

Elizabeth Township News

Spring 2024



INSPIRING THE FUTURE: ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Nick Algeri (Penn State Grad), Jess Gronlund (Penn State Grad), Giovanna Ferraro (Committed to Saint Vincent), Jacob Ghetian (Penn State Grad), Ethan Thoma (Robert Morris Senior)

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Devie Rollison Realtor

Hello Neighbor

My name is Devie Rollison and I am a local REALTOR. My family and I have proudly lived in Elizabeth all of my life and we have loved every minute of it. This area has given us so many wonderful memories with our family and neighbors and I know that it will continue to do so for many years to come.

From neighbor to neighbor, I wanted to provide you some value in the Real Estate market for our community. My goal is to keep our community updated and informed on how our homes are doing in the current market.



Connect with Me over FREE COFFEE:

Wednesday, May 1 from 2:00-3:00 pm
Saturday, May 11 from 10:30-11:30 am

Meet ME at Central Coffee Shop at 475 Swiss Way while we casually discuss all things Elizabeth Twp, Real Estate and more! Complimentary coffee and a Comparative Market Analysis will be provided.

As always, feel free to reach out to me anytime with questions you may have with regards to buying or selling a home. I am always honored to serve a fellow neighbor. Hope to see and hear from you soon!

Devie Rollison
REALTYONEGROUP
GOLD STANDARD

1179 Rostraver Rd
Rostraver, Pa 15012
www.devierollison.com
C: 412.758.6346 | O: 724.941.1427

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Adam Musisko
412-414-2287

Ward 2

Dr. Kyle Walk
412-335-8461

Ward 3

Mike Hansen
216-215-6458

Ward 4

Josh Walls – President
412-537-1228

Ward 5

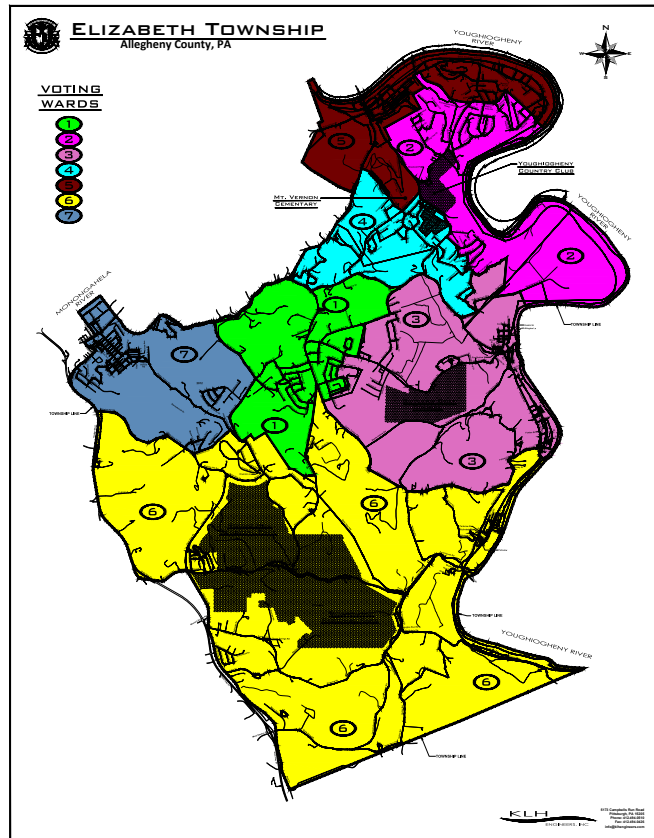
Jim Benedek – Vice President
412-370-7503

Ward 6

Chris Thoma
412-228-8003

Ward 7

Chris Evans
412-526-6297



COMMISSIONER COMMITTEES

Code Enforcement

Adam Musisko – Chair
Kyle Walk
Chris Evans

Budget, Finance, Grants, Legislative, and General Government

Josh Walls – Chair
Chris Thoma
Kyle Walk

Parks & Recreation

Jim Benedek – Chair
Adam Musisko
Kyle Walk

Personnel

Chris Evans – Chair
Josh Walls
Jim Benedek

Public Safety & Public Works

Chris Thoma – Chair
Chris Evans
Mike Hansen

Sanitation & Stormwater

Kyle Walk – Chair
Mike Hansen
Chris Evans

Comprehensive Plan

Mike Hansen – Chair
Chris Thoma
Josh Walls

Business Development Resident Committee

Adam Musisko – Chair
(2) Community Residents

Recreation and Events Resident Committee

Mike Hansen – Chair
(2) Community Residents

EFSD Collaboration Committee

Adam Musisko – Chair
Chris Thoma
Jim Benedek

2024 TOWNSHIP MEETINGS LINE-UP

2024 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

Meetings Held in the Commissioner Chambers at 7:00 PM

April 15 – Workshop Meeting
May 6 – Monthly Meeting
May 20 – Workshop Meeting
June 3 – Monthly Meeting
June 17 – Workshop Meeting

