



PENN
TOWNSHIP

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

Township News

Fall 2013 Edition

97 N. PENRYN ROAD MANHEIM, PA 17545
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www.penntwplanco.org

THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT SUSTAINABILITY PARK IS YOURS TO ENJOY!

After a couple years of hard work, Penn Township and the Northwestern Lancaster County Authority are pleased to announce that the Water Treatment Plant's Sustainability Park is open to the public. Located at 306 Doe Run Road, the grounds surrounding the state of the art treatment plant represent a commitment to surface water quality, source water protection, and on-site energy production. Since the plant is located in karst geology where sinkholes and other features funnel stormwater directly to the aquifer, it is even more important that these water resources are protected to avoid increased treatment costs.

The site includes a 1/4-mile loop walking trail that traverses through meadows, by several rain gardens, and alongside a maturing wooded riparian buffer. Most of the trail is a mowed grass surface with a gentle grade, creating an inviting atmosphere for nature lovers, exercise seekers, or families looking for an outdoor education opportunity. The route will include interpretive stations with educational signs that detail the various features and "Take-Home Tips".

So be sure to stop by, take a stroll, and take in the meadow's flowers, songbirds, and great views of the surrounding valley.



Free Seedlings Available for Fall Plantings!

The Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences is making native tree and shrub seedlings available to you as part of the "Greening the Lower Susquehanna" initiative. These trees are intended for riparian buffers or reforestation upland areas. For more information, contact Kristen Kyler at 717-948-6609.



MORE TREES COMING TO CEDAR HOLLOW & SWEETBRIAR CREEK PARKS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

In late April, dozens of volunteers swarmed to two of the township's parks with a common goal to plant 100 young shade trees over two Saturdays. Pennsylvania's TreeVitalize program generously granted us \$15,000 to help restore tree cover in developed places that are accessible to the public. The turnout was amazing, and over 200 hours of volunteer time was spent getting the trees in the ground! This is the equivalent of nearly \$5,000 that can be used towards the township's match to the grant—that's \$5,000 less of your dollars that need to be contributed toward this project.

Due to the savings gained from the container trees purchased from the nursery, we still have grant money left to plant more in the parks. To complement the new shade trees, 66 evergreens and ornamentals will be planted in a matter of weeks. They will help diversify the tree varieties, which is good for visual interest and for providing different habitat for various birds and pollinators.

With your help, we can accomplish a large feat: planting 166 trees this year to provide shade and enjoyment for decades to come. It's a testament to the strength of volunteerism in our community and neighborhood stewardship of the parks. Our young, but maturing public park system is becoming a great resource for active and passive recreation thanks to you all. For more information, contact Justin Evans at the Township Office: 665-4508 or jevans@penntwplanco.org.



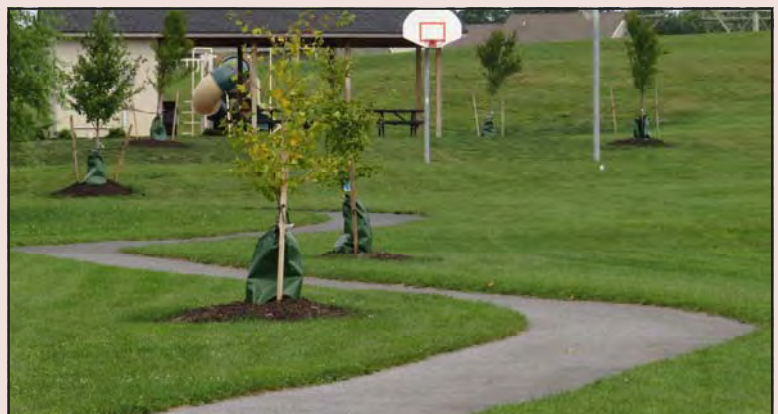
Fall 2013 Tree Planting Dates

Saturday, September 28th—10:00 AM:
Cedar Hollow Park
(309 Cedar Hollow)

