

# Penn Township

228 Clifford Road  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Useful information for all Penn Township Residents

Spring/Summer 2013

## Keep Penn Township Beautiful

Add to the brown ugliness left behind from the cold and winter, how about all the litter and garbage lying along our Township roads and beyond! Who does this... and better question, why? While researching I found two reasons:

**Intentional littering** is a behavioral choice based on apathy, lack of social pressure to do the right thing, ignorance of the law and an absence of realistic penalties or consistent enforcement, or it is a social rebellion and a disregard of authority.

**Unintentional littering** can result from unsecured vehicle loads and overflowing trash containers and dumpsters.

Do you get frustrated driving in the Township seeing all the garbage just tossed from vehicles etc. I personally am embarrassed by what the sides of our roads look like. This is a reflection on each of us!

Research has shown that trash attracts trash and when a community is clean, it tends to stay clean. Conversely, if a community or area is littered or dumped on, then it sends a message that it is acceptable behavior.

Having said that...is there someone or some group interested in organizing a clean up? Or volunteers willing to participate in a clean-up? Add me to that volunteer list. As recycling coordinator for Penn Township I would be willing to assist in this effort along with any resources we could get the Township to provide.

Now is the perfect time to do clean up as the plants are bare, but any organized effort probably couldn't happen until much of the litter is covered by plant growth. If a person or group could get organized we could be prepared for future cleanups. But, in the mean time, could we each take a little time and work on making our township more beautiful.

While working on this story we found a program called "Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful", whose mission is - to empower Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. It not only address prevention and cleanups but aims to stimulate and increase community involvement, which in turn increases the likelihood that cleaned areas will stay clean. We could define it a little more and call it "Keep Penn Township Beautiful"!

If any interested person or group would search 'Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful' on the web you can find tools and ideas that would be a great guide for implementing a program. Please contact the Township office with interest or ideas.


.....idea for a scout or senior project!

Happy Spring and Summer!



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<p><b>Board of Supervisors</b> Jon Payne, Chairman William Moyer, V-Chairman Frederick R Ulrich</p> <p><b>Roadmaster</b> Kurt Artz</p> <p><b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Robin Bieber</p> <p><b>Planning Commission</b> Dan Kuruna, Chairman Mike Savidge, V-Chairman Shane Kerstetter Ben Moyer Mike Kuhns Bill Moyer Cornelius Heeren Wiest, Muolo, Swinehart, Noon &amp; Bathgate, Solicitors</p> <p><b>Planning Commission Sec.</b> Brenda Moyer</p> <p><b>Zoning Officer</b> Tom Snyder</p> <p><b>Zoning Hearing Board</b> Ken Herman Joan Lindow Jan Ritter James Fry, Alternate Robert Cravitz, Solicitor</p> <p><b>Recycling Coordinator</b> Brenda Moyer</p> <p><b>Emergency Management Co.</b> Frederick R Ulrich</p> <p><b>Recreation Board</b> Don Harnum, President Beth Kapsar, Treasurer Malcolm Fleming Pete DeWire Jim Taylor Tim Laubscher Bruce Teats Steve Bogush Jon Payne April Metzger Brad Longacre</p> <p><b>Township Solicitor</b> Wiest, Muolo, Swinehart, Noon &amp; Bathgate</p> <p><b>Township Auditors</b> William Bucher Jacqueline Crissman Chris Kenawell</p> <p><b>Township Contact Info:</b> 374-4778 - phone 374-4931 - fax penntwp@ptd.net - email</p> <p><b>Township Website</b> www.penn-township.net</p>	<p><b>Ron Zeiders, Tax Collector</b> <b>PO Box 452</b> <b>Selinsgrove, PA 17870</b> <b>374-8401</b></p> 	<p><b>REAL ESTATE AND PER CAPITA TAXES</b></p> <p>For information on your taxes, contact Ron Zeiders. Mr. Zeiders is available at the Township building to collect your taxes. The dates and hours are on your tax bills. <u>Please note: The Township office cannot accept your taxes.</u> You can only bring them on days and times listed on your bills.</p> <p>In order to receive a receipt if you are mailing your taxes, include a self addressed stamped envelope, and Mr. Zeiders will send your receipt.</p>
<p><b>WHAT OTHER TAXES DO YOU PAY?</b></p> <p>We all know that we pay Federal and State taxes. Locally, 2.1% is deducted from your paycheck; 1.6% goes to the School District and the other .05% comes to the Township. This is the largest source of income for the Township. If you have a business in the Township or work in the Township, you pay \$10 per year in Local Services Tax (LS Tax). This tax applies to all persons <u>working</u> in the Township. If you work outside the Township, you may pay more in LS Tax. Some municipalities collect \$52 per person per year.</p>		
<p><b>DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES</b></p> <p>In 2006, Penn Township passed a Transient Merchant Ordinance #2006-04, this requires anyone selling door-to-door to obtain a permit. Each person must produce a photo ID. A copy of this ID is kept on file in the Township office, along with contact information for the company they represent. Any person who comes to your door should have photo ID to verify who they are along with a permit issued by the Township. School kids selling items through the school, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are exempt from this law.</p>		
<p><b>PENN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY</b> (sewer and water)</p> <p>The PTMA office is <b>NOT</b> located in the Penn Township Building. We <b>cannot</b> accept their payments.</p> <p>Payments are accepted at Northumberland National Bank on Lori Lane or in Weis Markets (at the Susquehanna Mall) or by mail to: PTMA PO Box 155 Selinsgrove, PA 17870 If you have any questions call 374-8256.</p>		<p><b>Office of Voter Registration</b> <b>Snyder County Courthouse</b> PO Box 217 Middleburg, PA 17842 Phone (570) 837-4286 Fax (570) 837-4282</p> <p><b>www.snydercounty.org</b> <b>www.votespa.com</b></p> <p><b>Patricia P. Nace</b> pnace@snydercounty.org Election Director</p> <p><b>Bobbi Landis</b> blandis@snydercounty.org Voter Registration Administrator</p> <p>Use any of the above contact information to confirm whether or not you are registered, to get registered or apply for an absentee ballot.</p>
<p><b>GRADING</b></p> <p>Recently, the Township road crew has been grading roads. Why is it done? If water lays on the roadways, it eventually wears down the road, causing costly repairs and maintenance. Did you ever notice the center of the road is a bit higher than the sides and edges? You won't notice while driving down the road, but if you walk along the road or across it, you can see the slope. That's because water must be able to run off the center of the road onto the edge. When grading is done, the shoulder is scraped to ensure it remains lower than the roadway so that the water runs off the side of the road onto the shoulder. Sometimes, if the edge of the yard is too close to the road, part of it is cut away to maintain that low edge on the shoulder. Unfortunately, it may look like part of your lawn is gone, but it is in the right-of-way (see page 3 for right-of-way info). Bottom line is .... We need to keep the water off the roadway.</p>		

