



**PENN
TOWNSHIP**

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

Township News

Spring 2026 Edition

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Community Spotlight

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thank you to Penn Township community members who brought donations for the Manheim Food Pantry during the food drive held in the Penn Township lobby from November 3–14, 2025. This was a wonderful way to bring our community together—especially on Election Day, when we can sometimes feel divided.

Several residents asked where the food pantry was located and were pleasantly surprised to learn that there is one right here in our community at 334 West Gramby Street, Manheim, PA 17545. The experience even inspired one gentleman to visit the pantry himself and donate turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Because of your generosity, we collected 139.56 pounds of food to support our neighbors in need. Thank you for showing what community spirit truly looks like.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” — Anne Frank

~ Penn Township staff

Pictured right: Receptionist, Stephanie Whitehouse, facilitated the food drive and Manager, Mark Hiester, delivered the goods to the food pantry.



2025 Year in Review

- \$350,000 State Recycling grant for yard waste site construction
- \$169,000 State Local Share Account grant approved for sewer treatment ultraviolet disinfection system replacement
- \$29,250 State Municipal Assistance grant approved for Manheim Central Comprehensive Plan
- State and Local Cybersecurity grant approved for no-cost services
- \$1,378,701 PennVEST sewer low-interest loan approved for sewer Pump Station 1 replacement
- Fruitville Pike and South Oak Street intersection design and permitting
- Bought a \$105,000 F-550 service truck



- Fairland Road widening
 - North Penryn Road widening and paving (Newport Rd to Township line)
 - Sweetbriar Creek Park: add Diamond Tex and playground mulch, perform a playground inspection
 - Cedar Hollow Park: add Diamond Tex and playground mulch, perform a playground inspection
 - Baron's Ridge Park: add playground mulch, perform a playground inspection
 - Held a farmer appreciation dinner event with guest panel
 - Improved an \$82,925 swale to meet State MS4 clean runoff requirements paid with a state grant
 - Preserved with the County a 60-acre farm, with Township funds collected from developers
 - Received \$8,721 in dividends from co-op health, liability, and worker's compensation self-insurance plans
- Maintained employee pension plan (not distressed) at a high, 118.7 percent funded; plan grew 10.2 percent in 2024
 - The Penn IDA and the Economic Development Company of Lancaster partnered to process 28 new Next Generation Farm Loans valued at \$16,541,000 which leads the State in these kinds of loans
 - Received a \$232,000 State grant for Penryn Fire Company and Public Works department radios

