



PENN
TOWNSHIP

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

Township News

Summer 2023 Edition

97 N Penryn Rd, Manheim, PA 17545

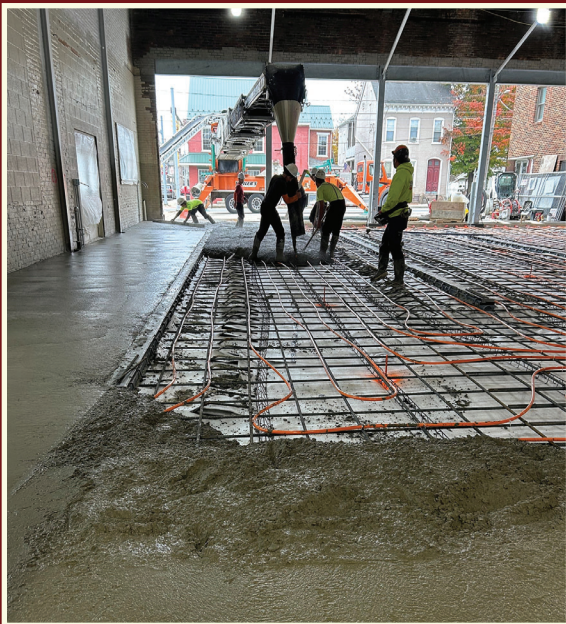
717-665-4508 (p) 717-665-4105 (f)

www.penn townshipplanco.org

Community Spotlight

MANHEIM FIRE COMPANY

Congratulations to line officer Don Kupres, the Assistant Chief at the Manheim Fire Department, for receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Manheim VFW Auxiliary Post 5956. Don Kupres is a dedicated and skilled firefighter who has been serving our community with professionalism and compassion for many years. We are grateful for his leadership and commitment to keeping us safe. Thank you, Don Kupres, for your service and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!



The Manheim Fire Department experienced roughly 5 months of time outside of our main building on South Main Street and responded from several remote locations during our station's renovation. Those locations were possible because of generosity from Northwest EMS, IU13 Fairview School and Speedwell Construction for allowing us to store units strategically around the area. The committee handling this renovation spent roughly 2 years
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Septic Haulers

All homes and businesses in the Township that have on-lot septic are required to pump out their system(s) a minimum of once every three years by a registered septic hauler. The following septic haulers are registered to provide service in Penn Township:

- Associated Products Services, Inc, 717-766-5397
- Baker's Septic Service, 717-367-7271
- Bauman's Septic Service, 717-469-2463
- Fins Environmental, 717-284-5228
- Frank Sears Sanitation LLC, 717-442-8609
- John Kline Septic Services LLC, 717-898-2333
- Kauffman's Septic Service, 717-665-3360
- Litzenberger's Septic Service, 717-865-2478
- Lloyd Z. Nolt Trucking, Inc, 717-733-7226
- Nolt Services LLC, 717-738-1066
- Sharp Septic LLC, 717-354-6147
- Sonlight Services LLC, 717-738-2149
- Thomas H. Erb & Sons, Inc, 717-626-5591
- Walter M. Strohl, LLC, 717-733-2339
- Walters Environmental Services, Inc, 717-469-0588
- Wind River Environmental dba Kline's Services, 717-459-8020



Septic haulers not registered are not permitted to provide service in Penn Township.

Septic Maintenance

The best designed and properly installed on-lot sewage disposal system will still malfunction if the homeowner does not properly operate and maintain the system. In addition to requiring costly repairs, malfunctioning systems can contaminate surface and groundwaters, cause various health problems, and spread disease as well as create unsightly messes and foul odors when raw sewage surfaces or backs up into the home.

Homeowners can help prevent malfunctions and ensure the long-term use of their on-lot system by doing the following:

- Conserving water and reducing wasteflow into the septic tank
- Having the septic tank pumped at least every 3 years
- Inspecting the septic tank, pipes and drainage field annually
- Maintaining accurate records of the septic system (design, installation, location, inspections, pumpings, malfunctions, repairs)
- Preventing run-off from downspouts, sump pumps, and paved surfaces from getting into the septic system
- Keeping heavy vehicles, equipment and livestock away from the septic system
- Not planting trees and shrubs over or close to the septic system

Your Toilet Is Not A Trash Can

Trillions of living, beneficial bacteria constantly treat and decompose raw sewage in a septic system. The effectiveness of these bacteria can be impaired if harmful substances and chemicals are put into the septic system. Harmful substances/chemicals include:

- Oils and grease
- Gasoline, antifreeze, diesel, car oil or other like items
- Varnishes, paints and solvents
- Harsh drain and toilet bowl cleaners
- Laundry detergents with high sudsing elements
- Bleach
- Pesticides

Remember, what goes into your toilet and drains may eventually end up back in your drinking water. So instead of using caustic toilet bowl cleaners or bleach, try mild detergent, baking soda or one half cup of borax per gallon of water.