**EAST SNYDER PARK MODERN RESTROOM PROJECT**

This 100K + project is underway! This price tag includes public water, a sewer pump station, and a 24' x 22' building with all the fixtures. Contributions to date toward this project include: The Northway Fund through the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation has committed 45K, East Snyder Regional Recreation Association is committing 5K - 6K, The Mustard Seed recently donated 1K, DB (Dave Bowersox) Construction is donating labor, Lowes Home Improvement and Steve Bogush both donating materials, and Penn Township Supervisors have budgeted \$32K toward this project. If you are moved to contribute time or money please contact Pete DeWire at 259-1838 or the Township.



[www.eastsnyderpark.com](http://www.eastsnyderpark.com)

And we would be remiss if we didn't mention the DeWires - Pete and Cookie seem to have endless ideas and energy and are so committed to our park and we want them to know they are thanked and much appreciated!

We would love to dedicate a small section of each newsletter to the history of certain buildings, structures or areas of Penn Township. If you know of an interesting location and its history that you would like to see in a future newsletter, you can contact us via email at [penntwp@ptd.net](mailto:penntwp@ptd.net) or call 374-4778.

See Page 8 for a brief history of Penn Township

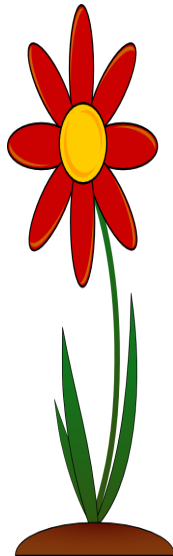
**EAST SNYDER COMMUNITY GARDEN**

PO Box 310  
Selingsgrove, Pa 17870  
[www.escg.shutterfly.com](http://www.escg.shutterfly.com)  
e-mail - [escgpa@gmail.com](mailto:escgpa@gmail.com)  
phone - 374-1525

**Need a garden plot?**

Located on University Ave across from the East Snyder Park. Plots available 4/1 to 11/30  
30' x 30' plot - \$10  
half a plot - \$5  
Garden dawn 'til dusk  
Water access on site.

Applications on the Penn Township website at [www.penn-township.net](http://www.penn-township.net) or use contact information above.



**TOWNSHIP COMPOST SITE**

Located at the end of Gaugler Lane, across from Salem Church. Follow Gaugler Lane to the end and through the gate.

**Only those people dropping items at the compost site are permitted in this area.**

This service is free to our residents, and is open 7 days a week, dawn to dusk. You can take your basic grass clippings, other lawn and garden waste, leaves, trees (including Christmas trees), shrub waste, branches and unpainted or untreated wood.

There are signs indicating where the different items belong. Do not mix the materials.

