



**PENN**  
**TOWNSHIP**

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

# Township News

*Fall 2024 Edition*

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

## Community Spotlight

### NLCRPD Honors Officer Tod Neifert on 25 Years of Service and Retirement

The NLCRPD Officers, Staff, Municipal Managers and Regional Police Board of Commission announce the retirement of Officer Tod Neifert. After twenty-five years of dedicated service, Officer Neifert retired in August 2024.

Officer Neifert began his career in law enforcement with Penn Township in March of 1999. During his tenure at Penn Township, he served as the Manheim Central School District School Resource Officer from 2007 to 2013. In 2012, Officer Neifert was among the original twenty-two Police Officers from the Townships of Penn, Clay and Warwick that were sworn-in as the founding members of the Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department.

In 2015, Neifert was assigned to the Manheim Auto Auction as a Special Detail Officer. The NLCRPD in conjunction with Penn Township has provided contractual police services to the Auction from inception. Neifert and his fellow Detail Officers have protected millions of dollars in assets and have been an essential part of major investigations at the Auction, focused on recovery, fraud, theft, and various other crimes found in and around the automotive industry. Officer Neifert was also an essential part of the annual Lancaster County Mother's Day Make-A-Wish Truck Convoy. That event has been hosted for the last several years at the Manheim Auto Auction.

Officer Neifert was a member of numerous boards and programs like the Lancaster County Auto Theft Task Force, the PA Auto Theft Prevention Authority as a Board of Director and the Northeast Chapter of International Association of Auto Theft President – to name a few. In 2017, Officer Neifert received a Certificate of Meritorious Achievement from the New York Anti-Car Theft & Fraud Association. The award was in recognition of an investigation where Officer Neifert and his partner Officer DaBella coordinated with the NYPD Auto Crime Division that resulted in the arrest of a suspect in New York City with a restitution of \$250,000 to the



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## Yard Waste Facility Update

Construction on the long-awaited yard waste facility has finally begun. Public Works crews are busy at work digging, leveling, and packing dirt in preparation for paving this fall. (see pictures below).



Left: Pre-construction photo of the yard waste facility.

Below: Dirt removed from the yard waste facility construction site.



Left: Construction of stormwater basin and yard waste facility.

Upon completion of the yard waste facility, property owners will be able to obtain a key fob for access to the facility where they will be able to dispose of leaves, twigs and branches. Burning of yard waste will no longer be permitted. More information will become available later this fall and will be posted on our website. If you have not already done so, please sign up to receive alerts at <https://penntwplanco.org/alert-signup/>.

Dull's Used Parts and Recycling will accept — at no cost to residents — refrigerators, freezers, dryers, hot water heaters and all types of scrap metal each Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. No television sets, e-waste (pcs and phones), garbage or wood will be accepted. Pick up (free of charge) of junk cars on your property is available if a title or abandoned vehicle papers are available. Dull's Used Parts and Recycling is located at 144 Crest Road, Lititz, PA 17543, right off Rt 501 near Brickerville House. For more info, call Larry at 717-471-1495 first, then 717-626-8973.



## Act 101 - What is it and Why does it matter to me?

**What is Act 101?** Act 101 is the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act in Pennsylvania. This legislation regulates trash and recycling services, including leaf and woody waste, at the county and municipal level.

**Why does it matter to me?** These regulations are the guiding principles for Penn Township's trash and recycling services, including leaf and woody waste. Trash and recycling ordinances came into effect in 2000 prohibiting the burning or burying of trash and mandating the recycling of glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage containers, plastic bottles and jugs with a neck, corrugated cardboard, white goods (such as washers, dryers, fridges, freezers, etc.) and tires.

Additional regulations came into effect as a result of the 2020 census because the municipality grew to over 10,000 persons. These regulations also include the recycling of leaf and woody waste and prohibit the burning of leaf and woody waste which is why the board of supervisors, upon notification from DEP, elected to install a yard waste facility. The installation of the facility is paid for with grants and funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

At this facility, Penn Township property owners will be able to obtain a key fob for a fee, where they will be able to dispose of leaves, garden waste, shrubbery and tree trimmings.