July 1 – Commissioners Meeting
July 15 – Workshop Meeting
August 5 – Commissioners Meeting
August 19 – Workshop Meeting
September 9 – Commissioners Meeting

September 23 – Workshop Meeting
October 7 – Commissioners Meeting
October 21 – Workshop Meeting
November 4 – Commissioners Meeting
November 18 – Workshop Meeting

December 2 – Commissioners Meeting
December 16 – Workshop Meeting

PRESIDENT WALLS

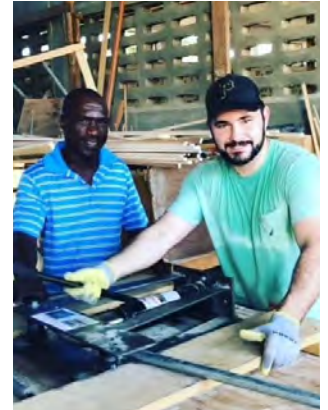
Hello & welcome to your 2024 Spring Newsletter!

As Ward 4 Elizabeth Township Commissioner, I'm honored to have been appointed to serve as president of the Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners. For the past two years, I served as vice president, active on numerous committees including budget & finance, personnel, code enforcement, and business development. I've learned much about the intricacies and challenges of local government, and I'm excited about the future of our township.

I am grateful for the opportunity to help make Elizabeth Township a better place to live and raise a family. I was raised to believe that serving your community is the best way to give back, and positive connections build a sense of unity and pride wherever we live. I've traveled to Africa, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Turkey on missionary trips. Locally, I've been active with the Lions Club, Rotary, and the Elizabeth Township Historical Society – all pillars of our community.

These past two years, I've worked with my fellow commissioners to make positive impacts in each category of municipal services here in our township.

The township has invested in the Department of Public Works (DPW), including facility upgrades, equipment purchases, and adding 20% to the personnel workforce. These investments have allowed us to rein in inflated spending, while bringing in-house many projects that previously would go out for bid. Our DPW helps maintain and improve the infrastructure that we all rely on every day, doing their part to make Elizabeth Township a better place to live.



Our Elizabeth Township Police Department offers an elite level of service to our community, covering one of the largest police service areas in Allegheny County. The hiring and expansion of our police department is offset by police service contracts from the communities we serve. Our residents enjoy a better staffed, equipped, and trained police force without a raise in their local taxes. The department has received praise and support from District Attorney Stephen Zappala. Our department works around the clock to make sure the message is loud and clear, Elizabeth Township enforces its laws, and if you break them, you are held accountable. In the past two years, we've hired six new officers, invested in life-saving technology, and raised the bar in the South Hills for community policing.

Our code enforcement and building inspector, along with our administration team, have worked hard to tackle blight, while undertaking the largest condemnation project in township history. Right now, thirty vacant and abandoned homes are in the process of being demolished. The goal is to eliminate the most dangerous structures first and continue this process to reduce hazards and risks to the community.

Our township manager, Greg Butler, has worked diligently to streamline internal processes to better prepare our team to move into the future. Greg, along with his administrative staff manage the day-to-day operation. Their dedication and commitment to providing excellent service to our community have not gone unnoticed. Whether it's coordinating projects, addressing inquiries, or their attention to detail, they consistently demonstrate a strong work ethic and professionalism.

In addition, Elizabeth Township has committed resources towards investing in recreation projects throughout the Township. The completion of the Mount Vernon basketball / pickle ball courts; the start of the Boston baseball & sports complex and the Highland Meadows Park upgrades to name a few. Along with the Elizabeth Forward High School remodel and upgrades, Elizabeth Township has committed to ensuring that this area is among the first choices for young people to locate and raise their families.

I believe heavily in communication and transparency. I encourage all residents to attend our regular or workshop monthly meetings on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Elizabeth Township Municipal Building. I am thankful for this newsletter, as it works as an important tool to inform our nearly 13,000 residents of what is happening in their own backyards.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and represent Elizabeth Township.