**To generate quality mulch and compost there are items that are absolutely not acceptable at this site and include:**

- cat or dog waste
- meat or fish bones
- fat, grease, lard or oils
- dairy products
- plastic or metals
- weeds and weed seeds

**Also not acceptable are your delivery containers. Please take your garbage bags, flower pots, etc., with you. Leaving these items behind is the same as illegal dumping and/or littering!**

Wood and coal ashes: A separate pile for these. Do not bring ashes to the Township building and do not mix any ashes with compost materials.

**PENN TOWNSHIP REMINDS YOU.....**

If you plant flowers, trees, or other decorative plantings in the Township or state right-of-way, and it is damaged by someone working in the right-of-way, they are not responsible to repair or replace it.

What does that mean? All roads have a right-of-way, whether they are a state or township road. This allows the Township, PennDOT, and any utility company to legally work in this area. The Township routinely trims trees, grades, and repairs drainage areas that are in the right-of-way. Most Township roads have a 50' right-of-way, meaning from the centerline of the road, there is 25' in each direction, that falls into this right-of-way zone. Some of the older roads in the township have a right-of-way of 33', which means 16'6" in either direction from the centerline would fall into the right-of-way zone. If you need to know the right-of-way on your road, or for general information about your road, contact the Township Roadmaster at 374-4258. If no answer, leave a message and your call will be returned.





**JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU ARE GETTING SOMEWHERE.....**

Heard a joke recently that said the four seasons in Pennsylvania are: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction. Although funny, it seems to be true, especially when you are in a hurry to get to your destination. But the truth is, road workers can pop up anywhere and any time of the year.

While you may be tempted to speed past barricades and workers, here is a sobering statistic to keep in mind: PennDot says that in 2010, there were 1,886 vehicle crashes in work zones across Pennsylvania. That's more than five per day! Four of the 23 resulting deaths were road workers. Need more? The Federal Highway Administration reports that more than 20,000 workers are injured in road construction work zones each year. The reduced speed signs and road barricades are there to protect you and your family as well as road workers. **DO NOT** drive around barricades! If there is a road closed sign, find an alternate route. Trying to save a couple minutes of your time is not worth a life whether it's yours, your child's or a road worker's.

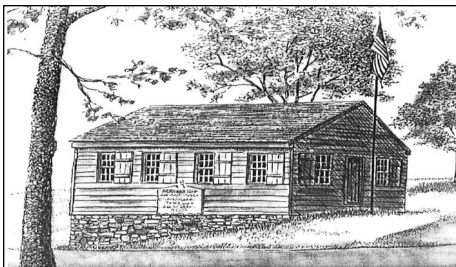


**DID YOU KNOW?.....**

And it's not just road workers that we should be on the lookout for. Any emergency or unexpected situation requires drivers to be alert and slow down. In 2006, Pennsylvania enacted the 'Steer Clear Law', which requires motorists to use caution at the scene of an emergency, a traffic stop, or a disabled vehicle being assisted by emergency responders. This law requires drivers to move into the left lane when first responders are stopped on the right shoulder. If drivers cannot move over because of traffic or other conditions, the law requires them to reduce their speed. The 'Steer Clear Law' applies any time an emergency vehicle has its lights flashing or where road crews or emergency personnel have set up flares, signs, or other traffic control devices. Failure to move over or slow down can result in fines up to \$250. Fines are doubled for traffic violations that occur in construction zones. If a worker is injured during the violation, the driver could have his or her license suspended for 90 days. And, when law enforcement isn't present, Steer Clear allows road crews and emergency responders to report violations and law enforcement can issue citations based on these reports.



**HERMAN SCHOOL HOUSE**



Drawing by Jeanette Sloan Campbell

The Herman School was the first public school in Snyder County and remains the oldest, original remaining one-room school in the county. Children ages 6-22 attended school here from December until February each year. It was built in 1842 and remained functional until 1882 when it was replaced by the Boyer School, which was newly constructed and located about one hundred yards to the northwest of the Herman School.

Used for storage for many years, the building began to deteriorate and was on the verge of collapse until a major restoration campaign in 1961. By 1964, the Herman School was restored to its original structure. Volunteers open the school on Sunday afternoons from 1:00-4:00 pm between Memorial Day and Labor Day. You are welcome to visit the school for a tour, and there are no admission charges. For more information, contact Bill Clawser at 837-6961.

**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?**

Pennsylvania's 'Yellow Dot Program' was created to assist citizens in the "golden hour" of emergency care following a traffic accident when they may not be able to communicate their needs themselves. Placing a yellow dot in your vehicle's rear window alerts first responders to check your glove compartment for vital information to ensure you receive the medical attention you need.