As a mandated municipality, we are required to recycle and report these numbers to DEP. Providing accurate and timely information enables the County and State to determine an accurate recycling rate and showcase the importance and viability of the recycling industry. The Township also receives a rebate check based on the amount that is recycled in the Township. This saves you, the taxpayer, money because these funds go to offset some of the costs associated with these expenses.

Collectively, when each does their part to recycle right, we provide clean water to drink and clean communities where we can all live, work, play and thrive.

*Little*  
**CHIQUES CREEK STOMP**

**August 19, 2024 at 6-7pm**  
*Little Chiques Park, Mount Joy*

**DISCOVER WHAT IS IN THE WATER**

Learn how aquatic insects can help determine stream health! Get your hands (and feet) wet to learn more about the watershed at this free event!

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO BRING:**

- Old shoes and clothes you don't mind getting a bit wet/dirty
- A great attitude and a desire to learn!

  
LANCASTER COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



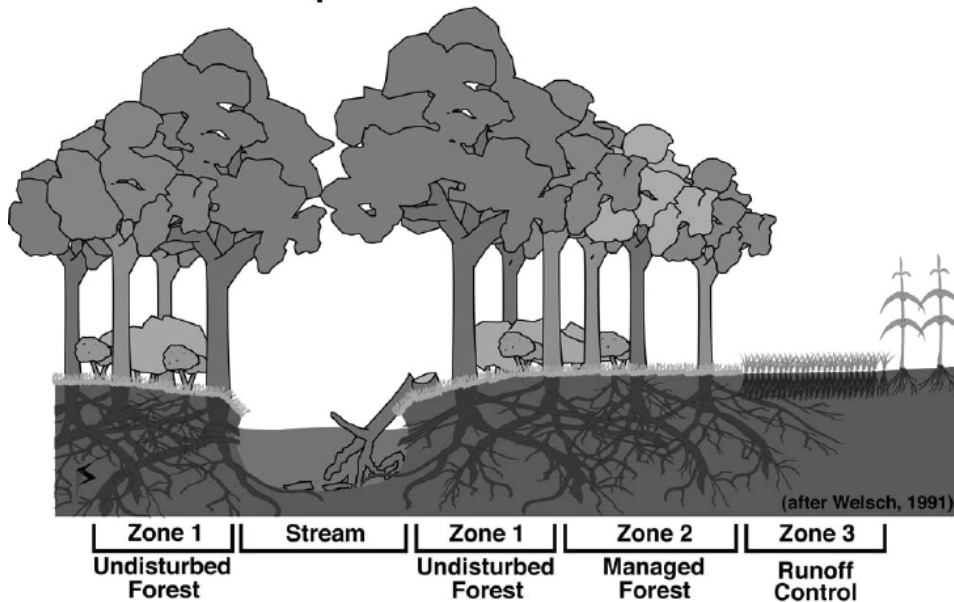
# What is a Riparian Buffer and How does it help me?

Creating beautiful natural spaces doesn't just happen. These places require careful planning and intentionality.

Planning for and creating natural areas protects the natural resources we know, need and love. Studies conducted by the U.S. Forest Service demonstrate that riparian buffers offer real advantages in the removal of harmful nutrients and sediment from stormwater before it enters the stream protecting the natural resources. These same riparian buffers can increase the food supply, create interconnected natural systems of movement for local wildlife and clean water.

The USDA Department of Forestry recommends a 90 foot wide buffer on each side of a stream to protect streams and stream banks. Riparian buffers comprise of three distinct zones, as depicted below.

## Riparian Forest Buffer



Zone 1 is the area closest to the streambank edge which is undisturbed forest and is typically approximately 15 feet from the streambank edge. This area must include mature native canopy trees and a ground cover of warm season grasses. New native canopy trees and grass plantings should be fast growing varieties and must thrive in wet conditions. Zone 1 requires little maintenance. As trees mature, die and decay, it is important that such natural debris be allowed to decompose within the stream as they provide important food and habitat for beneficial microorganisms, fish and amphibians.