Joshua Walls

President, Board of Commissioners

MANAGER'S MINUTE

Elizabeth Township is a First-Class Township that has seven commissioners representing seven wards within the township. Each commissioner has an enormous responsibility to represent the residents within their ward as well as ensuring the current stability of the township and determining the future direction of the township.

The Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners has many responsibilities. They are the primary fiduciaries of the township revenues and expenses. They approve a yearly General Fund Budget and a yearly Sanitation Budget. They approve all tax rates that determine revenue as well as all expenses that are charged against that revenue. All said, these actions alone currently include approximately 15 million dollars every calendar year. Sanitary, road and recreation projects over the past several years have added many more millions of dollars to the fiscal decision-making of the commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners' other responsibility is Administrative, Public Works, and Police staffing. They must manage personnel salaries, collective bargaining contracts, benefits, and pensions while remaining within budgetary constraints. They make difficult decisions related to the balance of staffing levels and how that affects the level and quality of public services provided by the township. How much staffing is too much and how much is too little?

The board must also appoint a Solicitor, Township Engineer, and Auditor. They must appoint residents to the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and Civil Service Commission. Many of the boards and commissions have appeal boards that must be filled with residents appointed by commissioners. These are all important appointments since these boards and commissions make decisions that also affect the current and future quality of life in the township.

I was a council member, the borough version of commissioner, for 18 years in another community. I fully understand the pressure and complexity of guiding a community. It requires constant attention that sometimes seems to take over your life. Despite the enormous effort and amount of energy, it is a real exercise in civil service that reaps rewards beyond words. You are helping current and future residents of the community. You are helping people live a good quality of life.

It is entirely possible that you do not agree with every decision made by an individual commissioner, or perhaps the board as a whole. It is important, though, to understand that these residents, and their families, dedicate an enormous part of their lives to making the most prudent and informed decisions possible for the community. They are charged with a great responsibility that would be difficult for any resident to fulfill. Feel free to thank them at a future meeting. I guarantee it will mean the world to them.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Residents in Elizabeth Township have access to a convenient service to properly dispose and recycle household hazardous waste safely, easily, and responsibly. These items include: paints, household cleaners, compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), automotive products, garden chemicals, batteries, electronics and more.

This service is in addition to your waste and recycling service provided by Waste Management and there is no additional cost to participate.

To participate, you must set up a collection appointment. There are three ways to schedule a collection:

- Go to www.WMAtYourDoor.com
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- Email: AtYourDoor@WM.com

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ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Adam Janosko – ETFD #1



During the December 2023 membership meeting of the Elizabeth Township Fire Department #1, I was elected as the department's Fire Chief for 2024, replacing Chief John A. Walter who served the department well for the previous 7 years. I joined the ETFD in 2017 after serving with Munhall Volunteer Fire Department #1 since June 2001. Since joining ETFD, I have served as a Lieutenant, Captain, and Deputy Fire Chief.

The ETFD currently operates from three fire stations which include Station 3 (Blythedale), Station 4 (Greenock) and Station 7 (Central) and provides primary fire and emergency services to the Elizabeth Township communities of Boston, Blythedale, Central Highlands, Greenock, Industry, Smithdale and Victory as well as providing mutual aid to our neighbors in Blaine Hill, Buena Vista, Elizabeth Borough, Forward, Liberty, Lincoln, Sutersville, and Versailles to name a few.

Recently, the ETFD purchased a 2008 Ferrara Quint with a 107' aerial ladder. This truck was purchased to replace and serve the function of two trucks. Due to the current price and production of a brand-new truck, this truck will be able to be put into service sooner and at a much more cost-efficient price. The truck is currently being outfitted for service to Elizabeth Township and should be seen around the township within the coming weeks. One of the trucks being replaced has already been sold to assist with offsetting the cost of the new truck. Additionally, the second truck being replaced is currently listed for sale.

Some of the goals of ETFD for 2024 are to get the new truck in-service, maintain manpower, continue building and maintaining relationships with neighboring departments, agencies and the community. As well as fundraising and locating/securing funding to offset the continuing rise of costs for purchasing and maintaining apparatus, equipment, buildings/facilities and training and education of members. The ETFD also looks forward to working with Southeast Regional EMS and continuing to build its QRS (Quick Response Services) responses which began in September 2023. It is anticipated that the ETFD 2024 call volume will increase from the 2023 call volume of 453 calls/incidents.

ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Note from Chief Honick

2024 starts an exciting new chapter in the ETPD story. We are now proudly serving the communities of Elizabeth and Forward Township, and Elizabeth and West Elizabeth Borough.

The trust these communities have placed in our TEAM is an honor, and we will work each and every day to give our best service and continue to seek the latest and greatest in police technology to improve our mission response.

