

# Township News

*Fall/Winter 2023/2024 Edition*

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[www.penntwplanco.org](http://www.penntwplanco.org)

## Community Spotlight

### Ron Krause Set to Retire from Board of Supervisors



On December 31, 2023, Ron Krause retires from serving as a member on the Penn Township Board of Supervisors for 24 years.

In 2000, Daryl Lefever asked him to run for office after Harold Diffenderfer resigned. At that time, there were only three Supervisors - Daryl Lefever, Scott Shenk and newly elected Ron Krause.

The biggest decision during Ron's first term was the Manheim Auto Auction's request to expand on 267 acres of farm land which lasted three years with many community members petitioning the Board for both approval and denial of the request. The final vote ended 2-1 in favor of the expansion.

During his time as an elected official, Ron states that his biggest accomplishments include expanding the Board to 5 members and pursuing farm preservation in Penn Township. Expanding the Board gives the members more ideas and opinions; allowing them to make better decisions. Farm preservation allows the Township to

keep the rural agricultural appeal of the community.

The biggest thing Ron has learned is that despite one's best efforts, regulations have limits and the Board cannot deny certain types of development.

As Supervisor, Ron stated that the hardest vote was the decision on the Manheim Auto Auction expansion.

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The second toughest vote was on the recent EMS decision to contract with Penn State Life Lion.

Community Day was always a highlight. The Manheim community was able to come together and the Township could show how it is helping its residents.

In the future, Ron would like to see future developments have more single family or semi-detached homes and fewer apartments. He would like to see improvements along South Main Street, Manheim and surrounding area to include an increase in the capacity of off-street parking. Ron plans to continue to attend Board of Supervisors meetings and be a resource for the Supervisors and the community by contributing where he is able.

**Thank you, Ron, for your dedicated service to the community!**

Public servants make our community better. Thank a public servant today!

## Bob Fichthorn & Harry Barnett Honored For Service to Community

Bob served for 56 years as a responding firefighter and fire policeman with the Penryn Fire Company. He joined in 1965 and served continuously responding to calls through 2022. In Bob's early years, he was an active firefighter until he made the switch to the fire police sometime in the 1980's and later served as fire police captain. He was instrumental in the purchase of Penryn's first fire police traffic unit and securing all the related equipment needed to do the job safely. Bob's careful organization over the years has kept the fire police properly trained and running smoothly.

Harry has served for an amazing 50 years as a responding firefighter. Harry joined the Penryn Fire Company in 1971, putting his experience as a truck driver to work as a fire truck driver. Harry worked his way up the ladder from driver, to engineer, to his current position of chief engineer. He has helped many rookie fire truck drivers learn driving techniques and pump operations through the years. His expertise and attention to detail has been of great value by serving on all of the new fire apparatus committees for the last 30 years. Harry has the distinction of being the top responding member of the fire company answering 90 of the 145 calls in 2022.



Mindy Fee pictured here with two incredible volunteers who have served our community well for decades: Bob Fichthorn (left) and Harry Barnett.

Senator Ryan Aument & Representative Mindy Fee honored these two community heroes for their dedicated service.

**Thank you so much for all you've done to help keep our community and families safe!**



# NLCRPD Chief Steffen Retired

Chief David Steffen retired in early August after 11 years as Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department (NLCRPD) police chief and a 44 year career in law enforcement. During his career, he served on various boards, most recently as Executive Chair of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and President of the Pennsylvania Associations of Regional Chiefs of Police.

Chief Steffen, originally from York County, graduated high school from Red Land High School in York County and then went on to post secondary education at Pennsylvania State University, Elizabethtown College, Penn State University and Northwestern University.

In late 2011, David Steffen was provided the unique opportunity to command a newly formed regional police department and put the lessons learned in a career of regional policing into a newly created department. In 2012, Steffen was named as the department's very first chief and was tasked with bringing three local police departments together - Warwick Township, Penn Township and Clay Township.

By bringing these departments together, it was a cost-saving approach to regional policing that allows for highly specialized police officers. This required the design and branding of the organization in structure, policy, uniforms, equipment and most importantly the investment in its' members. Since the formation period on January 1, 2012, the NLCRPD's 34 officer force has emerged as a recognized leader with highly skilled and professional, full-service law enforcement. The utilization of technology, training and career development of agency members are critical in the delivery of high-quality police services to over 42,500 residents in the area.