Here's how it works. Participants complete a personal information form, which includes the participant's name, contact information, emergency contact information, medical history and medications, allergies and the participant's doctors' names. A photo - showing only the participant's head and shoulders - is then taped to the front of the completed information sheet.

The yellow dot decal provided in the program kit is placed in the lower left corner of the participant's vehicle rear window and should be no higher than 3 inches from the bottom. This decal alerts first responders that vital information can be found in the vehicle.

Place the completed information sheet with the attached picture, into the Yellow Dot folder, and then place the folder into the vehicle's glove box. For more information or to order a Yellow Dot packet, go to

**[www.yellowdot.pa.gov](http://www.yellowdot.pa.gov)**

*"The earth laughs in flowers."  
~ E.E. Cummings*

**The Cicadas are coming....**

<u>Decibel Level</u>	<u>Examples</u>
20	Whisper, empty theater
45	To awaken a sleeping person
60	Conversational speech
80	Noisy office, electric shaver, alarm clock, police whistle, telephone dial tone
<i>Sustained exposure of decibels at or above 90 may result in hearing loss</i>	
90	Noisy factory, train whistle at 500', truck traffic
<b>100</b>	<b>Expected decibel level of the cicada</b>
110	Punch press, close to a trail, ball mill
115	Sandblasting, rock concert
120	Most MP3 players today can produce sounds up to 120dB, equivalent to a sound level at a rock concert. At that level hearing loss can occur after only 1 1/4 hours
125	<b>Pain Begins</b>
130	Threshold of pain, decibels at or above 130 cause immediate ear damage. Hydraulic press, pneumatic rock drill
140	Even short term exposure can cause permanent damage - Loudest recommended exposure <b>WITH</b> hearing protection
165	12 gauge shotgun
180	Death of hearing tissue
194	Loudest sound possible

or may have already arrived depending on when you receive your newsletter. The East Coast is preparing to welcome hoards of cicadas that have been hibernating underground for 17 years. Cicadas are famous for disappearing entirely for many years, only to reappear in force at a regular interval. There are some 3,000 cicada species, but only some share this behavior (the 17-year cicada is an example). Others are called annuals because, although individuals have multi-year lifecycles, some adults appear every year.



The East Coast is expecting what are called Brood II cicadas and are expected to appear between mid-April and late May. The cicadas will appear when the ground temperature reaches 64 degrees, and will buzz around the East Coast for a month before disappearing back underground until 2030.

Brood II is a periodic cicada that hatches out every 17 years. The specific thing about these 17-year cicadas is they will have a very dark colored body, really bright red eyes, and bright red wing veins.

The "hum" or mating call of the cicada has been measured at 100 decibels, similar to the noise created by a subway train.

Cicadas are probably best known for their buzzing and clicking noises, which can be amplified by the numbers of the insects into an overpowering hum. Males produce this species-specific noise with vibrating membranes on their abdomens. The sounds vary widely and some species are more musical than others. Though cicada noises may sound alike to humans, the insects use different calls to express alarm or attract mates. To help you understand how loud cicadas could be, take a look at the chart on the left.

Cicadas live underground as nymphs for most of their lives, at depths ranging from about one foot to about 8 feet. The nymphs feed on root juice and have strong front legs for digging. In the final nymph stage they construct an exit tunnel to the surface and emerge. They then molt (shed their skins) on a nearby plant for the last time and emerge as adults. The abandoned exoskeleton remains, still clinging to plants and the bark of trees. After mating, the female cuts slits into the bark of a twig, and into these she deposits her eggs. She may do so repeatedly, until she has laid several hundred eggs. When the eggs hatch, the newly hatched nymphs drop to the ground, where they burrow.

The Brood II cicadas do not create destructive plagues, as some locusts could. This cicada will have an unusual defense mechanism to protect themselves from predators. Its defense will be predator satiation to the point of over indulgence. Because so many emerge at once, the number of cicadas in any given area will exceed the amount predators can eat; all available predators are thus satiated, and the remaining cicadas can breed in peace. Though tens or hundreds of thousands of insects may crowd into a single acre, some news reports are suggesting up to one BILLION per square mile. Large swarms can overwhelm and damage young trees by feeding and laying eggs, but older trees usually escape without serious damage.

Cicadas have been eaten in China, Burma, Latin America, the Congo and in the United States. In North China, cicadas are skewered, deep fried or stir-fried as a delicacy. In the United States, there are cicada festivals where cicadas are skewered and roasted, deep fried, or rolled into pastries as a delicacy.



**Flood Information**

Penn Township continues to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), which requires the Township to be re-certified annually. Continued participation in this program allows business owners and residents of Penn Township to purchase flood insurance at reduced premiums in recognition of the efforts made by the Township to lessen the impact of flooding. Before getting to the specifics of the NFIP and the Community Rating System there are often words used that maybe you don't know the meaning as it relates to flooding. To educate our residents and provide what may be useful to those who live nearest the flood plain we've provided the following definitions:

**Floodplain:** Any land area susceptible to being inundated by flood waters from any source. A Flood Insurance Rate Map identifies most, but not necessarily all of a community's floodplain as the Special Flood Hazard Area.