It is a GREAT time to be ETPD!!!!



EVENTS

Blaine Hill Community Day

Saturday August 10th, 2024

Start time 3pm

Parade at 6pm

Fireworks at 10pm

Buena Vista Community Day

August 3rd, 2024

Buena Vista Car Show

September 8th, 2024

Movie Nights

*Dates/Location subject to change. Please check our Website/ Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

5/31/24 – **Migration** (Community Center – Building 1)

6/21/24 - Barbie (Chapel Drive)

7/19/24 - **Troll Band Together** (Community Center – Building 1)

8/16/24 - **Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbird and Snakes** (Community Center – Building 1)

10/18/24 – **Wonka** (Community Center – Building 1)

12/15/24 – Wish (Building 3)

Fall Fest

Elizabeth Township will be holding its fall festival on Saturday, September 28th, 2024 from 11:00am – 3:00pm at the Elizabeth Township Municipal Building. We are seeking local vendors who would like to set up a booth and sell their items at this event. Please contact Jess Gronlund at 412-751-2880 ext 1023 for more details.

COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS



Commissioner Chris Thoma

Greetings Elizabeth Township! My name is Chris Thoma, Commissioner of Ward 6. I've called Elizabeth Township home for twenty-three years with my wife, Maria and two sons Christian and Ethan. Living in Elizabeth Township to raise a family was one of the best decisions we have ever made.

For almost two decades, my wife and I have been volunteers for youth programs in some capacity here in Elizabeth Township. Whether it was coaching, building outdoor classrooms, fundraising, running concession stands and/or serving on various youth boards. We enjoyed it immensely! Even though our kids are adults now. We still volunteer and love doing so.

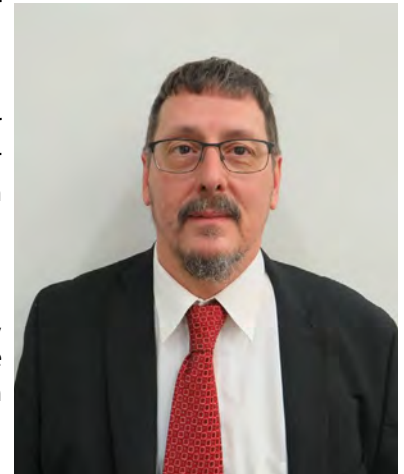
In November of 2021 I was elected Commissioner of Ward 6 and started January of 2022. Within the past two years, there have been many challenges our township has faced. Pandemic, well pads, compressor stations, personnel hires, police service agreements, infrastructure projects, addressing blighted properties, appointments of three separate commissioners, aging public works/police/ township equipment and many others.

During this time, I've learned how skilled and amazing our township employees are. Their commitment to excellence is second to none! Firstly, take the building and code department led by Chris House. He's been working tirelessly on addressing blight in the township and revamping our ordinances. His 20+ years of experience has been an asset to us. Secondly, the Public Works Department led by Tom Methven, this team made the impossible possible! Forest Hills road, which was closed for years, is now open to Smithdale community. Our highly skilled team has moved to do the same thing on Jacktown Road and beyond. Thirdly, the Police Department led by Chief Ken Honick, has amazed me with their knowledge, skill set and commitment to protect and serve not only Elizabeth Township, but also Forward Township, Elizabeth Borough, and West Elizabeth. Fourthly, the administrative staff led by Township Manager Greg Butler, this highly skilled team has guided us through all the challenges we have faced and have done so impeccably! We are lucky to have such dedicated and highly skilled employees in all areas serving our amazing township! The commissioners I have served with so far have been a blessing to me and this township. Each of them strives to have a lasting positive impact on our community.

Lastly, the best part of serving our community has been the residents. I've met so many over the years, whether it was through volunteering or being a commissioner. It is the people of our community that make it a great time and place to grow up, raise a family and retire in Elizabeth Township! Thank you, it's been an honor to serve our community so far!

Commissioner Mike Hansen

Having just one month in on this new journey as Ward 3 Commissioner for Elizabeth Township, I am excited to be able to move the township forward and keep it one of the best places to live but humbled by the faith and confidence the residents of ward 3 have in me to represent them in the best way possible.