NEVER flush bulky, hard to decompose items such as sanitary napkins, diapers, paper towels, cigarette filters, plastics, eggshells, bones or coffee grounds down the toilet because they can clog the system.

Permits

Do I need one?

It depends. For most projects, permits are needed. If you are unsure or have ANY questions, call the Township at 717-665-4508. We are willing to help you.

Projects that require a permit include:

- Adding a bedroom
- Starting a home-based business
- Adding or removing anything structural/supporting a load
- Installing or replacing an above-ground or in-ground pool, including a temporary inflatable pool capable of holding 24 inches or more of water
- Installing or replacing a fence, including fencing for animals or pool
- Changing use of a structure or land
- Installing a retaining wall, deck, patio or sidewalk
- Installing or enlarging a greenhouse
- Repaving or adding to your driveway
- Finishing a basement
- Changing an office, attic or storage space to a bedroom or living space
- Keeping of a transportation horse (there are property size requirements for the number of animals on a parcel)
- Renting a dwelling for less than 30 days, including through AirBnB, VRBO, or similar service

****Residents, Contractors and Sub-Contractors**

If a permit is required, it is your responsibility to obtain or see that a permit is obtained for the project. Both the property owner and the contractor can be held responsible.

The list above is not a list of all projects that require a permit. If you have ANY questions about permitting, please call the office at 717-665-4508.



READY TO START DIGGING?

Before you start a project that requires digging—like planting a tree or installing a fence or pool—call 811. PPL and other utilities will come out to mark off any underground lines before your work begins.

Why is this important? Because if someone unintentionally hits an underground power line, it could injure them severely, or even kill them. Even if no one is hurt, damaging a line could cause service outages that could impact your neighbors and there could be significant costs you'll need to pay to fix the damage.

In Pennsylvania, you need to call 811 at least three business days before you start your project.

Take care and remember KNOW WHAT'S BELOW.



Pennsylvania 811

A Privately funded non-profit Pennsylvania Corporation

Public Works Crews News

Widening, Grading and Rebuilding Airy Hill Road



Not shown: Road crew also worked to improve sight lines at Temperance Hill Road/West Lexington Road by removing the bank along Temperance Hill Road.

Staying Safe During Floods:

Floods are some of the most destructive natural disasters due to their potential for water damage, road closures, and limited visibility. For those living in an area prone to flooding, it is important to know the steps to take to remain safe during flooding.

Be Prepared

Research your area to determine if it is at risk for flooding. Make sure you know possible evacuation routes. Make sure to stock up on several days' worth of food, water, and necessary medications in case of an emergency. Consider purchasing a car charger to charge your cell phone or portable battery-operated radio to stay informed.

Listen to Warnings

If a flood warning is issued, stay informed of the conditions and follow instructions from the local authorities to keep safe. Listen to all instructions like "evacuate" or "shelter in place". You should never attempt to drive while there is flooding as the roads become impassable quickly.

Stay Indoors if Possible

Attempt to remain in your home if it is possible. If you must evacuate, take all necessary items such as important documents and medications, and follow the evacuation routes.

Avoid Flood Waters

Never attempt to drive, walk, or swim through flood waters, and never attempt to play in a flooded area.

Continue to Monitor

Once you reach a safe area, continue to monitor the situation. Stay tuned to weather alerts and take all necessary precautions to protect yourself and your property during flooding. By being prepared and following these steps, you can stay safe during a flood.



CHIQUES CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE

2023 WATERSHED EXPO

Mark your calendars for the Chiques Creek Watershed Expo!

June 7, 2023 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Manheim Farm Show Complex

For more information, visit: <https://penntwplanco.org/chiques-creek-watershed-expo-june-7-2023/>



Stormwater management brings challenges, opportunities in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's 86,000 miles of rivers and streams are a source of pride, beauty, and recreation for our families and communities. Unfortunately, unchecked polluted runoff continues to be a major, and growing contributor to unhealthy waters in the Commonwealth.