With the leadership of Chief Steffen, an emphasis was placed on mentoring effective leadership, development of first line supervision, discipline, policy development, training and technology implementation. As a result of these principles, the use of sound fiscal and strategic planning, the identification and elimination of internal obstacles as well as the development of succession and leadership has proved key to the advancement and development of the NLCRPD. The department became

accredited by Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission in July 2019.

Chief Steffen has been key to the success of the department and was involved in every aspect of creating the identity of the NLCRPD, right down to the uniforms and vehicle design.

Succeeding Chief Steffen, is Chief Josh Kilgore, a 30 year veteran of law enforcement and Warwick Township native.

In retirement, Chief Steffen plans to travel with his wife of 43 years, spend time with his family, and do some fly fishing.

Thank you for your service to the community.





## Fruitville Pike, Temperance Hill Road, Holly Tree Road Intersection Project



The long awaited improvements at the intersection are complete! If you haven't driven through the intersection yet, we encourage you to check out the improvements and how your tax dollars are going to make it safer for motorists in the area.



### **RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES ARE CAUSING FIRES.**

### **PLEASE KEEP ALL BATTERIES OUT OF THE TRASH AND RECYCLING BINS!**

We need the community's help! Rechargeable batteries containing metals such as lithium and nickel, can spark and explode when damaged. Fires in garbage trucks and processing facilities are on the rise. Help protect our employees, garbage collectors, property, and community.

Rechargeable batteries are found in many common household items including: Power Tools, Toys, Cellphones, Laptops, Watches, Remote Controls, Gaming Devices, Electric Toothbrushes, E-cigarettes and Vape Devices

#### **Here's what to do:**

- Rechargeable Batteries: Don't store end-of-life batteries. Dispose of immediately.

FREE Proper Disposal to all LANCASTER COUNTY RESIDENTS: Bring batteries and cellphones to LCSWMA's Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 1299 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA, 17603 – Mon–Fri 7am to 4pm; Sat 7am to 11am



## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

### PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW

Motorists **MUST STOP** at least 10 feet away from buses that have their red lights flashing and arm extended.

Motorists **MUST STOP** when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus, or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped.

Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus **MUST STOP** until the red lights have stopped flashing, the bus arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety.



## 7 Things Code Inspectors Wish Homeowners Knew

Owning a house is a big responsibility and code inspectors and local building departments can be valuable resources to homeowners who are looking to ensure that all building codes and safety regulations are being followed.

- To build on your property, you are going to need a permit.
- You need to follow your local zoning regulations; they are there for a reason.
- Be aware of property maintenance issues, maintaining your property is unavoidable.
- Check for open permits or violations on properties you are looking to purchase.
- Check to see if the property is in a flood plain.
- Understand that home inspectors are a valuable resource to you.
- **Permits save you time and money in the long run.**

For more information, visit [https://www.iccsafe.org/building-safety-journal/bsj-perspectives/from-the-field-7-things-code-inspectors-wish-homeowners-knew/?utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=257013123&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9CbXidUIjt2Fjxg-aVT2vko5zUNSFpNVfewTLCyM72b6d6545Cy5m3xL0Y4tn7c3CqECvAYqqQc96gr\\_A9SmCjG0E1xQ&utm\\_content=257016582&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.iccsafe.org/building-safety-journal/bsj-perspectives/from-the-field-7-things-code-inspectors-wish-homeowners-knew/?utm_medium=email&_hsmi=257013123&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9CbXidUIjt2Fjxg-aVT2vko5zUNSFpNVfewTLCyM72b6d6545Cy5m3xL0Y4tn7c3CqECvAYqqQc96gr_A9SmCjG0E1xQ&utm_content=257016582&utm_source=hs_email)

**Safe digging is  
no accident!**

**Know what's  
below.**

**Call 8-1-1  
before you dig.**



### MAWSA Water Meter Replacement Project

MAWSA continues to work at replacing water meters in Penn Township. If you have public water from MAWSA and you have not already had your meter replaced, please note that their contractor may be contacting you soon to schedule.



### TOWNSHIP OFFICE FALL & WINTER CLOSINGS

**2023**

**September 4: Labor Day**

**October 9: Columbus Day**

**November 23 & 24: Thanksgiving Day**

**December 25: Christmas**

**2024**

**January 1: New Year's**

**January 15: Martin Luther King Day**

**February 19: President's Day**

# What is Affordable Housing? Myths & Facts

Affordable housing is housing that a household can pay for, while still having money left over for other necessities like food, transportation, and health care. That means that what's considered "affordable" depends on a household's income. The federal government typically defines housing as affordable when it consumes no more than 30 percent of a household's income.