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JUNIOR COMMISSIONER

Giovanna Ferraro

In 2022, the Elizabeth Township Commissioners opened a spot for high school juniors and seniors to apply for a Junior Commissioner position. When I saw this position, it immediately sparked my interest. I felt that an experience like this would be extremely beneficial for me, even though I plan on being a nursing student in college. I believe that no matter what you see as your future career, working as a Junior Commissioner will be extremely valuable and resourceful. While the students in this position do not get the ability to vote on motions during the meetings, we are still asked to voice our opinions and give feedback to the board. Oftentimes I was asked how I felt about and viewed different things going on in the township, and I felt my feedback was heard and taken into account.

During my time as Junior Commissioner, I was involved in many events and decisions. One of those events was the township's annual Fall Fest. These were personally some of my favorite meetings. Listening to all of the thoughts and ideas around the room, and seeing the event come to life was so intriguing and interesting to me. Ward 6 Commissioner, Chris Thoma, led me through my term, and my personalized creation of a new municipal building sign. We both agreed that the sign was outdated and needed a long-awaited modernization. This project alone taught me how to work with many new and different people, preparing me for the adult world, which is full of challenges and opportunities.

Attending these meetings and listening to everything that goes into, what seems like simple events and conversations, gave me a whole new appreciation for what the members of the board and the township employees do. Every one of those people made me feel like I was truly a part of the group. I'm very grateful for them and the experiences this position has granted me. I strongly encourage students of the township, who are interested in getting involved in their community, to apply as it is very rewarding.

Elizabeth Township is reopening its Junior Commissioner Program for the 2024-2025 school year. For more information, or if you are interested in applying, contact Greg Butler at gbutler@elizabethtwppa.com or 412-751-2880 ext 1016.



BANNER COMMUNITY HISTORY

Every calendar year, the Allegheny League of Municipalities evaluates municipalities in Allegheny County for eligibility to earn the honorable status of Banner Community. Communities must satisfy a minimum of 24 stringent requirements in order to be considered for selection.

Honored municipalities and authorities distinguish themselves as model communities through their commitment to sustainable practices including professional development, intergovernmental cooperation, sound fiscal management and proactive communications to engage community stakeholders.

Elizabeth Township is proud to have continuously obtained the Banner Community honor every year since 2017.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

Tyler Fisher – Public Works

Hi everyone! My name is Tyler Fisher, I am twenty-seven years old, and I started working for the Elizabeth Township Public Works Department in January of 2024.

I have experience with this kind of work as I previously worked for the Jefferson Hill Public Works Department for two years and an excavation company for seven years. However, I feel very lucky to now be able to work for the community I live in.

So far, I am really enjoying working for Elizabeth Township. I feel fulfilled that I get to serve the community that I call home and I love seeing the positive impact our hard work has on our community. I like the type of work we get to do and having a group of awesome coworkers makes the job even more enjoyable. One thing I have noticed is that Elizabeth Township keeps its equipment in great condition, which helps complete tasks in a timely manner.

Outside of work, I am an avid outdoorsman and enjoy hunting, fishing, and motocross.

I am excited to continue my career with Elizabeth Township and look forward to continuing to serve my community!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

Justin Skovranko – Public Works

Hey, my name is Justin, I am thirty years old and happily married to my incredible wife. I began working for the Elizabeth Township Public Works Department (ETPW) at the start of 2024.

Working for the ETPW Department for the past few months has been great. It is interesting getting to do a wide range of jobs and not having to do the same thing every day. I find this type of work really enjoyable and knowing that we have year-round reliable work is comforting. I feel accomplished when our jobs directly benefit our community, which is even more rewarding since it is the community I live in.

Prior to my hire at the ETPW Department, I was a sanitation driver, a union carpenter, and even a self-employed landscaper, so I have a variety of knowledge. I am confident that this mix of experience is an asset to the township.

In my free time, I spend a lot of time outdoors and have a particular interest in trout fishing and camping.

I can't wait to see what my future holds in Elizabeth Township and am dedicated to continuing working hard for my community.



Alan Hritz – Officer

Hello everyone, I'm Alan Hritz and I am a recent hire of the Elizabeth Township Police Department. I began my career in Elizabeth Township when I was hired in June 2023, and I couldn't be happier!

I grew up in Rostraver Township and graduated from Belle Vernon Area High School in 2004. After high school, I made the decision to join the Marine Corps in 2006. During my time in the Marines, I was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 for a combat deployment. I was honorably discharged in 2012 and am proud to be a United States Marine Corps Veteran. I am confident that my time in the Marine Corps will help me be an asset to Elizabeth Township.

After my honorable discharge, I began the police academy in 2016 at the Westmoreland County Community College. When I finished the academy, I gained experience in several communities before I got hired full-time in Monessen. I proudly served the city of Monessen for five years before applying to the Elizabeth Township Police Department. These experiences served me well and I am thrilled to use my experience to serve Elizabeth Township.