As communities across the Commonwealth face pressure to update old stormwater infrastructure and accommodate growth, there is great opportunity to design stormwater systems that revitalize local communities and economies, reduce flooding, restore health to our rivers and streams, and support a vibrant quality of life.

The Problem with Stormwater Runoff in Pennsylvania

The next time it rains, watch the water move from your roof and your driveway down the street. Some of it soaks into the soil to become groundwater. Some of it evaporates into the air, but most of it runs to the nearest stream, lake, river, or wetland.

This water is referred to as stormwater runoff. As it flows over the land, it picks up and carries pollutants, litter, and sediments (soil). Along the way, it picks up excess fertilizers and pesticides, pet waste, motor oil and antifreeze, cigarette butts, and other debris on the streets.

Stormwater runoff also draws heat from concrete and asphalt pavement as it travels, causing river and stream temperatures to rise. This creates multiple problems for our waterways. Because hot water can hold less oxygen than cold water, aquatic creatures that require high levels of oxygen find it harder to survive. Plus, critters like Pennsylvania's iconic brook trout and our new state amphibian, the Eastern hellbender, like cold, clean water.

Runoff also causes sudden increases in the amount and speed of water flowing into streams, resulting in increased erosion of streambanks and increasing localized flooding.

Based on scientific studies, as of 2020 more than 5,200 miles of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams, including the Chiques Creek, were considered impaired due to stormwater runoff. Stormwater is also identified as a significant, and growing, source of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from Pennsylvania that ends up in the Chesapeake Bay, where it contributes to harmful algae blooms. When the blooms die and decompose, they create low-oxygen "dead zones" where fish, oysters, and crabs cannot survive.

Solving the Problem

Land-use plans and ordinances guide citizens, planners, engineers, developers and elected officials in helping to prevent and solve stormwater challenges. By encouraging compact development, we protect open spaces, including farms, and preserve natural systems that filter, cleanse and help to moderate the flow of stormwater runoff. Other ordinances encourage the installation of green infrastructure such as rain gardens, street trees, permeable pavement or streamside forests.



These help to slow water down allowing it to soak into the ground, filtering the water cleaning it for human and animal consumption and beautifying neighborhoods to provide spaces for recreation, exploration and education (supporting pollinator species and other wildlife) all while reducing flooding and cleaning the air.

To read the full article, visit <https://www.cvf.org/about-cbf/locations/pennsylvania/issues/stormwater/index.html>.

Lancaster Water Week is an annual celebration of the 1,400 miles of waterways in Lancaster County, PA!

Sign up for over 40 events June 2-10 as we paddle, explore, volunteer, learn, and take action as a community to protect our streams and rivers for the future!

Learn more: www.lancasterwaterweek.org



Eight Pennsylvania Municipalities Form First-of-its-Kind Regional Municipal Authority to Solve EMS Crisis

ELIZABETHTOWN, PA (February 15, 2023) – After a year-long cooperative process, eight municipalities in the northwest region of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, have incorporated to create a first-of-its-kind regional municipal authority to address the region's emergency medical services crisis.

The new Municipal Emergency Services Authority of Lancaster County will fund, manage and provide EMS services to member municipalities in northwest Lancaster County. It will be the first rate-setting regional municipal emergency services authority in Pennsylvania. **The founding municipalities are Conoy Township, East Donegal Township, Elizabethtown Borough, Elizabeth Township, Marietta Borough, Mount Joy Township, Penn Township and West Donegal Township.**

The path to forming the authority began in 2018, when municipalities in the northwest portion of Lancaster County were at a crossroads with the future of emergency medical services at risk.

Many EMS agencies in Pennsylvania are struggling to maintain services in the face of soaring costs, funding shortfalls and staffing challenges. Northwest EMS in northwest Lancaster County, which was recognized as Pennsylvania EMS Agency of the Year in 2020 by the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council, was facing insolvency due to insufficient revenue and rising costs.

"Although Northwest EMS is widely known for outstanding service, less than half of municipal residents contribute to the organization through subscriptions," said Marc Hershey, Elizabethtown Borough Council President and chair of the committee of municipal leaders who convened to address the local EMS crisis. "The average gap between gross billings and insurance payments was averaging over \$4 million a year and increasing expenses for equipment, fuel, certifications, trainings and employee benefits were taking a heavy toll. In short, municipalities in our region needed a bold solution to continue to meet their statutory obligation to ensure EMS readiness to answer the call."

At the start of 2021, the committee began studying and exploring alternatives. Upon conducting a collaborative analysis, the committee arrived at an innovative solution: Creation of a regional municipal emergency services authority under the Pennsylvania Municipality Authorities Act to fund and provide EMS readiness and services on a regional basis.