**Flood proofing:** Protective measures added to or incorporated in a building that is not elevated above the base flood elevation to prevent or minimize flood damage. "Dry flood proofing" designs are meant to keep water from entering a building. "Wet flood proofing" measures allow flood waters to enter and exit a building raising interior water levels to that of flood water reducing hydrostatic pressure.

**Natural floodplain functions:**

The functions associated with the natural or relatively undisturbed floodplain that moderate flooding are they retain flood waters, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and mitigate the effects of storm surges from storms. Other significant beneficial functions include maintenance of water quality, recharge of groundwater, and provision of fish and wildlife habitat.

**Repetitive loss property:** A property for which two or more National Flood Insurance Program losses of at least \$1,000 each have been paid within any 10-year rolling period since 1978.

**Retrofitting:** Modifications made to an existing building or nearby grounds to protect it from flood damage. Retrofitting techniques include elevation, dry and wet flood proofing, and protection from sewer backup.

**Substantial damage:** Damage of any origin sustained by a building whereby the cost of restoring the building to its before-damage condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the building before the damage occurred.

**Substantial improvement:** Any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement to a building, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building before the start of construction of the improvement.

With our continued efforts, FEMA has designated Penn Township as a Class 8 municipality, allowing for 10% reduction on flood insurance to those in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). SFHA's are in the zones with the letter A and V on our Penn Township Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). A 5% reduction in flood insurance is available for residents outside the SFHA.

What is a FIRM or Flood Insurance Rate Map? A firm map is the official map of a community, on which FEMA has defined both the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. Most FIRMs include detailed floodplain mapping for some or all of a community's floodplains.

The Township recognizes that floodplains could change over time, driven by natural and manmade changes. Good floodplain management acknowledges this, and includes thinking about how floodplains might look in the future under different scenarios like increased impervious surfaces, new fill in floodways, rising sea levels, changes in natural functions, and other factors.

Although the premium reduction attracts interest in the CRS, the most important benefits are the enhanced public safety, reduction in damage to property and public infrastructure, avoidance of economic disruption and losses, reduction in human suffering, and protection of the environment.

Want to know what zone your property is located in? Call or stop by the Township office to look at the floodplain map.

To be covered by a flood insurance policy (for a structure and/or its contents), a property must be in a community that participates in the NFIP. To qualify for the NFIP, a community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to regulate development in flood hazard areas. The objective of the ordinance is to minimize the potential for flood damage to future development.

Any home in Penn Township can be covered by flood insurance, but don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance; there is a 30-day waiting period for coverage to take effect.  
Talk to your agent today.

As part of the CRS recertification, we send letters to local realtors, insurance agencies, and lenders. The letters make them aware that Penn Township participates in the CRS Program. Another part of the recertification involves making our community aware of flood hazards through letters to those living in the flood plain and repetitive loss areas. These letters inform residents on Flood Safety, Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains, Flood Insurance w/ Mandatory Purchase Requirements and Federal Financial Aid, Property Protection and much more.

The complete "Flooding and You" information has been included at least once annually in our Township newsletter and is now on our website. If you need a copy of this, please call the Township Office or e-mail Brenda at bpenntownship@yahoo.com

Penn Township annually updates the names, addresses, and phone numbers of our "need to call/evacuation" list in case of an emergency. Our Zoning Officer also enforces the Flood Plain and Stormwater Management Ordinances. Contact our office for permit requirements for floodplain development. Our Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), along with the Penn Township road crew have over time, identified areas with chronic flooding and drainage problems and continue to work to improve these areas. You can help by keeping ditches and drainage areas on your property open and free of debris.

Call the Township Roadmaster at 374-4258 to report a problem with debris, fallen trees or anything else that would hinder water flow.



"Shit, are we insured for this?"



**PERMITS, PERMITS, PERMITS!!**

Spring has arrived and with that, the construction season gets underway. The Township office receives many calls regarding zoning and building permits. Do note these permits are different and each have different requirements. You ask why you need a permit. It's your property, right? Well, while that's true the zoning ordinance is an official law that has been adopted to govern zoning. The Township is obligated to enforce this ordinance (law), as all residents are obligated to comply.

With regard to zoning permits which are issued by the township. You wouldn't want your neighbor constructing something unsightly and inappropriate right on his or her property line, because guess what - that is right against your property line.

Our zoning ordinance was created over time with tons of input to accommodate and guide overall community growth. The ordinance actually covers numerous objectives. Just to give you an idea of how important they are, here are a couple that should definitely pique your interest. The ordinance helps to preserve prime farm land, to provide for residential housing of various types in appropriate locations, safeguards the public water supply by regulating land use in the vicinity of the municipal wells.

