



# Township Newsletter

(Fall 2023 Edition)

Are you signed up to receive our newsletters via email, or do you know someone who should be?

Scan this QR Code or [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up:



You can also send an email to [pwadmin@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:pwadmin@twp.lancaster.pa.us) if you need additional assistance.

## Seeking Volunteers:



### Youth Aid Panel

What is the Youth Aid Panel? -- The Youth Aid Panel is an alternative method for addressing juvenile criminal actions without the matter being filed with the court system.

For more information on how to join please visit <https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/524/How-to-Become-a-Member> and fill out an application!

## Township Finances by Bill Laudien, Township Manager

The fall is budget time for municipalities. In this article we will attempt to outline the budget process in general and provide an overview of Lancaster Township's financial situation.

The Township budget is broken into various funds:

The Capital Fund is used to save toward the replacement of large ticket items. This includes all vehicles, machinery, fire trucks, buildings, and large-scale infrastructure projects. The revenue for this fund comes from road opening permits, from grants, and from an annual general fund transfer.

The Highway Fund is for the maintenance and construction of roads. The revenue for this fund comes directly from the State via a liquid fuels (gasoline) tax paid at the pump and is distributed based on the number of miles of road in each municipality.

The most significant fund is the General Fund. The General Fund is the operating fund from which most of the Township business is conducted. The services run from this fund include General Government, Public Safety, Health and Welfare, Highways, Recreation, Payroll, and interfund transfers. In increasing order, revenue for this fund comes from departmental earnings, grants and other governmental funds, interest/rents/royalties, fines, licenses and permits, and taxes.

### Taxes

Township tax revenue has two primary sources:

Earned income tax. Pennsylvania residents are typically taxed at a rate of 1% for local municipalities, and those funds are split

0.5% each between the local school district and the local municipality. Some municipalities, primarily cities, will collect a higher rate (For instance, Lancaster City 1.1%, York 1.25%, and Harrisburg 2% for examples). In our case, Lancaster Township and the School District of Lancaster receive the typical 0.5% each.

Property Tax. The most often discussed municipal source of revenue is property tax. Property tax tends to be thought of as one lump amount that gets paid to one entity, however property taxes are paid to Lancaster County, School District of Lancaster, and to Lancaster Township with this breakdown:

Tax District	Millage Rate
School District of Lancaster	24.0186
Lancaster County	2.911
Lancaster Township	1.91
Total	28.8396

To determine the actual tax burden, you multiply the millage rate by the assessed value of your house.

Ex) House assessment of \$150,000

Tax District	\$150K x Millage
School District	\$3,602.79
County	\$436.65
Township	\$286.50
Total	\$4325.94

### Lancaster Township's Current Financial Situation

The Township is currently in a solid financial position. We have been able to provide a very high level of service while maintaining a relatively consistent budget

*Continued on the next page...*

## Township Directory:

General and Reception –  
(717)291-1213

### Administration:

Manager – Bill Laudien  
[wlaudien@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:wlaudien@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Administrative Asst. – Kim Ludewig  
[BoardAdmin@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:BoardAdmin@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Finance – Lisa McLaughlin  
[Finance@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:Finance@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

### Planning/Zoning:

Zoning Officer – Tom Daniels  
[tdaniels@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:tdaniels@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Administrative Asst.- Gretchen Smith  
[gretchen@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:gretchen@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Engineer – Ben Webber  
[bwebber@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:bwebber@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

### Public Works:

Director – Mike Hamlin  
[mhamlin@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:mhamlin@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Superintendent – Devin Groff  
[dgroff@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:dgroff@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Foreman – Zach Shober  
[zshober@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:zshober@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Administrative Asst.. – Tony Dastra  
[pwadmin@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:pwadmin@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

### Trash/Recycling:

Trash/Recycling – JoAnne Yost  
[Jyost@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:Jyost@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

### Township Supervisors:

Steve Elliott –  
[SElliott@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:SElliott@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Ben Bamford –  
[BBamford@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:BBamford@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

Iber Guerrero Lopez –  
[IberGuerreroLopez@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:IberGuerreroLopez@twp.lancaster.pa.us)

as a result of long-term planning and an efficient staff. However, there have been some factors that have necessitated some changes over the last few years. The Township's millage rate increased from 0.91 to 1.91 at the start of 2023. That decision was not one taken lightly but was necessary due to significant increases in public safety and infrastructure costs. Since 2009, policing has increased from \$1 million to approximately \$2.25 million in 2023. Similarly, the fire department contribution has increased over that time from \$250,000 to over \$600,000. On the infrastructure side, both unfunded state mandates for stormwater and significant increases in road material costs have caused budgetary pressure. While future cost pressure may necessitate future tax increases, the current rate of 1.91 allows us to continue to deliver quality service, plan for the future, and still have a comparable tax rate relative to our neighbors (see chart on the right).