Over a period of several months, the committee engaged in municipal public meetings, additional public education initiatives and a public hearing on the proposed solution. The process culminated in eight municipalities in the region enacting ordinances to form the Municipal Emergency Services Authority of Lancaster County. The authority was incorporated on February 7.

"This initiative demonstrates how municipal cooperation can solve regional problems," said Rob Brady, president of ROBB Consulting, a consultant for the project. "Bringing municipalities together for a common regional cause is no small feat but, as a group, this committee of local leaders embraced a regional mindset to drive the process. Looking forward, the authority will enable each of the member municipalities to ensure that EMS services continue to be available with readiness to respond."

Instead of generating operating revenue through municipal and membership contributions, the authority will set a reasonable and uniform annual fees to property owners, on par with Northwest EMS subscription rates. As a regional municipal entity, the authority will hold public hearings, enabling community members to have a voice regarding any changes to services or rates.

The authority will begin holding board meetings in March. A public hearing is expected to be held in late summer on the Authority's emergency services and fee structure. ***The Authority plans to be operational and begin providing services by early 2024.***



EMS Week May 22-26, 2023 – Where Emergency Care Begins
At Northwest EMS, we are proud to serve every patient as if they were a member of our own family. To learn more about our services and our outreach initiatives, email our Community Outreach Manager, Lori Shenk, at lshenk@nwems86.org or call 717-371-8282.



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conducting surveys and planning meetings to best utilize the space for future years to come. The building committee worked on plans to replace and upgrade items that would better utilize the existing rooms. A fire sprinkler system was added, electrical updated, windows replaced, heated floor and raised garage glass doors installed just to name a few.



For more information on the renovation or to support your local fire department, please stop by a food truck frenzy/open house May 21 from 12pm till 5pm.

Manheim Fire along with 8 other fire companies have been awarded \$755,550 over 3 years for recruiting and retaining volunteer members. Volunteer numbers continue to dwindle and we're hoping that this Federal SAFER grant will help draw members. Please stop in any Monday night and ask about how you can help or email Chief Kirchner at chief@manheimfire.com to set up a meeting to discuss our many opportunities! Opportunities are available for persons 14 years old and up. Apply today.



**PENN
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LANCASTER COUNTY, PA
97 N Penryn Rd, Manheim, PA 17545

TOWNSHIP OFFICE SPRING CLOSINGS

May 29 - Memorial Day

MOW GRASS ONTO YOUR PROPERTY NOT THE STREET

No GRASS CLIPPINGS in storm drains or the street!

Disposing of grass clippings in the street after mowing blocks storm inlets so water will not flow through the storm sewer system. This causes flooding on roads and makes it dangerous for travellers on bike, scooters and motorcycles.

Grass clippings are considered an illicit discharge and fines may be assessed. Grass clippings contribute excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in the streams, ponds and rivers, polluting the water. Help keep water clean by keeping grass clippings off of pavement.

Grass clippings left on the lawn act as free fertilizer. Cut grass should be blown towards your lawn, not the street. Sweep or blow any leftover clippings (or fertilizer) back onto your lawn.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Vice Chairperson-Richard
Landis
Treasurer-Thomas Walsh
Supervisor-Ronald Krause
Supervisor-Gary Stevens
Secretary-Mark Hiester

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairperson-Fred Hammond

Vice Chairperson-Linda Brown
Secretary-Cullen Ketcham
Member-Stephen Engle
Member-Skylar Gingrich
Alternate-Vacant

ZONING HEARING BOARD

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Vice Chairperson-Steven
Bushey
Member-Aaron Kopp
Member-Bill Postel

Member-Leroy Stoltzfus
Alternate-Alan Shaffer

NORTHWESTERN LANCASTER COUNTY AUTHORITY

Chairperson-Herbert Mattern
Vice-Chairperson-Barbara
Horst
Member-Phil Donmoyer
Member-Cullen Ketcham
Member-Lewis Jury

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE

Chief-David Steffen

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Manager-Mark Hiester
Planner-Jennifer Tulonen
Zoning Officer-Matt Reeser
Finance-Connie Weidle
Receptionist-Barbara Grable
Public Works Director-Daryl
Lefever

Foreman-Neil Fittery
Maintenance Worker-Keith
Ihle
Maintenance Worker-Shannon
Martin
Maintenance Worker-Clayton
Fidler

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Len Spencer, III, SEO