I am happily married and have two amazing children – ages seven and one. I am eager to buy a house and raise my family here. The community and people here are amazing which makes me excited to see what my future holds with the Elizabeth Township Police Department.



Officer Jose Estevez and
Officer Alan Hritz

Jose Estevez – Officer (School Resource Officer)

Hey everyone, my name is Jose Estevez, and I am one of the newest officers for the Elizabeth Township Police Department. I started with the department in 2023 and have thoroughly enjoyed my service thus far.

I was born and raised in Miami Florida and moved to Pennsylvania in 2010 to begin my college career. I attended Saint Vincent College where I graduated in 2014 with my bachelor's in criminology. I continued my education at Saint Vincent (SVC) and earned my master's in counseling education in 2016. Having the opportunity to play and coach football for SVC was one of the highlights of my time there. I am grateful that I made the decision to attend SVC, and I am confident my education is an asset to my policing ability.

Prior to my time in law enforcement, I was a full-time school counselor in alternative education and public schools throughout southwest Pennsylvania. When I decided to further pursue law enforcement, I attended the Westmoreland County Community College Police Academy and graduated in 2021. My prior law enforcement experience includes being an Officer at the Pitcairn Police Department and a Deputy for the Westmoreland County Sheriff's. I have gained valuable experience from each of these departments that will serve me well at the Elizabeth Township Police Department.

Outside of work, I am active in my faith and value spending time with my family and my chocolate labrador retriever. I enjoy both traveling and spending time in nature, so I am always on the move.

I greatly enjoy and value my role as one of the school resource officers for the Elizabeth Forward School District and look forward to continue getting to know all the students and families in our area. My long-term goal is to move into Elizabeth Township, start and raise a family here and have a long, healthy career with the Elizabeth Township Police Department.

STIEMAN PROPERTY



Fred Bickerton (P.E.T.), Carolyn Swain (Stieman Family), LaRae Stieman (Stieman Family), Kelliane Frketic (P.E.T.), Linda Bennett (Historical Society), Greg Butler (Township Manager), and Josh Walls (Ward 4 Commissioner), next to the logs that are to be donated by LaRae Stieman to the Elizabeth Township Historical Society in honor of Val, Pearl, and Edwanna Stieman.

Elizabeth Township Commissioner, an accomplishment his granddaughter LaRae Stieman says he was very proud of. LaRae Stieman was extremely proud of her family and is honored to have their story shared and remembered for years to come.

Though the historical house no longer stands, the logs from the original build have been donated by LaRae Stieman to the Elizabeth Township Historical Society. Protect Elizabeth Township will have a plaque made to commemorate this generous donation.

2560 Greenock Buena Vista Road is a property rich in history and memories with many stories to tell. What started as a two-room log cabin constructed in the early 1800s, quickly grew into a place of gathering and dedication when the Stieman family purchased the property in 1943. Valentine "Val" Stieman grew up in the small cabin and lived in the home for the duration of his life. Alongside his dedicated wife Pearl, Val Stieman took that two-room log cabin and – with several additions - turned it into an eleven-room, three-bathroom home that incorporated the carefully fitted logs from the original construction.

The Stieman's valued kindness and togetherness and often hosted lively gatherings with local groups including the Board of Commissioners and the Lions Club. Pearl took a special interest in keeping an immaculate home and loved to host these memorable events in her historic home. True to his life of service and love of Elizabeth Township, Val gave up a job at the mill to pursue his dream of being a landscaper and left his mark on many recognizable grounds including the Yough Country Club and Mount Vernon Apartments. Using his landscaping talents, Val meticulously maintained roughly 30 gardens around the log cabin, each having its own theme. As a testament to his dedication to the community he proudly called home, Val dedicated 28 years of his life as an



Val and Pearl Stieman along with their daughter, Edwanna, in front of their home.

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CARLOCK'S PASS HISTORY

On September 9, 2023, the Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners, State Senator Jim Brewster, State Representative Andrew Kuzma, residents of Smithdale, and members of the Charles Carlock family attended a ceremony at the bottom of Forest Hill Road. The ceremony celebrated the nicknaming of Forest Hill Road to "Carlock's Pass" in dedication of Charles "Yip" Carlock, a Smithdale resident that served on the Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners for 48 years. The nickname "Carlock's Pass" was legally adopted by the Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners through Resolution.