Saturday, October 5th—10:00 AM:
Sweetbriar Creek Park
(6028 Bayberry Drive)



Above: Action from April's planting events at the parks
Below: Several of the new trees, about 3-1/2 months later



PENRYN VOLUNTEERS LOOKING TO HANG NEW BANNERS IN TOWN

There has been quite a bit brewing in Penryn the last couple years, including a year-long celebration of the Penryn Fire Company's 100th Anniversary and the creation of a Community Action Plan for the village. Since the Action Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in April 2013, a group of residents has been working behind the scenes to keep things in motion. These meetings are open to anyone interested in being involved and are typically held at 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month in the meeting room of the Penryn Fire Hall.

Lately, the committee has been working on several projects that will enhance the village and continue to promote its heritage. In addition to looking at traffic issues and placing a historical marker for the Reverend Muhlenberg at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, the volunteers have put the task of replacing the removed 100th Anniversary banners on the top of their list.

The result of these discussions is the creation of multiple banner designs that celebrate different virtues and welcome visitors into town. Three of the four concepts, Heritage, Preservation, and Tradition are represented in the working draft images shown on the right. A fourth, representing Faith, is in the works and should be ready soon.

The banners proudly display original designs created by Penn Township resident David Barnett, and are not replicated anywhere. Plans for fundraising among local residents and businesses is anticipated to begin soon. The committee envisions using an approach similar to what was used to raise money for the Penryn Fire Company banners, where anyone interested could donate to the effort and be recognized on the banner hanging above the streets. Keep an eye out for your opportunity!



Banner designs created by local resident David Barnett

BIG CHANGES COMING TO THE PENN TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

As some of you may already know, we will be moving to a new website service this year. The County of Lancaster's Information Technology Department has hosted the township website free of charge for years but is now transitioning their own to an outside provider. However, this is a fantastic opportunity for Penn Township to have a stronger web presence with a much broader and more user-friendly interface.

With the assistance of our new service provider, CivicPlus, we anticipate our new site going live by October 31st. But don't worry, our address www.pennwplanco.org is staying the same—so you won't have to change your bookmarks to stay in the loop! The website will have a host of new functions and capabilities, including the ability to register and receive email notices when topics you are interested in are updated.



PENN TOWNSHIP'S AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS BACK IN ACTION

After a brief hiatus, Penn Township's Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee was re-established earlier this year. The township created an Agricultural Security Area (ASA) on April 12, 1993, and after 20 years it has grown to include over 5,000 acres. In a short period of time, the committee has seen two petitions from landowners requesting to include their farms in the ASA.

Why would a landowner put their farm into the ASA? There are several benefits afforded to such property owners, including protection against nuisance lawsuits or township regulations against normal agricultural activities, and limitations on eminent domain proceedings. Inclusion in the ASA also gives the option to have the farm preserved by the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board, Lancaster Farmland Trust, and/or other qualified organizations. Although the ASA program differs from farmland preservation, both are voluntary functions that landowners can utilize to keep important agricultural regions committed for years to come.

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Penn Township ASA Facts (as of August 2013):

Established: April 12, 1993

Number of Farms: 80 (including parts of farms in multiple townships)

Acres of Land: 5,186

Other Penn Township Agricultural Lands Facts:

Farms Preserved: 53 (including parts of farms in multiple townships)