Lancaster Metro Millage Rates	
Municipality	Millage Rate
Lancaster City	12.64
Millersville	5.8
Manheim Township	2.034
West Hempfield Township	1.95
Lancaster Township	1.91
East Lampeter	1.90
West Lampeter Township	1.15
East Hempfield	1.01
Manor Township	0.99

To learn more, additional information, previous year's audits, and the 2024 draft budget when its available can be found at the Township website or [CLICK HERE](#).



An intermunicipal partnership between  
Lancaster Township, Lancaster City, and the  
School District of Lancaster

The Lancaster REC is hiring! With school back in full swing there are lots of opportunities for employment with the Lancaster REC in various support and leadership roles. For a full list of available positions, go to <https://www.lancasterrec.org/contact/careers/>.

The Lancaster REC is also hosting various events over the next few months you may be interested in attending and building or strengthening connections with your neighbors, or just to have a great time with your child.

**RECToberfest** - Saturday, October 14 from 12-8 p.m.

Location: Conestoga Pines Barn, 200 Arthur E Morris Parkway Lancaster, PA 17601  
Cost: FREE

**Fall Family Ball** - Thursday, November 9 from 5-8 p.m.

Location: Eden Resort, 222 Eden Road, Lancaster  
Cost: \$75/couple (\$50/additional adult, \$25/additional child) No refunds will be given.

**Winter Carnival** - Friday, December 15 from 5:30-8 p.m.

Location: Brandon Park & Lancaster Rec Center  
Cost: FREE

For the full list of events and their details please visit <https://www.lancasterrec.org/about-lancaster-rec/news-events/>

# Hello Neighbor!



**By Tom Daniels,  
Lancaster Township  
Zoning Officer**

One of the things that makes Lancaster Township a great place to live is our friends and neighbors. As the Township Zoning Officer, I often find myself at residents' homes as they have questions about their properties. "Where can I put a shed?", or "Can I build a deck here?" "Do I need a permit for this"? You meet families and neighbors along the way, and it is one of my favorite things about my job. The comradery between neighbors is something that makes a house a home. Unfortunately, not every neighbor-neighbor relationship is a good one and can lead to some very uncomfortable situations.

As a result, my office receives several calls asking, "Can my neighbor do this? Or my neighbor did this, please tell them to stop." When I get to these situations, one of the first things I ask is

if they have spoken to the neighbor about this? Invariably, the answer is "No I haven't". The point of this is to suggest that might be a good place to start. Having a positive relationship with people who live near or next to you can make a big difference in your quality of life. But let's face it, it can be difficult sometimes. You didn't choose them for a neighbor, they didn't choose you, and sometimes it just doesn't work very well.

But talking things through, even when they are difficult, allows people to hear your perspective, and you theirs. It might be the basis for a respectful, if not friendly neighborly relationship, and everybody wins with that.

## REMEMBER THESE DATES FOR TRASH PICK UP

October 2023							November 2023							December 2023							January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
														31													

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

#### REAL CHRISTMAS TREES

Saturday, January 13, 2024

*Collected ONE DAY ONLY!*

#### CURBSIDE YARD WASTE

Collected EVERY OTHER WEEK on your regular collection day.

Final Week of Yard Waste Collection – Week of October 9<sup>th</sup> on your regular collection day

#### LARGE APPLIANCES & TIRES (Fall Collection)

Saturday, November 11

### Observed Trash Hauler Holidays

**Thursday, November 23 – NO COLLECTION -**  
*Thursday collection will be on Friday, November 24*

**Monday, December 25 – NO COLLECTION -**  
*Collection will be on a one- day delay for the week*

**Monday, January 1 – NO COLLECTION -**  
*Collection will be on a one- day delay for the week*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM TRASH AND RECYCLING

Trash and Recycle bills will be mailed on October 1<sup>st</sup> with payment due on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Regular rate of \$160, but homeowners over 59 who reside in their home qualify for a 10% discount (\$144.00). You must present your ID to the Township to activate this discount.