Zone 2 extends approximately 60 feet from Zone 1 outward from stream and includes managed forest. This zone includes similar vegetation, trees and ground cover, and should be planted in such a fashion as to intercept passing nutrients. Once trees have been established, regular pruning and trimming of trees will increase nutrient consumption without jeopardizing the important overhead canopy of shade. This area is great for pedestrian paths to weave through allowing people to enjoy nature, clean groundwater and streams, while providing vital habitat for animals and fish.

Zone 3 is the area farthest from the stream before tilled agricultural lands and is 15 feet or more in width. This zone should be planted with warm season grasses that are allowed to mature naturally without mowing to ensure that overland stormwater flows do not "channel". This area is great for controlled grazing or haying so long as the grasses are not reduced to a point where they are no longer able to effectively disperse the surface water flows. This area requires little maintenance.

Mature trees and long grasses absorb more nutrients than manicured plants so streamside buffers must be generally undisturbed. Their large root systems and unmanicured nature reduce pollution and yield abundant food and habitat for wildlife.

# Lithium-ion Batteries, Regardless of the Size, DO NOT Go In The Trash

Lithium-ion batteries, when placed in the trash, are easily damaged, cause fires and can explode. These fires cannot be extinguished with water alone and cause significant risk to equipment and facilities. As a result, insurance companies demanded expensive firefighting capabilities for waste facilities. Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) invested \$10.4 million to mitigate the risk and qualify for insurance. These costs are then passed on to trash haulers who pass that cost on to their customers.

## *Lithium-ion 101*

Lithium-ion batteries come in all shapes and sizes and are used to power many of the things we use every day - from cell phones, earbuds, smartwatches and laptops to e-bikes, e-scooters and much more.



Lithium-ion batteries flame up, or even explode, through a chemical feedback loop known as “thermal runaway.” When the battery gets too hot, it causes a chemical chain reaction. That can happen through a short-circuit or some other source of overheating.



So getting lithium-ion batteries near heat or breaking them is very risky. When the battery’s structure is compromised, a solvent in the battery used to prevent an electrical short can leak out. The result is often smoldering, flames or an outright explosion. When that happens in the garbage stream, other trash can catch fire.

## *Disposal of Lithium-ion the Right Way*

Because of the risks involved, batteries require special care in disposal.

Batteries can be put in a bag and dropped off at the waste authority’s drive-thru household hazardous waste facility on Harrisburg Pike. **The service is free.** Also, several big-box stores, including Home Depot, Lowe’s and Staples, have recycling programs for lithium-ion batteries. Locations that offer that service can be found at [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org).

Note that battery terminals — the metal teeth that snap into place on devices — can cause fires if they connect inside a bag. To prevent that, tape up the terminals.

Some trash haulers accept bagged lithium-ion batteries left on the curb but customers should check with their hauler before doing so. They probably have specific instructions.

For more information visit: [safebatterydisposal.com](http://safebatterydisposal.com).

The full story can be read at: [https://lanasteronline.com/news/local/lithium-ion-batteries-are-still-a-danger-even-in-the-trash-lancaster-watchdog/article\\_42a1ea2e-4086-11ef-8fe1-7bfc8f91fab3.html](https://lanasteronline.com/news/local/lithium-ion-batteries-are-still-a-danger-even-in-the-trash-lancaster-watchdog/article_42a1ea2e-4086-11ef-8fe1-7bfc8f91fab3.html).

I had just rolled through a stop sign when my young daughter asked, “Daddy, what does that stop sign say? I explained to her that s-t-o-p spells *stop*. But she persisted, “But, Daddy, what does it mean?” I had to humbly admit that it means to stop. I had convinced myself that because of the clear view, it was not necessary to come to a complete stop. In reality, I was teaching my children disregard for the law and the only way to ease my conscience was to obey it. ~Bill Miller, Conneautville, PA





# MANHEIM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

## LEARN. CONNECT. GROW.

15 East High Street, Manheim, PA 17545

manheimlibrary.org

717.665.6700

As fall draws near and the kiddos head back to school, the library remains a center of activity for children and adults alike.