Acres Preserved: 3,337

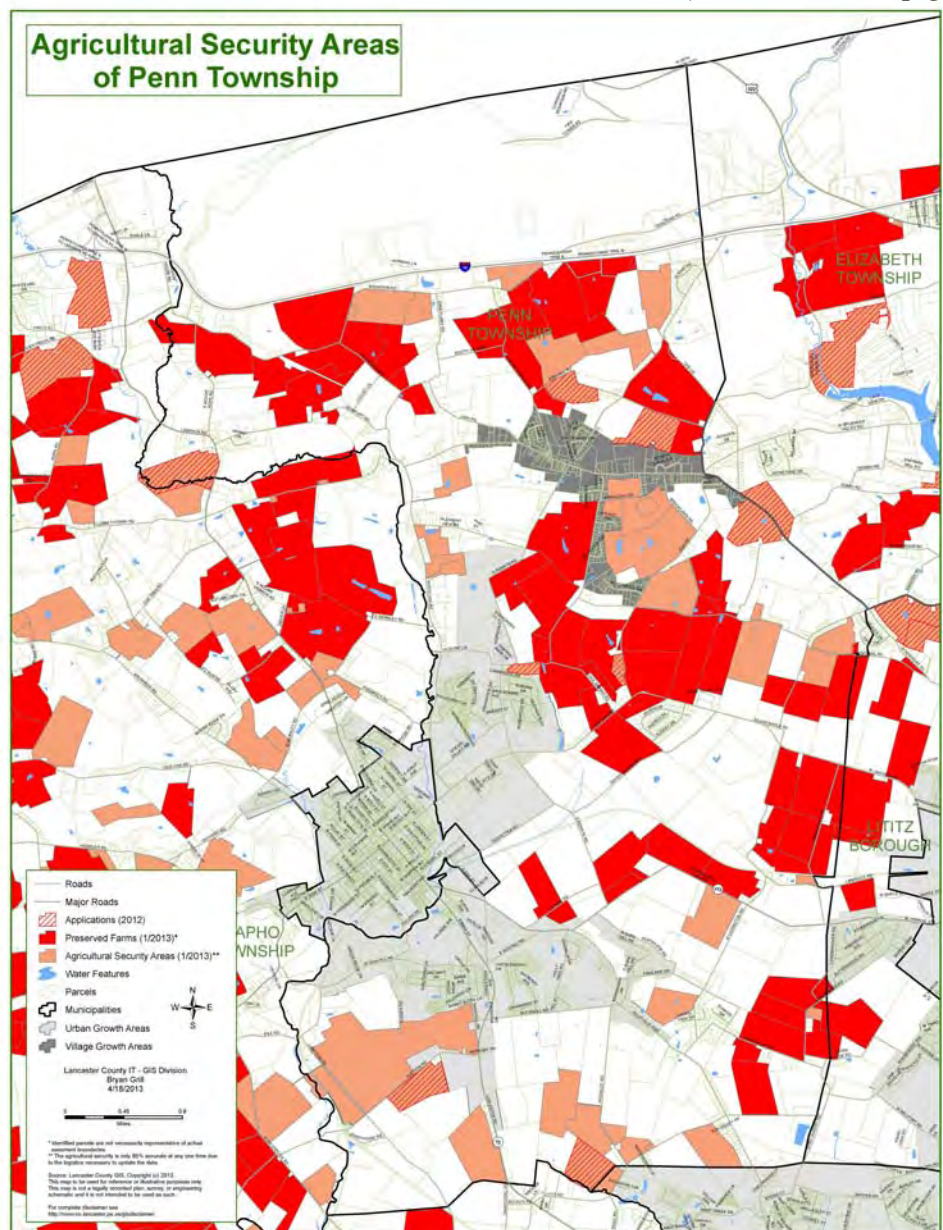
Agriculturally-Zoned Acres:
11,948 (about 2/3rds of the township)

Lancaster County Ag Industry Data (2007 Census of Agriculture):

Acres of Farms: 425,336

Market Value of Products Sold:
\$1,072,151,000 (\$196,293/farm)

Rank Among U.S. Counties—
Total Ag Product Value: 18th
Tobacco Value: 10th
Poultry & Eggs Value: 16th
Milk & Dairy Value: 10th
Hogs & Pigs Value: 29th
Corn for Silage Acreage: 3rd



Above: Map showing preserved farms (red) and other properties included in the Agricultural Security Area (tan) as of April 2013— a larger version is available on the Penn Township website

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Municipalities like Penn Township with an ASA must have an ASA Advisory Committee to perform certain functions, such as review landowner petitions. The township's committee was reinstated with the required membership composition: one of the Township Supervisors (David Wood), three local farmers (Dale Hershey, Dale Nolt, & Glenn Sauder), and a township resident (Stephanie Whitehouse). Since being re-established, the committee has reviewed landowner petitions for two farms totaling 134 acres.