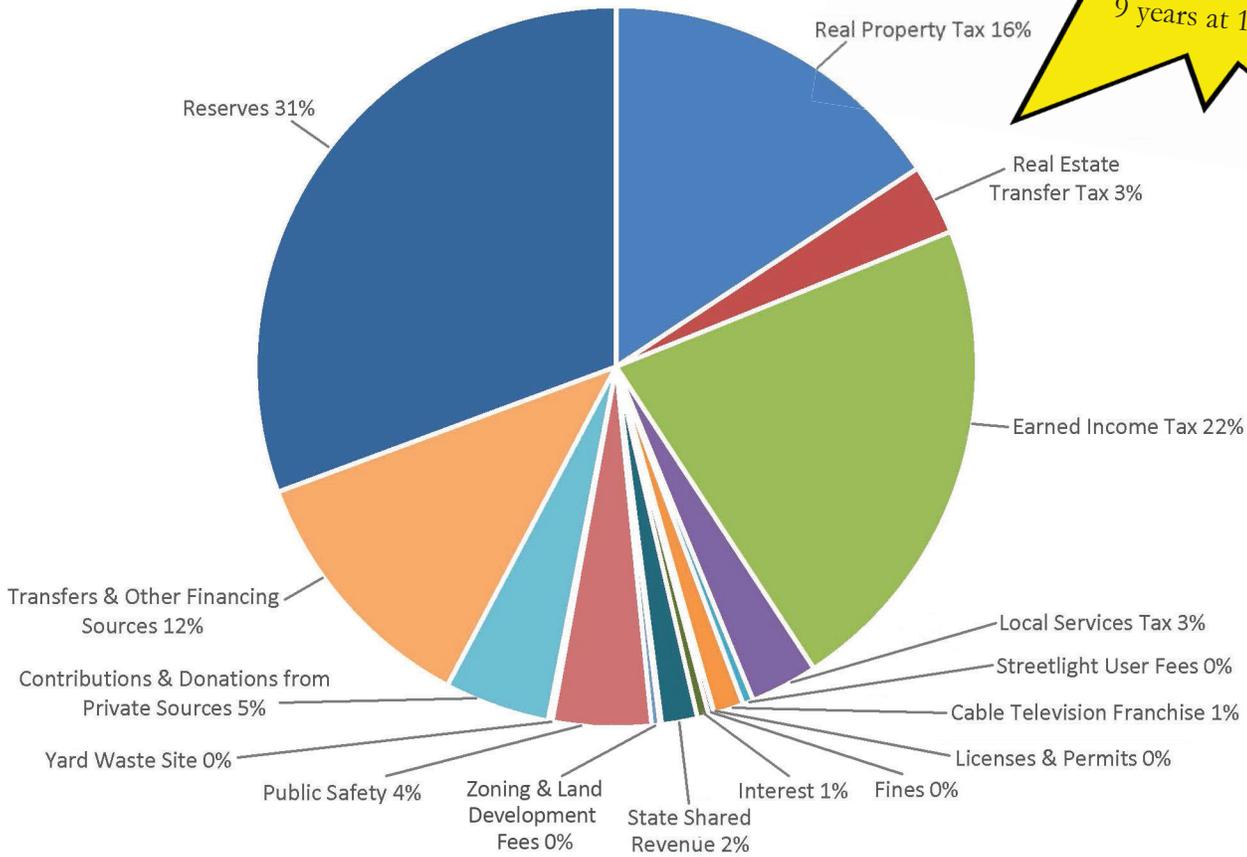
If you had a P.O. mailbox at the Penryn Post Office and switched to a mailbox at your home, please send an email to the fire company at Penryrefirefighter@gmail.com with your new address so we can update our records for the fund drive letters. Also, please contact Lancaster County Assessment office to update your mailing address so your tax bill goes to the correct mailing address at 717-299-8381 or complete the address change form <https://lanaster-countypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17445/Property-Assessment-DataAddress-Change-Form>.



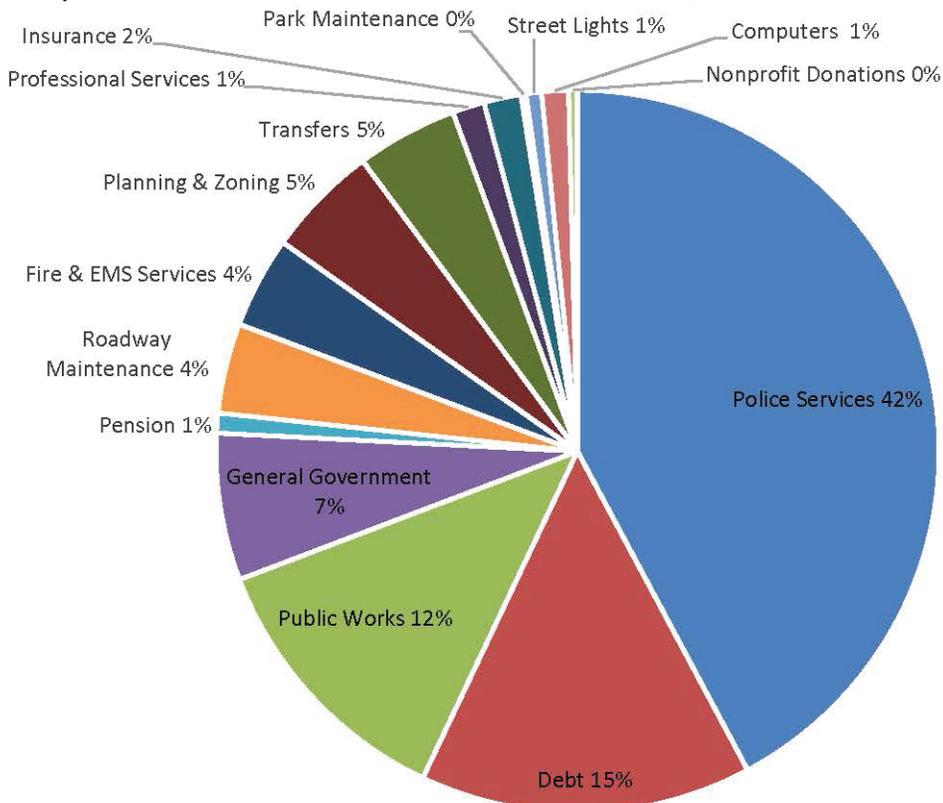
A Look Ahead... to 2026...