There are many continuous Adult Programs offered at Manheim Community Library. **Unraveling Yarns**, a knitting and crochet group, meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 1pm. Also offered is a **monthly book club** that meets on the 1st Thursday at 9:30am. The book pick for August is *Sooley* by John Grisham, and during September the book will be *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.



INTERESTED IN HELPING OUR  
**LIBRARY**  
THRIVE?  
**APPLY TO JOIN THE  
LIBRARY BOARD!**  
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE  
CIRCULATION DESK

Children's Programs don't stop with the start of school! **Story Time** for ages 3-5 (families are always welcome) continues to meet Monday and Tuesday mornings at 10am. Join us at 10am on Fridays for **Toddler Time**. For your crafty 6-12-year-olds, **Crafternoon** remains popular on 3rd Thursdays and **Lego Lab** on 2nd Thursdays. We will also be holding our Annual **Stuffie Sleepover** in September, see our online Library Calendar for the exact date and time.

To hear about special programs or to get more information about the ones mentioned above, please contact the library or check the website and calendar. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Library Hours:

Monday and Thursday: 9-7:30

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9-5

Saturday: (Through August) 9-1, Starting in September 9-4

(Neifert-continued from pg 1)

victims. This is just one small example of Officer Neifert's contribution of auto-crime expertise to the NLCRPD and other police agencies.

The NLCRPD would like to express our sincere gratitude to Officer Tod Neifert for his service to the community and his family's commitment during a career that is often thankless and unforgiving.

Congratulations Tod, on a job well done!!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### for Lancaster County Youth Aid Panel

#### What is a Youth Aid Panel?

- An alternative method for addressing juvenile criminal actions without the court system being involved
- Opportunity to discuss the youth's behavior with individuals from their own community
- Partnership with Lancaster County Police Departments



The Lancaster County Youth Aid Panel (YAP) is a diversionary program for youth under the supervision of the District Attorney's Office.



#### Get in Touch

Dena Maounis-Youth Aid Panel Coordinator  
717-824-8500

<https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/519/Youth-Aid-Panel>

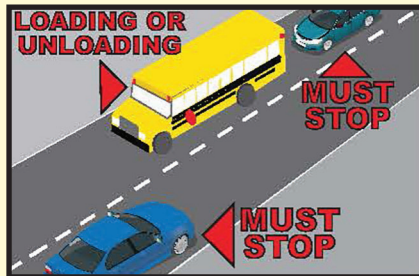




# PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAW

## Keeping Children Safe

- ✦ When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm activated, you **MUST STOP**.
- ✦ When approaching a school bus with flashing amber lights, **SLOW DOWN** and be **PREPARED TO STOP**.
- ✦ When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red lights flashing and stop arm activated, you **MUST STOP**.
- ✦ You **MUST STOP** at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.
- ✦ You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- ✦ **DO NOT MOVE** until all the children have reached a place of safety.



You **MUST STOP** on roadways with or without painted lines.



You **MUST STOP** at an intersection, whether it is or is not marked with a stop sign.

All traffic must stop.

## PENALTIES

The penalties for violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Laws are as follows:

- ✦ Criminal Penalties - Penalties listed below apply for citations issued by law enforcement for passing a school bus with red lights flashing and stop are activated.
  - 60-day Driver's License Suspension, Five (5) points on your driving record, and a \$250 fine.
- ✦ Civil Penalties - Penalty listed below applies when you are issued a violation for passing a school bus equipped with an automated side stop signal arm enforcement system.
  - \$300 fine, No effect to your driving record (no suspension and no points).

## Our Children's Safety Is In Your Hands.

### TOWNSHIP OFFICE CLOSINGS

September 2, 2024 - Labor Day

November 5, 2024 - Presidential Election Day

November 28 & 29, 2024 - Thanksgiving

### Trick or Treat

October 31, 2024

6-8 pm

# Please read me. I have important information that YOU need to know.

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