Mr. Carlock was responsible for establishing the Police Department, expanding the Public Works Department, purchasing land to build Municipal Baseball Field, installing lights at Boston Baseball Field, establishing the Elizabeth Township Area EMS, and spearheading construction of the existing municipal building partially with grant funding.

Mr. Carlock also served on the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners for 37 years. He was on the executive board of the Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners for 40 years. He was also active in the Allegheny League of Municipalities



THREE YEAR GRANT HISTORY FOR ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP

Over the past three years, Elizabeth Township has applied for \$6,474,809.00 worth of grant funding. To date, we have received \$2,188,215.00 in funding with \$2,226,903.00 still under consideration. The grant funding received by the Township includes the following:

Local Share Account Grant Forest Hill Road	\$862,000.00
Act 152 Blight Removal Grants Home Demolitions	\$79,450.00
Municipal Recycling Programs Grant Recycling Containers	\$276,085.00
Community Development Block Grants House Demolitions	\$78,100.00
PennDOT Green Light Go Grants Traffic Control	\$350,100.00
Gaming Economic Development Grant Jacktown Road	\$152,500.00
Small Water and Sewer Grant Lovedale Pump Station	\$200,000.00
Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Grant Jacktown Road	\$200,000.00

INFORMATION FROM MAGISTRATE JUDGE BETH MILLS

Civil and Landlord-Tenant Complaints

This Court hears Civil and Landlord-tenant cases seeking monetary damages less than \$12,000.

Civil and Landlord -Tenant Complaints are available in the Court's waiting room. Civil filing fees for 2024 range from \$114.53-\$219.03. Landlord-Tenant filing fees range from \$173.95-\$252.47.

Continuances

If you have a hearing scheduled at this Court and need a

continuance or a different hearing date, you must submit something in writing. You can deliver this to the Court or by facsimile to: 412-382-3052.

Notary Services

This Court provides FREE Notary Services. But is unable to notarize any titles (car or boat) which require the transfer of any taxes. You can make an appointment to have a document notarized by calling: 412-382-3050. Please bring identification with you to the Court.

SENATOR JIM BREWSTER – RETROSPECT



"It has been an honor, privilege, and pleasure to serve the citizens of the 45th Senatorial District in the Mon Valley and Southwestern Pennsylvania in the state Senate, but it is time to explore other options and take on new challenges," Brewster said. "While I am concluding my service in the Senate at the end of 2024, I will continue to help the communities of the 45th district." Throughout his time in the Senate, Brewster has been a leader on issues impacting the Mon Valley and Western Pennsylvania. With his long tenure serving the Mon Valley he has been recognized as "dean" of the region's legislative delegation. "I am exceptionally proud of the work that my staff and I have done to solve problems for citizens throughout the area," Brewster said. "The efforts have been rewarding and I hope they will have a lasting impact. "I want to thank my wife Linda, my family, staff, and friends for supporting me throughout four decades of public service."

RECENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners has recently approved funding for several improvements throughout the Township. The approved improvements include the following:

- Complete replacement of the Jacktown Road bridge coming off Lovedale Road.
- Remediation of landslides on Jacktown Road.
- Converting traffic signal lights to LED lights at Lovedale/McKeesport Road and at the Boston Bridge.
- Installation of 12 garage doors at the Public Works garage.
- Demolition of 21 blighted homes throughout the Township.
- Installation of a new sign and decorative ground cover at the Township Municipal Building.
- Replacement of a small bridge on Circle Drive.

MS4

MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems which are systems or conveyances that drain stormwater runoff. This includes catch basins, storm sewers owned and operated by public or private entities, channels, ditches, curbs, etc. and is not part of a combined or sanitary sewer system.

A Municipality is bound by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to meet the state and

federal stormwater regulations associated with the federal Clean Water Act under the MS4 Program. A municipality is

considered an MS4 when it lies within any urbanized area within the municipal boundaries.

Elizabeth Township is currently considered an MS4 Permittee which is administered and managed by the PADEP. Through this permit the Township is required to develop a stormwater management plan that informs the general public, residents, businesses, employees, etc. how to manage stormwater and avoid pollutants from entering our streams such as sediment, metals, fecal matter, oils and grease, fertilizers, garbage, and more while complying with the MS4 permit requirements.