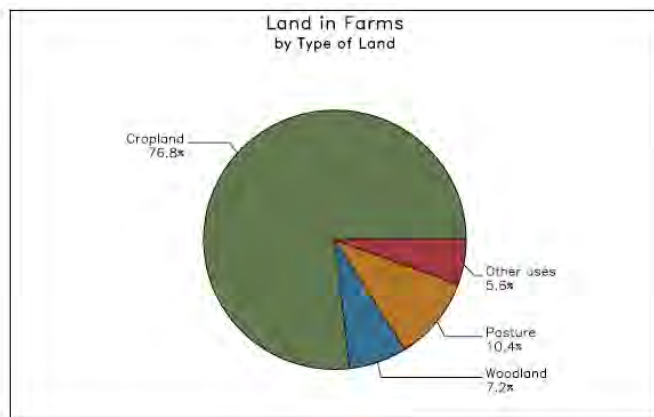
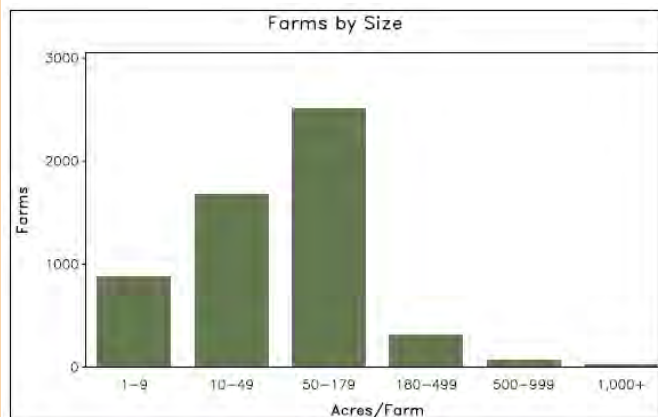
Penn Township's ASA Advisory Committee is also jumping right into the role of an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors for other agricultural issues. Developing strategies for outreach to farmers, planning to keep large blocks of farmland in tact, and reviewing local rural enterprise regulations are all topics on the forefront. With the agricultural industry playing such a large part in the township and county economy, it is a great asset to have this committee weigh in on important issues that impact the operations of today and those of future generations.



Next Meeting of the Penn Township
Agricultural Security Area Advisory
Committee:

Tuesday, September 17th—8:00 AM
Penn Township Municipal Office

Lancaster County Farm Quick Statistics



Source: USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture

INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY?

The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County is updating their historic resources records in Penn Township. Volunteers are needed for a several-day field work project. If you are interested, contact the Penn Township Office for more details.





PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

As this construction season is drawing to a close, we thought it important to provide the citizenry with an update on this construction year's progress. While a number of smaller projects remain and number of ongoing maintenance responsibilities need to still be accomplished this year, this construction season was a general success in that two significant community projects were undertaken.

First and foremost, we would like to thank the traveling public for their patience during the 2013 construction season. While we understand that road closures and detours can be frustrating and inconvenient to your commuting patterns, such are, at times, necessary to not only maintain the safety of the traveling public but also the people undertaking the construction. This is particularly the case recognizing the small size of the Township's Public Works Department.