Garbage fires are on the rise... LCSWMA wants to remind you to RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES! You can stop by our township office to get a free Orange battery bag which can be placed beside your containers. All bags are taken to LCSWMA. Read their full battery notice [HERE](#).

**Curbside recycling is only permitted to the BIG 4**  
**[\(CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE\)](#)**

A reminder that trash bags, containers, recycling bins must be within five (5) feet of the curb and clearly visible to the collector. Trash is limited to three 32-gallon trash cans or bags per week, no more than 30 pounds each. Additional cans or bags must have a YELLOW extra service tag (\$1.25) attached to each. Cans and/or bags weighing more than 30 pounds or over-sized items must have a RED extra service tag (\$4.00) attached to each.

The Large Appliance and Tire collection on November 11<sup>th</sup> requires a \$12 blue tag for each appliance, and a \$2 purple tag for each tire. If you purchased a tag in the past and it was unused, call us

*Illegal dumping of any regulated material is a punishable offense.  
Lancaster Township will enforce all regulations and impose penalties on violators.*

**If you have any questions, call or email JoAnne Yost at (223)221-7507 or [jjost@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:jjost@twp.lancaster.pa.us)**

Most homeowners have some yards around them. Lots of these yards are covered by grass. It turns out that we've planted so much grass in the state that some experts have estimated that grass is the largest cultivated plant in Pennsylvania.

But, it needs to be mowed and sometimes weeded and sometimes fertilized. The Township has ordinance requirements for grass height (i.e. no taller than 6") and does monitor properties as cost effectively as we can. If the property size is 10 acres or more, grass or grain is permitted to grow higher than 6" for the purpose of harvesting agricultural products.

The maintenance of the area next to the street is important for keeping sidewalks and the right-of-way clear. At intersections with streets, this becomes even more important with making sure that there's adequate sight distance. Easements are often required during property subdivision processing to ensure that these sight distances are maintained.

You may have heard about invasive species. Although these plants are occasionally attractive, they can become a real nuisance if left to their own devices.

[The Township website has some good information](#) about identifying invasive species and how to eradicate them. It can be hard work and take a lot of time. So, controlling them early is key. Bamboo and many ivies are examples of fast-growing vegetation that really have no business in our community. Please let us know if you'd like some further guidance on controlling or eradicating these.

Uncontrolled vegetation can also lead to very substantial problems for our infrastructure. Unhealthy or improperly pruned trees can fall on our roadways. Several stands of bamboo have clogged roadside swales and have had to be trimmed or removed. Excessive growth by trees or bushes can make sidewalks impassable. Several stormwater basins and many swales in our Township have had to be cleared of overgrowth and then rehabilitated.

So, we encourage all property owners to be aware of all the vegetation on their land so that they can take the proper steps for our common good.

**Just Because  
It's Green...  
Doesn't  
Make It  
Okay**



**By Ben Webber,  
Lancaster Township  
Engineer**



# Public Works

## Leaf Collection

Leaf collection Begins on October 16th.

During leaf collection, if vehicles are parked on or too close to leaf piles, those leaf piles will be left behind and are the responsibility of the resident to remove.

If your street has a posted sign that lists certain days/hours of No Parking, then it is a "signed" street. PARKING RESTRICTIONS on "signed streets" REMAIN IN FORCE until January 19, 2024, to allow for a final sweeping (weather permitting) once leaf collection has ended in December.

[See Website here for additional details.](#)




## FINAL DATES FOR LEAF COLLECTION

- **Monday, December 11:** ALL AREAS between Columbia Ave., Marietta Ave., Race Ave., and 0–200 block River Drive.
- **Tuesday, December 12:** All SIGNED Wednesday areas in East and West Township; finish Conestoga Woods area.
- **Wednesday, December 13:** All SIGNED Thursday areas (Chadwick Lane, Colchester Drive, the Sterling Place Development). Areas west of Abbeyville Rd., School House Rd., N. Bausman Dr., Bausman, Gable Park, Bentley Lane, Chadwick Circle, Bean Hill Rd., Wedgewood, Windolph Landing, Honeysuckle Ln., and Millrace Development
- **Friday, December 15:** ALL AREAS between Marietta Ave. and Newton Rd., N. President Ave., and the 300–700 blocks of River Dr.
- **Sunday December 17:** All SIGNED Monday areas (Chadwick Lane, Colchester Drive, the Sterling Place Development).
- **Monday, December 18:** All SIGNED Tuesday areas in East and West Township including Conestoga Woods area.