NO TAX INCREASE!!!
 2026 millage rate remains the same as the last 9 years at 1.4326

General Fund Revenues



General Fund Expenses



Have a Problem With Your Public Sewer or Water and Know Where to Start?

Do you know where your water curb stop (shut-off valve) and sewer clean-out is located in case you have a problem?

1. Know where it is so a plumber can help you when you have a problem. It should be flush with the ground so you can easily mow over it without hitting it.

Water Curb Stop Shut-Off Valve (examples)



Sewer Clean-Out (examples)



2. If you don't know where it is, the Penn Township Public Works team can help you locate it. Knowing where these utilities are located also helps save the Township money as our crews are required to locate these items for PA One Calls, which are submitted for a myriad of reasons. In 2025, the Township had over 700 such calls.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PUBLIC SEWER, PUBLIC WATER & STREETLIGHT CUSTOMERS

The payment processing platform that is used to process Online Utility Payments has changed. If you were enrolled in AUTOPAY prior to Dec 2025 and have not already re-enrolled since then, you must re-enroll in AutoPay to keep from being assessed late fees.

Also, starting in 2026, together with Inframark, the Township will begin the process of changing standard water meters with smart meters. These will allow us the ability to read meters at the office and will be able to provide you with more detailed information on your water usage, especially when an issue arises.

Pennsylvania Urban Nutrient Management - Spring Greening

Spring to Life. Know What's best. Soil Test!

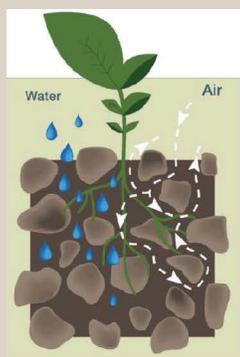
As the snow slowly melts away and the birds begin to sing, fresh life bursts from the soil heralding the approach of spring and the yard maintenance season.

The first step to understanding what your lawn or garden really needs to be lush, healthy and green is to know what your soil needs. It is important to conduct regular soil tests to determine nutrient deficiencies that should guide your fertilizer selection and application. Soil tests can be purchased for a nominal fee from your local Penn State Extension Office located within the Lancaster County Conservation District at 1383 Arcadia Road, Room 140, Lancaster, PA 17601-3184 ph. 717-394-6851 or by email at lancasterext@psu.edu.



Soil Health. It's the bottom line.

Maintaining a happy, healthy soil is imperative to your lawn and gardens' success. Soil is the foundation for your yard and is home to a multitude of microorganisms that are essential for plant growth. Take time to support your soil by incorporating some simple practices. Your yard and wallet will thank you.



- Keep it open. Routine soil aeration can help reduce soil compaction. Good soil structure is essential for proper root growth, healthy microbe communities, and the movement and exchange of water, air, and nutrients.
- Raise it up. Maintain a taller lawn by only cutting 1/3 of the grass blade with each mowing. Taller lawns slow runoff and promote deeper roots, which reduces lawn stress and improves soil structure.
- Put it back. Return nutrients and organic matter back to the soil by mulching your leaves and grass clippings.

Green Lawns - Clean Streams

Limiting or correctly applying nutrients to your lawn and garden are imperative to keeping our waterways clean. Pennsylvania's 2022 Fertilizer Law amendments provide limits for turf fertilizer applications. For more information on the law and the responsibilities of homeowners and community members who apply fertilizer, visit: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/plants-land-water/fertilizer/homeowners-and-applicators>.

In addition to the nutrient limitations, the law also established application parameters to prevent direct movement of fertilizer nutrients into our stream:

- Do not apply fertilizer if a heavy rain event is expected.
- Keep fertilizer away from drainage ditches, storm drains, or water and maintain a 15 foot buffer from the banks of all waterways.
- Remove fertilizer that lands on impervious surfaces, such as driveways, sidewalks, walkways, roads, parking lots, etc.).

Controlling what goes into PA waterways is ALL of our responsibility. Help protect Pennsylvania's waterways by being wise on when and how much you fertilize.

For more information visit the Department of Agriculture's website at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/plants-land-water/fertilizer/homeowners-and-applicators> or email lancasterext@psu.edu.