Second, we would like to explain our general philosophy in implementation of construction projects. We, the Township and its citizenry, are fortunate to have a Public Works crew, which is dedicated to their jobs, recognizes and takes seriously the responsibility of providing an efficient and safe transportation system, and possesses a great degree of specialized skills relevant to their job functions. Recognizing the strength of these internal capacities, our general approach to implementing any project is to evaluate how it can be accomplished utilizing internal resources. This is done for a number of considerations but cost of construction is a primary driver. In Pennsylvania, there are prevailing wage laws, which apply to construction projects costing in excess of \$25,000.00. As one can imagine, not many construction projects can be completed for less than this statutorily defined threshold. It is estimated that the payment of prevailing wage can increase a project's cost by roughly 20 to 25 percent. In order to avoid these costs within the confines of the Township's existing staff, at times, construction must be phased.

The multi-year project on Elm Road, an important north south route through the Township, provides a prime example where the internal capacity was present but the size of the project was too much to undertake in a single construction season and the cost of contracting would have cost the Township's taxpayers additional hundreds of thousands of dollars as a result of existing prevailing wage laws. So, in 2011, we installed storm water management facilities on the stretch between Newport Road and Brooklawn Road. In 2012, we installed storm water management facilities and widened the road to 24 feet in width between Brooklawn Road and Fairview Road. Additionally, in 2012, we widened to 24 feet and overlaid the stretch between Newport Road and Brooklawn Road. In 2013, we widened the stretch from Fairview Road to Doe Run Road to 24 feet and installed storm water management facilities. Of particular note in this stretch was our ability to eliminate an existing steep bank and soften an existing "S" turn. This was made possible through the generosity of Titus and Mary Neuenschwander who donated the additional required right-of-way to the Township at no cost to the Township. We thank them. Additionally, in 2013, we overlaid the stretch between Brooklawn Road and Fairview Road. In 2014, it is anticipated that that we will overlay the last segment from Fairview Road to Doe Run Road. Once done, this will mark the completion of an important community transportation project that implemented various safety improvements, which are anticipated to have a useful life expectancy of 15-20 years, at a fraction of the cost that would have been incurred if the project was contracted out.

Additionally, in 2013, we were able to complete an important safety improvement at the intersection of Sego Sago Road and Fruitville Pike using the Township's internal staff resources. The result was the creation of significantly improved sight distance, installation of storm water management facilities, and a reduction in the road profile of Sego Sago Road. As it relates to this project, we would like to thank Bruce and Pat Lefever for providing the additional required right-of-way to the Township at no cost to the Township and Duane and Heidi Weaver for providing a temporary construction easement on their property.

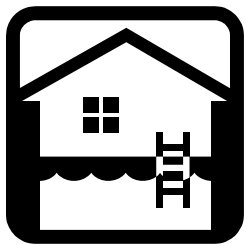
If you have any questions regarding these projects or others, please contact Daryl Lefever, Director of Public Works and Roadmaster, at (717) 665-4508 or via email at dlefever@penntwplanco.org.

ZONING AND CODES COMPLIANCE INFORMATION: SWIMMING POOLS, HOT TUBS, & SPAS

Although summer is on its way out, there's still plenty of time for enjoying your pool or spa. Since publishing this information in the previous edition of the newsletter, there have been a lot of questions concerning the rules for barriers around recreational swimming pools and spas.

If you have a pool, hot tub, or spa at your home—or are looking to install one—please take note of the following important information:

§403.26 of the PA Uniform Construction Code, as adopted by your elected state officials requires inspections of swimming pools capable of holding water deeper than 24", including the storable "inflatable ring" pools and all permanently installed hot tubs & spas.



Barriers or fences are required around all pools over 24" in height or depth. Above ground pools with outside walls of 48" or higher are considered their own barrier if they do not have a permanent means of access to the pool.

For storable pools, Penn Township requires a permit only for the first year if you are placing the pool in the same location in subsequent years. The township office has handouts for your review if you are considering a pool purchase.

THE PENN TOWNSHIP TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Several months ago, the first steps were taken in preparing a plan to look at the township's transportation needs. With the goal of determining the most pressing needs based on traffic demands, changing land uses, and other factors, the plan will program five years of capital improvements and regular maintenance actions. The benefits of planning for township-wide infrastructure projects includes having more predictability for budget preparation, and that you—the citizens—have more opportunities to shape these decisions on the front end.