So, bottom line, our ordinance requires zoning PERMITS! Depending on your location your requirements could be different. Penn Township is made up of nine (9) different zoning districts. Do you know which zone you live in and how our ordinance affects and protects your property?

1. R1 (Residential - Low Density)
2. R2 (Residential - Medium Density)
3. RR (Rural Residential)
4. AC (Agricultural Conservation)
5. C (Conservation)
6. VC (Village Center)
7. HC (Highway Commercial)
8. NC (Neighborhood Commercial)
9. I (Industrial)

The following projects, but not limited to...

**do require a zoning permit:**

- Shed (whether it's movable or not)
- Garage (attached and unattached)
- Addition
- Porch
- Enclosure of existing porch
- Pool (in-ground or above ground)
- Deck
- New home
- Placement of new or used mobile home
- Pole building
- Addition of new doorway or window
- Solar panels (on ground)
- New roof
- Patio

Information needed for a zoning permit application includes size, setbacks (see setback definition at the end) to the property line, value of the project and a drawing which should include this information. New homes require a plot plan in addition to the above information, driveway permit (issued from Township if a township road, issued from PennDot if a state road) a copy of the water permit (if on public water), sewer permit (if on public sewer), septic permit (if not public sewer) and a set of house plans.



The following projects, but not limited to...

**do not require a zoning permit:**

- Replacement windows
- Replacement siding
- Paving a driveway
- Landscaping
- Sidewalks
- Fencing

If your project does not fall into one of the previous categories, and you want to be sure you are following the ordinance, call the Township office to verify whether you need a zoning permit.

Once an application is submitted our zoning officer will review it to ensure your project meets all the ordinance requirements, i.e. size, setbacks, etc. If all requirements are met a permit will then be issued.

**PERMIT FEES**

The cost of a zoning permit varies and depends on the value of your project. The fee is \$20 for the first \$1000 of value, then \$3 per full \$1000 thereafter. For example, your new garage will be valued at \$19,900. The fee would be calculated as:

Since we do not round up, we will start with  
 19,000 value of project  
**(minus) -1,000** (first thousand = \$20)  
 18,000 so...  
 18 x 3 = 54 then .... add in the original \$20

So your zoning permit fee would be \$74.00.

Still have questions, feel free to contact the Township office.

**NOT DONE WITH PERMITS YET.....**

Do you need a building permit, too? Why?

In 2004, Pennsylvania passed the international building code law stating that everything must be built to certain standards. Projects must be inspected to ensure these standards are followed. The Township does not have the know-how or manpower to conduct these inspections, so we contract with the Central Keystone COG, who has several certified inspectors. Small projects such as sheds do not require inspections or building permits, but the following items do:

- Attached garages and porches
- Detached structures including garages (larger than 1000 sq ft) Agriculture buildings are exempt, however horse-back riding areas are not exempt
- Additions
- Decks with the floor over 30" from the ground
- Roof repair/replacement of framing
- Roof additions attached to house
- Renovations when changing means of egress, moving or cutting into load-bearing walls, and/or changing or moving plumbing or electric
- All in-ground swimming pools or above ground pools that have more than 24" of water and are permanent.
- All hot tubs
- Fence (6' or higher)
- Masonry wall (4' or higher)
- Solar panels (whether on roof or on ground)
- Any commercial renovation (except paint)

Applications for building permits are available in the township office, online at [www.ckcog.com](http://www.ckcog.com), or at the COG office at 1610 Industrial Blvd., Lewisburg. 1-877-457-9401

**SETBACK** - Distance from the property line or centerline of the road to where the structure may be placed or built. Each zoning district has specific setback requirements.

**TAKE PRIDE IN PENN**

Things you can do to improve the safety, appearance and the environment of our Penn Township.

- Minimize the amount of grass clippings and other debris that gets swept, blown or mowed into the street. Mow in the opposite direction or clean up the street when you are finished mowing to protect clogging of storm drains.
- Place trash out for collection no more 24 hours in advance, use containers with tight fitting lids or securely tied bags to minimize the amount of trash that gets strewn about by wind or animals.
- Refrain from parking in your front lawn or other grassy areas not intended for parking, eliminating ruts in the yard and tracking mud onto the streets and roads.
- Prevent your pets from running at large. This pet control will improve sanitation and public safety.
- Keep your trees trimmed to at least 14' above streets and at least 8' above sidewalks. This maintenance will provide for safe use of sidewalks and prevent obstruction of or damage to large vehicles such as school buses, snow plowing and leaf collection equipment, garbage trucks and emergency response vehicles.
- If your property has sidewalks, repair any damaged sections and always clear them within 24 hours after a snowfall. This will improve pedestrian safety and help reduce your liability if an accident occurs.
- Avoid allowing trash, debris and unlicensed and or junk motor vehicles from accumulating on your property. This practice will improve appearance and property values and minimize habitat for insects and rodents.
- Display your house number so it can be easily identified from the street. This is vital for rapid emergency response and deliveries to your address.