Annual Penryn Fire Company & Limerock School Mud Sale March 20th and 21st, 2026

The Annual Penryn Fire Company and Limerock Parochial School Mud sale will be held Friday, March 20th, 2026 and Saturday, March 21st, 2026. If you are not familiar with Lancaster County “Mud Sales” the fire companies in conjunction with the local Amish community have had them for quite a few years. It is one big auction with all kinds of items for sale and lots of great food. They are usually held in the spring in a field and that’s where the name “mud sale” comes from. You can find a little bit of everything being sold at auctions located throughout the grounds including, Crafts, Quilts, Shrubbery, Tools, Antiques, Sheds, just to name a some of what is for sale. As in past years, BBQ Chicken dinners will be sold starting at noon Friday with drive-up service available and at 5:00 PM there will be several auctions. Auctions will resume at 8:00 AM on Saturday until everything is sold. There will be lots of delicious food for sale all day. Watch for more details on our facebook page, “Penryn Fire Company, No. 1 & Limerock Parochial School Mud Sale”.

Comprehensive Plan for the Manheim Central Region Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Over the last 2 years, Penn Township, Rapho Township, and Manheim Borough have been working together with community partners; Manheim Central School District, Lancaster County Planning Department, and Rettew Consultants to update the Manheim Central Comprehensive Plan. At the end of 2025, the three municipalities passed resolutions and adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the Manheim Central Region, an accomplishment since the last comprehensive plan was last adopted in 2010!

Comprehensive plans first and foremost are recommendary documents, and intended to be clear and concise with goals and strategies. Our plan features these big-picture ideas such as “Growth Management” and “Taking Care of What We Have” and further highlights how these goals may be accomplished, all while weaving in the community voices we’ve heard throughout the process. See the entire plan document here: <https://penntwplanco.org/government/plans-reports-studies/>.



Policy	Big Idea
Preserve large, contiguous areas of agricultural and natural land.	Taking Care of What We Have
Reuse existing buildings and maintain public infrastructure.	Growing Responsibly
Make our downtowns more vibrant, safe, and attractive.	Creating Great Places
Grow where we're already growing.	Growing Responsibly
Preserve the farmer as well as the farm.	Taking Care of What We Have
Find new and innovative ways to reduce congestion.	Connecting People, Place, & Opportunity
Create more places to hike, bike, play, and enjoy nature.	Connecting People, Place, & Opportunity
Promote entrepreneurship and help local businesses grow.	Connecting People, Place, & Opportunity
Connect housing, jobs, school, transportation, and other destinations.	Connecting People, Place, & Opportunity
Provide a greater supply and diversity of housing types to own and rent.	Creating Great Places
Make it easier for residents to get around without a car.	Connecting People, Place, & Opportunity
Improve water quality and work together on stormwater management.	Taking Care of What We Have



Primary Election Day

Scheduled for **May 19, 2026**
 Poll Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 Last day to register: May 4, 2026

Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: May 12, 2026



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 for more information.

Look inside. Important information that YOU need to know.

<p>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Chairperson-Ben Bruckhart Vice Chairperson-Richard Landis Treasurer-Thomas Walsh Supervisor-Joseph Eisenhauer Supervisor-Gary Stevens Secretary-Mark Hiester</p>	<p>Vice Chairperson-Skylar Gingrich Secretary-Cullen Ketcham Member-Stephen Engle Member-Adam Kowalczyk Alternate-Carrie Swarr</p>	<p>Member-Alan Shaffer Alternate-Thomas Benjamin</p>	<p>NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE Chief-Josh Kilgore</p>	<p>File Clerk-Trevor Hiester Public Works Director-Shannon Martin Foreman-Clayton Fidler Maint. Worker-Neil Fittery Maint. Worker-Keith Lehle Maint. Worker-Andrew Fisher</p>
<p>PLANNING COMMISSION Chairperson-Fred Hammond</p>	<p>ZONING HEARING BOARD Chairperson-Gerald Wolfe Vice Chairperson-Aaron Kopp Member-Bill Postel Member-Catherine Minnerly</p>	<p>NORTHWESTERN LANCASTER COUNTY AUTHORITY Chairperson-Barbara Horst Vice-Chairperson-Cullen Ketcham Member-Phil Donmoyer Member-Ryan Snyder Member-Les Houck</p>	<p>TOWNSHIP STAFF Manager-Mark Hiester Planner-Jennifer Tulonen Zoning Officer-Matt Reeser Finance-Connie Weidle Sewer & Water-Barbara Grable Receptionist-Stephanie Whitehouse</p>	<p>SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER Charity Hain- David Miller/Associates, Inc.</p>