Citizen participation was kicked off with a series of three community meetings held in late July at multiple locations throughout the township. The public feedback and question-and-answer periods of the meetings provided a wealth of information that is being factored into the plan. But we realize that not everyone could make it out to a meeting and that announcing the meeting times was through limited distribution methods.

For these reasons, and to give everyone a chance to answer the same questions, an online survey has been created. This survey is quick, free, and does not require a login to access it. And better yet, it is anonymous so you can voice your opinions without providing your name or contact information if you wish. To find the survey, look for the link at the top of the township homepage that mentions the Public Opinion Survey through Survey Monkey.



Be sure to stay tuned to the plan's project page on our website as well. Meeting notes, handouts, and draft documents will be posted on the page for all to access and comment on. Remember, this is your transportation network and citizen involvement will only make it stronger.

Manheim Community Library New Program Options

The Library staff is excitedly preparing several new programs. Three different program series will be offered to accompany our traditional storytime activities.

The Golden Hour is designed for adults interested in looking at the world in a new way. The programming begins on Tuesday, September 24 at 10:00. Join Hazel Deming as she presents, "The Underground Railroad," focusing on the role of Lancaster County and the local people involved. Programs for Fall include:

- October 22 – Don Betty, Guinness world record holder for walking across the most suspension bridges in the world, will present "No Bridge Too Far."
- November 12 – Doug Hodges presents "Pearl Harbor Avenged." Learn how we broke the super-secret Japanese Navy radio code and won the Battle of Midway.
- December 17 – "Name that Tune and cookie testing – Holiday style"
- January 28 – Lisa High: "Hats!" Journey back in time to see the evolution of that essential accessory – Hats!

Three Library Storytimes will be held at three different locations this Fall. Whoo-oo Loves Reading! Children ages 3 and up with a caregiver are invited beginning the last week of September.

- East Fairview Church, Tuesdays at 9:00
- Penn Township Municipal Building, Tuesdays at 11:00**
- Manheim Community Library, Wednesdays at 10:00.

Toddlers, children ages 18 -36 months, and a caregiver are encouraged to join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 in the Library. Toddlertime with Stay and Play is a new program. Enjoy a short lap-sit program to be followed by a supervised activity period on the lower level of the Manheim Borough building. Miss Renee will direct the activities making playtime a learning time. Toddlertime with Stay and Play will run from October 17 through November 21.

The STEM: Discovery Club will be held Tuesdays at 4:30 in the Library. Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to participate in a wide range of hands-on activities. STEM makes Science, Technology Engineering and Math fun and exciting! The STEM Discovery Club begins Tuesday, October 15.

Program sign-up may be done by visiting the Manheim Community Library at 15 East High St, Manheim or call us at 665-6700. More information may be found on line at www.ManheimLibrary.org.

Lititz recCenter Fantastic Fall Activities!
LrC Open House on Saturday, September 21

The community is invited to enjoy the facility today for FREE! Take a tour, swim, workout or play in the gym.
 Membership special today only!

(Penn Twp residents receive the resident rates.)

Full Facility – Gymnasium – Main Pool – Splash Pool- Fitness Center



Over 60 group, spin & aquatic fitness classes free with membership!

Great Fall Programs! Check the program guide at www.lititzrec.com

Corporate membership and employee wellness programs

Lititz recKids Child Care Celebrating 28 Years!
 New Preschool Academy! Kindergarten Enrichment- After School and Before School Care!

(Kids from all school districts for special day camp – flexible schedules - membership not required.)

Shaping active lifestyles at the LrC!

September 21, 2013 Pretzel Twist 5 Mile Run/5KWalk/Kids Run

September 27, 2013 Youth Triathlon



Penn Township
 97 N. Penryn Road
 Manheim, PA 17545

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