## Calendar for Sweeping and Leaf Collection

October 2023							November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023							January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

Color	Purpose
	Holiday
	Leaf collection in Signed Areas
	Parking restrictions in place for sweeping

## NOW HIRING FOR OUR ROAD CREW!

Are you a hardworking, community-oriented, and civic-minded person who is looking for a new career that supports their community?

Reach out to Public Works Superintendent and see if you'd be a fit for our Public Works Road Crew. You can reach out via email to [dgroff@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:dgroff@twp.lancaster.pa.us).

# WOODY WASTE FACILITY

With plant growth slowing and the days getting shorter, our woody waste facility is changing hours while leaf collection is primed to begin. Here are updates you should be aware of:

Woody Waste Saturday Hours will remain the same, 8AM to 1PM, with the final regular Saturday being November 18<sup>th</sup>. After this the following dates will be open on Saturday in the winter from 8AM to 1PM:

- December 9<sup>th</sup>
- December 30<sup>th</sup>
- January 13<sup>th</sup>
- January 27<sup>th</sup>
- February 10<sup>th</sup>
- March 16<sup>th</sup>
- March 30<sup>th</sup>

Weekday hours are every Monday thru Thursday from 3PM to 8PM. **We are always closed on Fridays.** Check the following table to see when these hours reduce:

First day of Hours Change	Weekday Hours
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	3PM to 7PM
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2PM to 6PM
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	2PM to 5PM
November 23 <sup>rd</sup> (Normal operations end November 22 <sup>nd</sup> until Spring 2024)	ONLY OPEN WEDNESDAYS FROM 11AM to 3PM <b>WEATHER PENDING</b>

## WOODY WASTE OPERATIONAL NOTES:

- Access is one-way only via the Elm Avenue service road located behind the Giant Store at Stone Mill Plaza.
- All traffic must exit via Columbia Avenue (eastbound; right turn only).
- Service is for Lancaster Township residents ONLY—have ID ready for the gate attendant.
- NO commercial landscapers (work-for-hire individuals).
- Access to the facility will be controlled.
- Severe weather events may cause the closure of the facility.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO LUMBER OF ANY KIND ALLOWED. YARD WASTE/NATURAL WOOD ONLY.**
- **NO BAGS**, including Bio Bags, are to be left at the facility. ALL bags must be dumped & taken with you.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO DUMPING OF WOODY WASTE OUTSIDE OF ENTRANCE GATE. The area is under video surveillance; violators will be cited.**

**AS OF JUNE 2023, BIOBAGS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE AT OUR WOODY WASTE FACILITY**



## Christmas Tree Drop Off:

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 we have our one-day pick up for Christmas Trees, but you can drop them off at our designated location outside the woody waste gate from December 26<sup>th</sup> to January 13<sup>th</sup>

## Rules for drop-off:

- Daylight hours only
- Township Residents only
- REAL Trees only with all decorations removed and without a tree bag
- No artificial trees or yard waste

## Stormwater News



If you see any inlets that are covered in trash, leaves, or other debris that is preventing the flow of stormwater, we kindly ask that you assist our Public Works department by clearing them off before any storm events. We do send out the Public Works crew whenever possible to take care of this, however, it is impossible to clean every inlet every day. We appreciate all residents who help us keep our roadways free from flooding.

We do our best to keep our waterways scenic and our Township beautiful by removing litter whenever possible. To help reduce litter, by [ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01](#), single-use plastic bags are now prohibited for commercial use with exemptions for certain businesses uses (e.g. Dry Cleaners, Newspaper Delivery, etc.). This change takes place on January 1st 2024. You'll likely notice this at grocery stores as they make the transition; paper bags are still permitted. If you have any questions regarding this change, you can send an email to [pwadmin@twp.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:pwadmin@twp.lancaster.pa.us).