**Not Your Average History Lesson,**

We don't want to bore you with details about the history of Penn Township, but we found a few interesting facts. Did you know a political unit by the name of Penn Township was known long before the organization of Snyder County? It seems like every few years, the borders changed drastically, sometimes encompassing many other counties. The original records date back to 1753, but today's size and location was not established until 1885.

**And a blast from the past...**

Looking through some old archived records of the Township, we found some (a lot) of interesting information. Like..... The first minute books we have are dated March 12, 1906. The Supervisors were Charles Miller, Selin Herner, and Henry Romig. According to the minutes, they were 'elected at the last spring election under the new road law approved the 12th day of April, 1905.' At that original meeting, the Township was divided into six road Districts. There were separate road masters for each district. Names listed are AW Gill, S.S Maurer, Forest Holtzapple, William Holtzapple, Leonard Boyer and Jonas Fetter. The Supervisors were also known as the road board.

Also in 1906, they enacted the 'work and cash tax'. The work tax was three mills and the cash tax was one mil. In 1908, meetings were held in "Whitmer's Store on Clifford" (we think it was the old feed mill). By 1909 they sometimes met in the 'Salem School House' which is now a private residence across from Salem Lutheran Church.

In 1909, there were three road masters and they were each paid \$1.50 per day. In 1910, Middlecreek Telephone Company was granted the right-of-way through Penn Township to extend its lines.

In 1911, William Miller, Esq was employed as attorney or legal advisor for year 1911 for \$5.00. The bank balance at the end of 1923 was \$92.28 and in 1924, money was borrowed from the bank to pay bills and labor. Wages in 1951 were - Working Supervisor .85 - Roadmaster/Supervisor 1.00 - laborer .75. Supervisors were paid \$5.00 to attend monthly meetings.

See below for a page from an original Penn Township minute book:

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*Penn Twp. Oct. 22 - 1908.  
Board of Supervisors met at Selin Herner's  
in the evening. Members all present.  
Granting orders for the payment of bills  
was all the business transacted for  
the meeting. Chas. E. Beaver Secy.*

*Salem Pa, Nov. 3rd, 1908.  
The Supervisors held their meeting  
in Whitmer's Store.  
Business transacted, no action on any  
questions. Board adjourned.  
Chas. E. Beaver Secy.*

*Penn Twp. Dec 31st 1908.  
Board of Supervisors met at Selin Herner's  
Mr. Keboose not present.  
Orders were granted for gravel accounts  
No action on any question was taken.  
No meeting appointed. adjourned  
Chas. E. Beaver Secy.*

Snyder County Historical Society has a huge collection of Penn Township history including maps, newspaper articles, church records, family histories and books dedicated solely to Penn Township.

Also the third floor of the Rudy Gelnett Library in Selinsgrove has section devoted to Snyder County genealogy.



# RECYCLING

Not much to say about recycling at this time, our site is beautiful and residents are doing a fine job of getting all material where it belongs. If you have questions about what we take or don't take you can call the office, 374-4778, take a look on our web-site, [www.penn-township.net](http://www.penn-township.net) or see the flyer in the information box on the fence at the site. This is the same flyer that was in our last newsletter as nothing has changed since then.

Detail for Bin #4  
**Labeled Corrugated Cardboard, Pasteboard, Junk Mail and Office Paper**  
 (list of items that can go in this bin)

Paper shopping and lunch bags, paper egg cartons, all books with glued bindings, hardback or soft cover, any junk mail, envelopes, flyers, inside paper rolls from paper towel, toilet tissue, plastic wrap, foil and the like, tissue boxes, cereal and snack bag boxes, boxes and bags from pet foods, adding machine tape, store receipts, shipping and packaging paper, cup carriers, soda and beer cases, brochures, all office paper, shredded paper (bagged), any non-waxy broken down box. Nearly anything purchased has a portion of paperboard in the packaging.

**Did you know...  
 Wherever plastic bags are recycled, you can also recycle clean, dry and with NO food waste:**

- Newspaper Bags
- Dry Cleaning Bags
- Bread Bags
- Veggie Bags
- Toilet Paper Packaging
- Napkin Packaging
- Paper Towel Packaging
- Furniture Wrap
- Electronic Wrap
- Plastic Retail Bags
- Grocery Bags
- Food Storage Bags
- Cereal Box Liners
- Tyvek
- Diaper Packaging
- Plastic Shipping Envelopes
- Case Wrap
- Ice Bags (dry)
- Bags labeled #2 or #4

**Retailers - Giant, JCPenney, Target, Lowes, Wal-Mart, Wegmans, Weis Markets**

**Snyder County  
 2013 Recycling Event**

Friday, May 3, 3pm - 7pm  
 Saturday, May 4, 9am - 1pm  
 At Monroe Township shed off Park Road. Free and open to all Snyder County residents.

