the roadway year-round. They can be a hazard when blown over by the wind or struck by a passing vehicle. They can also interfere with snow removal operations.

With melting snow and spring showers, we want to remind everyone to keep drainage facilities, such as ditch lines & catch basins, free of debris. Please do not "dispose" of items such as leaves, grass clippings & sticks, etc. into these facilities. Remember, it may not affect you when water is diverted or "backed up," but potentially those around you.

As plants begin to grow & bloom, it may be essential for the road department to trim trees, shrubs, bushes, etc. that are overgrowing the roadway, a sign, or other roadside features that could interfere with the safe travel of all motorists. We are not arborists, so if you do not wish this to be the case, we suggest hiring an arborist of your choice to properly take care of your plant life that may be present on the right-of-way. Also, as a friendly reminder, please park off-street whenever possible, especially during winter weather events, to support snow removal safety & efficiency. Please do not plow, shovel, throw, or blow snow onto the roadways. These pose hazards: stones on a gravel driveway left behind after melting and refreezing, which can cause incidents on roadways.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Road Department.

Public Works Director

Andrew Rockar

724-285-9317

arockar@penntownship.org

Hours: M-F 7 AM -3 PM





Police Department

Public Safety, Traffic Laws, Crime Protection

Ordinance & Safety Update: Burning Regulations and Driving Laws

The Township recently received several inquiries from residents regarding local ordinances and state traffic laws. To ensure all members of our community are well informed, we have compiled the following summary of frequently asked questions.

Outdoor Burning Guidelines (Ordinance No. 111)

For full details, please visit the [Penn Township Website](#) to download a complete copy of Ordinance No. 111.

- **Standard Burning Hours:** Under Section 8, outdoor burning is permitted between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. While the Township acknowledges longer daylight hours in certain seasons, all fires must be completely extinguished by the end of the designated window.
- **Prohibited Days:** No burning is permitted on **Sundays or holidays**.
- **Safety Requirements:** All fires must be attended by a responsible adult and fully extinguished before being left.

Recreational Fires & Permits

Many residents have asked about the requirements for spontaneous recreational fires.

- **Permit Requirement:** According to Section 9, a permit is required for all recreational fires.
- **How to Apply:** Residents should call the Penn Township Police Department and leave a message on the dedicated burn permit line with their **name, phone number, and address**. Please note that staff generally return calls only when additional information is needed.
- **Curfew:** All recreational fires must be fully extinguished no later than **12:00 a.m.**

Penn Township OIC
Sergeant Cheryl Cranmer
724-586-1169 Option: 4
ccranmer@penntownship.org

Thank you to Diehl Auto Group for supplying the Penn Township Police with two AEDs.



State Driving Law Refresher

As space is limited, we are addressing two specific requests regarding the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code:

- **Passing on the Right:** Per PA Vehicle Code § 3304, passing on the right is only permitted if the vehicle being overtaken is making a left turn, or on a roadway with two or more unobstructed lanes moving in the same direction. Driving onto the shoulder or berm to pass is strictly prohibited.
- **Right on Red:** Drivers may turn right at a steady red light only after coming to a **complete stop** and yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic. This maneuver is prohibited at intersections clearly marked with **"No Turn on Red"** signage.

The Township is committed to improving our digital resources. We encourage you to check our website regularly for updates and to contact the Police Department with any additional questions.





Land Use Department

Zoning, Subdivision, & Land Development

Who are the current Penn Township Planning Commission members?

Nanette Rau, Art Black, Will Burns, and Bob Yenick

One open vacancy is available. For information, contact the administrative office.
724-586-1165, option 3.

Qualifications to be a member of the Planning Commission?

The Penn Township Planning Commission consists of five members, all of whom are residents of the Township, appointed by the Township Board of Supervisors. At least three of the members must be citizen members and not officers or employees of the Township. The members serve staggered, four-year terms with compensation.

Penn Township Zoning Officer

Linda Zerfoss

724-586-1165 Option: 3

lzerfoss@penntownship.org

What is their responsibility?

- Review proposed subdivisions and land developments and forward recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- Review all applications for amendments to the zoning ordinance or zoning map and forward recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- Prepare and maintain a Comprehensive Plan for the physical development of the Township. Components of the Comprehensive Plan include a land use plan, a thoroughfare plan, a community facilities plan, and a public improvements program.
- Review and propose amendments to the Township Comprehensive Plan to reflect changing land use and demographic conditions.
- Review and forward recommendations on Planned Residential Developments based on consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Review and render decisions on all submitted site plans for commercial uses.
- Hold public hearings and meetings as necessary.
- Instruct the Department of Planning to undertake such studies as are deemed necessary, including surveys, studies, and analyses of housing, demographic, and economic characteristics; amount, type, general location, and interrelationships of different categories of land use; general extent and location of transportation and community facilities; natural features affecting development; natural, historic, and cultural resources; and prospects for future growth in the Township.





Mark Your Calendars!

What's happening around our community

Spring 2026- March						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Board of Supervisors Meeting 8 PM	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Spring 2026 April						
			1	2	3	4
5 Easter	6 Township Building Closed in Observance of Easter Holiday	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Board of Supervisors Meeting 8 PM	15	16	17	18
19	20 Township Building Closed for PSATS Seminar	21 Township Building Closed for PSATS Seminar	22 Township Building Closed for PSATS Seminar	23	24 Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Spring 2026 May						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Board of Supervisors Meeting 8 PM	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Primary Election Day: Township Building Closed	20	21	22	23
24	25 Township Building Closed in Observance of Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						

The Penn Township Newsletter is published seasonally for the residents of Penn Township. All comments/questions should be sent to: Penn Township, 157 E. Airport Road, Butler, PA 16002.

Administrative Staff

Township Manager: Linda Zerfoss

Land Use Administrator:

Administrative Assistant: Nicole Tempalski

Board of Supervisors

Douglas A. Roth- Chairman

Wilbert J. Mowry Jr.- Vice Chairman

Matthew Salina- Supervisor