## Who needs affordable housing? Everyone.

From high-income earners, to hourly wage workers, to people experiencing homelessness, and everyone in between, people need housing they can afford. The rent or home price that is affordable may vary from one household to the next, but the need for housing that is affordable is shared by everyone.

There is a large and growing share of the population that cannot afford its housing costs. Nationally, more than one in seven households are what economists call "severely cost burdened." This means that they pay half or more of their income on housing. *In Lancaster County, over 45% (more than 60,000 households) of renters and almost 25% of homeowners with a mortgage pay more than 30% of their income for the cost of housing.*

Lancaster County 2022 Area Median Income was \$90,200/household. **A family of four can earn up to \$72,160 and still qualify for affordable housing, individual up to \$50,555 (at 80% of the area median income).**

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis forecasted Lancaster County would need to get **1,150 affordable housing units per year** to keep up with demand. In the 12 months ending in June 2022, just over 120 units had received permits, a number that includes all price points.

According to the Economic Development Co. of Lancaster County's Center for Regional Analysis, the misalignment between household size and housing stock ends up causing this really big pinch in the middle of our housing market.

There aren't enough apartments, townhomes or small/tiny homes for single people, couples, and young families with children that can't afford large houses, so they all end up competing for the same middle-market properties.



What does a full-time worker need to make to afford a modest 2-bedroom home in the region at fair market rent?

Zip Code	Northeast Planning Area Municipalities	Hourly Wage
17540	Manheim, Warwick, West Earl Townships	\$21.15
17543	Clay, Elizabeth, Ephrata, Manheim, Warwick Townships, and Lititz Borough	\$22.12



## MYTHS about multi-family units and affordable housing:

- Create more cars and more traffic
- Lead to an increase in crime
- Depress neighboring real estate value
- Unemployed
- Do not pay taxes

## Census Bureau Statistics-Penn Township

Total Population: 10,210  
Median Income: \$69,169  
Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 32.7%  
Employment Rate: 64.8%  
Total Housing Units: 4,279  
Average Household Size: 2.4 persons  
Total Households: 4,151

## The FACTS:

- Tend to have fewer cars and generate fewer vehicle trips
- Tend to have fewer occupants and school-age children
- Become catalysts for additional neighborhood investments
- Do not have higher impact on crime than market rate developments of comparable densities
- Residents are typically employed and many are essential workers (teachers, grocery store employees, gas station workers, restaurant employees, etc.)
- Owners pay the same property taxes as other housing types

## In Penn Township:

71% of region's housing is single-family  
14% is apartments  
15% is senior living

<https://localhousingolutions.org/housing-101-the-basics/what-is-affordable-housing/>

<https://oneunitedlancaster.com/community/can-a-strong-towns-approach-fix-lancaster-countys-affordable-housing-crisis/>

<https://missingmiddlehousing.com/>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63fcccc9dd75265fe6344of/t/648a1f79b63d74a896029b1/1686773530804/230608+Community+Meeting+3+Housing+Presentation.pdf>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/penntownship Lancaster county pennsylvania, Lancaster county pennsylvania, PA/POP645221>

## Stormwater Basin Construction - Cedar Hollow, Manheim Central Middle School & Stehman Property at the end of West End Road

Work is being done in the drainage basin due to the Township's MS4 responsibilities (see for more information: <https://penntwplanco.org/residents-businesses/water-resources/links/ms4-system/>)

Penn Township was awarded a grant through PA DEP to design several projects, one is the Loghes Drive basin. The project aims to address the Township's requirements for pounds of sediment reduced into the Chesapeake Bay, as well as % decreases in chemicals such as nitrogen and phosphorus. The Cedar Hollow basin is one of several the Township is currently in the process of constructing. The basin in Cedar Hollow, (10k lb. sediment/year), another basin at White Oak Road, with the school district (15k lb. sediment/year), and a swale (part of the Jerry Stehman Land Development) along West End Drive which will remove about 63k lb. sediment/year.

The basin in Cedar Hollow is being constructed with addition of amended soils and planted with a low maintenance planting mix to ensure drainage is released slowly and to aid in bio-retention of stormwater. The basin will largely look as it did prior; in regards to size, shape, and plant characteristics.

For more resources and information on stormwater, visit <https://penntwplanco.org/residents-businesses/stormwater-management/stormwater/>.



\*\*\*Please do not enter the site(s) or alter work being done. These are ongoing construction projects and disruptions to the construction is not permitted.