Accepting:  
 Electronics  
 Appliances and metals  
 Clothing and textiles  
 (No Carpet or Rugs)  
 Handicap equipment  
 Vacuums  
 Small electrical appliances  
 ...and lots more!

**\$5 Confidential Paper Shredding Available on Saturday the 4th from 10am - 12pm**

Questions - see full flyer on the Penn Township website or call 374-6889 ask for Deb Wolfe

## Frequently Asked Recycling Questions

**What are the hours?**

Currently, our recycling center is open 7 days a week from dawn to dusk.

**What materials are accepted?**

Items we accept are: corrugated cardboard, chipboard (cereal boxes, etc), junk mail, books, phone books, clear, blue/green, and brown glass, tin cans, newspaper, magazines and catalogs, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs, and aluminum cans.

**How about pizza boxes?**

**NO!** As we explained previously, pizza boxes typically have grease and food residue. Food is a contaminate. Pizza boxes or any chipboard with food residue **cannot** be recycled and should be thrown in the trash.

**How will we know where things go?**

There are information sheets in a box on the fence at the right-hand corner of the site. Included is a detailed drawing of the bins with detailed explanations of what can go in each bin. There are also signs on the bins.

**Do I have to clean anything?**

**Yes!** ALL items and materials must be clean and dry .

**What about labels?**

Labels are accepted on all plastic and tin cans.

**What about lids?**

**YES** on all #1 and #2 plastic bottles, jugs and tin or bimetal cans.

**NO** on glass bottles and jars. Remember - the lid on glass bottles/jars are not made of glass, therefore you cannot include them.

**Can I just throw my whole bag of stuff in the bin?**

**NO!** All containers used to bring your materials must go home with you. No bags, string, tape or anything else used can go into the bin. Misuse and will be a factor in limiting the 7 day a week service.

One exception - shredded paper may remain in the bag.

**Will the Boy Scouts still help me?**

Troop 419 will continue to volunteer on the second Saturday of each month from 8am until noon to assist residents.

**Can my friend bring her stuff too?**

Yes, this service is available to residents, businesses and neighboring communities without facilities.

**Is there a fee?**

No!

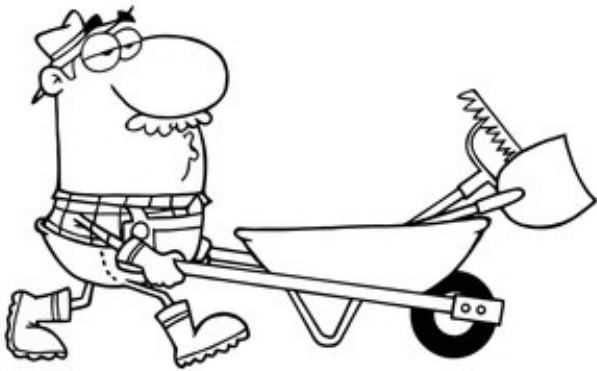


PENN TOWNSHIP  
228 CLIFFORD ROAD  
SELINGROVE, PA 17870

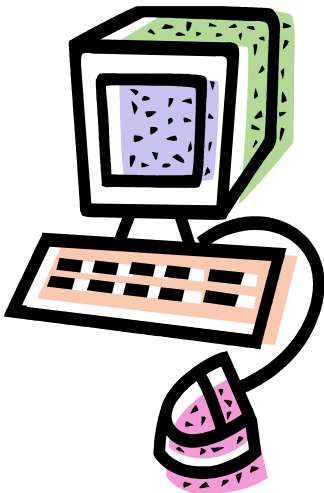
PRST STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 26  
SELINGROVE, PA 17870

PHONE - 374-4778  
ROADMASTER - 374-4258  
FAX - 374-4931  
EMAIL - penntwp@ptd.net  
WEBSITE - www.penn-township.net

**Spring/Summer 2013**



Save to your Favorites or Bookmark this -  
**[www.penn-township.net](http://www.penn-township.net)**



Have you been to our township website? If not, take a look and bookmark our homepage for easy access. We continually add updates so that you have the latest information on recycling, park events, Supervisors and Planning Commission meeting schedules and approved minutes, past newsletters, applications for permits and park facilities use, community garden information, road work or closures, other community happenings and we are gradually adding all ordinances.

Want notification, send your e-mail address to  
[bpenn township@yahoo.com](mailto:bpenn township@yahoo.com)  
and we will alert you when there are updates or information added that are important to a majority of our residents.