## Penn State Life Lion EMS

On January 1, 2024, Penn State Health Life Lion will cover Emergency Medical Services for Penn Township. Penn State Health Life Lion is also expected to serve Manheim Borough and Rapho Township, so you should see their vehicles there too.

Individuals and households may purchase Life Lion memberships and receive the benefits of membership at <https://www.ambulancebillingoffice.com/memberships/pennstatehealth.php> or by calling 717-763-2108 option 2.



For more information on Penn State Health Life Lion, visit their website at <https://www.pennstatehealth.org/services-treatments/life-lion-emergency-medical-services-critical-care>.

We want to thank the Northwest Emergency Medical Service for providing EMS to our township for at least a decade. NWEMS is to transition services to a new MESA (Municipal Services Authority).

### Jeff Weachter Inducted into the PSFCA Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Penn Township resident, Jeff Weachter, who was inducted into the 2023 PSFCA Hall of Fame. Weachter has been head football coach at Lebanon Catholic and has spent the last 25 years at Bishop McDevitt.



### MANHEIM VFW Clean-up Crew



Members of the Manheim VFW have started a clean-up project as part of PennDOT Adopt-A-Highway program. Volunteers clean-up from Kauffman's Mennonite Church to Gibble Auto Upholstery along Route 72. Those willing to help should contact Penny West at [greattwins22283@gmail.com](mailto:greattwins22283@gmail.com).

Thank you to Manheim VFW and volunteers who work to keep the Township looking beautiful! Thank you for your service.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Penn Township residents are encouraged to discard their live Christmas trees in the designated area behind the Township office from December 26 through the end of January. All decorations must be removed and discarded prior to bringing your Christmas tree for recycling.



## Stay Safe During Winter Weather

1. Check your vehicle
2. Slow down
3. Plan ahead
4. Invest in winter tires
5. Don't drive distracted
6. Dress and drive for the conditions
7. Protect yourself from frostbite
8. Stay aware of weather reports
9. Keep cars and homes heated safely
10. Check on loved ones and neighbors

## What to do with Yard Waste during your Fall Cleanup

Autumn leaves are beautiful but they can also cause problems if they aren't collected and disposed of properly. When leaves and yard clippings are raked into the street or ditches, the vegetative debris can clog storm drains or run into creeks and streams polluting our waterways. During heavy rains, blocked storm drains and ditches can cause flooding. Leaves and grass clippings that make their way to local streams and rivers release nutrients that contribute to the accelerated growth of algae. This can be harmful to fish and other aquatic wildlife. By taking the following steps we can reduce the threat of flooding and nutrient loading to local waterbodies.

- **Mulch:** An easy and beneficial way to deal with leaves is by mulching them back onto your lawn. Simply mow the leaves and leave them on the lawn. The mower will chop the leaves into small pieces that will decompose and provide valuable nutrients to the soil.
- **Compost:** Add autumn leaves to a compost pile or place them in planting beds or gardens to provide an inexpensive and nutrient rich fertilizer for your garden. Composting is nature's truest form of recycling.
- **Rake:** At this time, Penn Township does not collect leaves and brush. Check with your contracted waste hauler to find out if a leaf collection service is available. Leaves should never be placed in the storm drain, gutter or street.

\*\*\*Penn Township does not have a yard waste disposal site, however West Earl Township allows non-residents to bring yard waste to their facilities. Contact the Township office before bringing items to the facility. Fees apply.

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL. DO NOT BRING TRASH OR ITEMS NOT PERMITTED TO THE COMPOST PARK or YARD WASTE FACILITY.

### West Earl Township

161 Locust Street, Talmage, PA

Ph. 717-859-3201

<https://www.westearltpw.org/about/pages/compost-facility>

### Penn Township Yard Waste Facility Update:

Penn Township received a \$350,000 DEP grant to build a yard waste facility. In late July 2023, the Township also received the approved permit from DEP. Design and subsequent construction is expected in 2024.





## How to Engage with Your Local Library

By Manheim Community Library

The first thing that comes to mind when you think of a library is probably books on a shelf. While Manheim Community Library does have your favorite books, there is more to discover than just your next read. Here are a few ways you can engage with your local library:

**LEARN** - Of course you can learn new things through reading a book. But did you know that the library also provides local museum passes, STEM kits, teacher resources and so much more that you can check out with your library card? Also with your library card, you're also able to use our online resources such as audio books, Flipster digital magazines, and e-books. There is so much to discover using your library card!

**CONNECT** - Whether you'd like to join us for our weekly story time or toddler play time, or one of our unique programs, the library is a great place for connection. Here you'll find friendly faces and people with similar interests all while doing fun activities or learning something new.

**GROW** - There are many opportunities to grow here at the library. For preschoolers, we have our 1,000 books before kindergarten program where children are encouraged to start reading from an early age. Our monthly Homeschool STEM programs are a great place for kids to grow in their knowledge of things like electricity, earthquakes, robotics and much more. By utilizing library resources, you can grow in hobbies, job skills and general knowledge.

To find out more about what Manheim Community Library has to offer, to view our events schedule, or to find your next good read, visit [manheimlibrary.org](http://manheimlibrary.org). We will see you at the library!

## WINTER STORM SAFETY & TIPS

The Penn Township Public Works Department understands that when the snow flies, life on the roads can be a trying time. We try hard to do the best and quickest job possible to make the roads safe and clear of snow and ice. Cidering usually starts right after the snow begins to fall, with plowing starting around 3" of accumulation. Cidering and plowing routes are set up to clear the more heavily traveled roads first, then secondary roads and development streets. All roads are usually plowed over twice. We make an effort to plow through all of the streets and roads once to get everything at least passable and then the second time to get the snow to the edge of the road or curb. Penn Township is committed to providing excellent snow removal service.

- Stay back at least 100 ft, when following plow trucks or equipment
- Turn on headlights
- For your safety, DO NOT PASS A SNOW PLOW when it is plowing
- Clear a minimum 3ft area around fire hydrants within 24 hrs
- A 3ft wide path must be cleared from sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hrs
- Snow and ice must not be deposited into the street, next to a fire hydrant, on a sidewalk or loading/unloading area
- Damage to mailboxes, nets, poles or other obstructions within the right-of-way are the property owner's responsibility





## ATTENTION: PENN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WATER CUSTOMERS

Northwestern Lancaster County Authority and Penn Township will attempt to notify all of our PUBLIC WATER customers by telephone, text or email in the future event of any water emergency situation that might occur. Public notification is a procedure used by water suppliers to notify its customers in the case of an event that makes the water supply unsafe.

If you are a public water customer of NWLCA/Penn Township, we are asking that you take a moment to fill in the information below and return the completed form to the Penn Township Office. You may choose to mail in the form with your billing statement, fax it to 717-665-4105, scan and email it to [finance@penntwplanco.org](mailto:finance@penntwplanco.org), or mail it separately to 97 N. Penryn Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

The Northwestern Lancaster County Authority and Penn Township will not furnish any personal information to outside sources. The information herein is solely for the use of Penn Township, the Authority and Emergency Management.

Property owners are required to provide tenant contact information. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

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### NWLCA/Penn Township Water Customer Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Water Service Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred # ☐

Cell (Mobile) Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred # ☐

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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### ***Election Day***

Scheduled for November 7, 2023

Poll Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Last day to register: October 23, 2023

Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot: October 31, 2023



You can now register to vote through the Pennsylvania Department of State's online application. Before you begin, be sure to have your Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT ID card handy. If you don't have either of these, there are other options. Once you submit your online application, it will be forwarded to the appropriate county voter registration office for processing. Visit [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) for more information.



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



<b>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</b> Chairperson-Ben Bruckhart Vice Chairperson-Richard Landis Treasurer-Thomas Walsh Supervisor-Ronald Krause Supervisor-Gary Stevens Secretary-Mark Hiester	Vice Chairperson-Linda Brown Secretary-Cullen Ketcham Member-Stephen Engle Member-Skylar Gingrich Alternate-Vacant	Member-Leroy Stoltzfus Alternate-Alan Shaffer	<b>NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE</b> Chief-Josh Kilgore	Foreman-Neil Fittery Maintenance Worker-Keith Lehle Maintenance Worker-Shannon Martin Maintenance Worker-Clayton Fidler
<b>PLANNING COMMISSION</b> Chairperson-Fred Hammond	<b>ZONING HEARING BOARD</b> Chairperson-Gerald Wolfe Vice Chairperson-Sтивен Bushey Member-Aaron Kopp Member-Bill Postel	<b>NORTHWESTERN LANCASTER COUNTY AUTHORITY</b> Chairperson-Herbert Mattern Vice-Chairperson-Barbara Horst Member-Phil Donmoyer Member-Cullen Ketcham Member-Lewis Jury	<b>TOWNSHIP STAFF</b> Manager-Mark Hiester Planner-Jennifer Tulonen Zoning Officer-Matt Reeser Finance-Connie Weidle Receptionist-Barbara Grable Public Works Director-Daryl Lefever	<b>SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER</b> Len Spencer, III, SEO