OELER ELECTRIC, LLC

Residential & Commercial Wiring

Denny Oeler
Owner

info@oelerelectric.com

5115 Walnut Street
McKeesport, Pa 15132

412-751-1608
PA6696

An advertisement for DRNACH ENVIRONMENTAL. On the left is a photograph of a two-story house with a brown roof and a two-car garage. To the right of the photo is the company logo, which consists of a green stylized 'D' shape with the words 'DRNACH ENVIRONMENTAL' inside. Below the logo, the text reads: 'Open Channel Flow Metering and Sampling in Sewage and Waste Water Systems', '471 Weigles Hill Rd. Elizabeth, PA 15037', 'Call: 412-384-5400', and 'Fax: 412-384-5405'. At the bottom, there is an email address 'info@drnachenvironmental.com' and the website 'www.drnachenvironmental.com'.

INTERNSHIP – OPPORTUNITIES, QUOTES OF OLD INTERNS

One thing that the township offers the ability for students to do is being an intern at the municipal building. Over the years, Elizabeth Township has provided opportunities that allow students to get hands-on experience in one of the many fields of work that can be found at the municipal building. These opportunities have helped shape students into being who they are today. Here are some experiences that a few of our most recent interns have had:

Jessica Gronlund - Intern in 2020

“My internship with Elizabeth Township in 2020 was a great opportunity that has contributed to my successful career with Elizabeth Township today. My main internship project was compiling a database of blighted properties in the township and developing potential solutions for the township to tackle blight. My internship taught me a lot about local government and business practices, which is critical knowledge in the workforce. Currently, I am an Executive Assistant at Elizabeth Township, and I am glad that I was able to stay on board and continue to excel after my internship.”

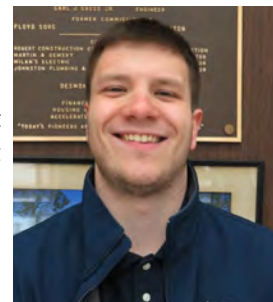


Taylor Hartman - Intern in 2022

“My internship with Elizabeth Township in 2022 was a great opportunity that played a great role in getting me into my career today. My main internship project was to create a survey dataset of housing analysis for the township’s Overall Comprehensive Plan. My internship taught me a lot about local government and business practices but overall project management. I currently work with The Vision Council as their Government Relations Coordinator in Washington, D.C. I’m very thankful for the opportunity that was given to me by Elizabeth Township.”

Jacob Ghetian - Intern in 2023

“I would say that my time with the township was an overall positive experience. The internship was my first time working in a professional setting. You get a fine balance of administrative work with some government elements sprinkled in to make a truly unique experience. I learned a lot and believe the township can provide an opportunity like no other for many college interns.”

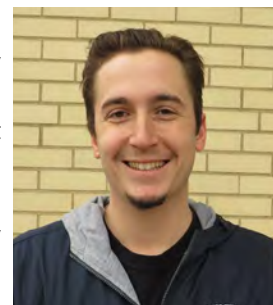


Ethan Thoma - Intern in 2024

“Being able to get experience with the administrative side of local government in the township has been a greatly valuable learning opportunity for me. Seeing everything that the township handles has allowed me to apply my skills and learn new ones along the way. Learning about a field is completely different than being able to experience it and I am very thankful for the opportunity that Elizabeth Township has provided me.”

Nick Algeri - Intern in 2022

“My time as an intern at Elizabeth Township showed me how to diversify my skills in a business setting which was a learning curve for me, as it was my first time working with municipal government and administration. It taught me a lot of things as I was finishing up my bachelor degree at Penn State and lead me into my current job as President of Operations for Rich’s Parkside Den and The Betsy Shoppes & Bistro, both located in Elizabeth Township. My main tasks as an intern was heavily focused on marketing using the comprehensive plan. I am fortunate to have been able to learn skills during my internship that worked side by side with my degree, and excel them in my current career.”



The township is proud to offer these types of opportunities to students of all backgrounds and fields of study. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Township Manager Greg Butler for more information regarding potential internship opportunities.

SELLING A PROPERTY IN ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP

Selling a property in Elizabeth Township has requirements that must be completed prior to closing. You will need to send in for a Municipal and Sewer No-Lien Letter. Each of these letters cost \$40.00 and checks must be separate and made out to "Elizabeth Township" and "Elizabeth Township Sanitary", respectively. Each letter should include, whether the request is for a purchase or a refinance of the property, the seller's and purchaser's names, the property address, the parcel ID, and the closing date. Please also note on the sewer no-lien letter if the property has a septic tank.

You will also need to have a dye test done. You do not pay the Township directly for the dye test, rather you pay a plumber who

is licensed in Allegheny County to perform the dye test and pay them directly. A member of our sanitary department must be present during the dye test for the test to be considered valid. To schedule a time with our sanitary department, please call 412-751-8180 option 1.

An occupancy inspection with our Code Enforcement Officer is also required. The cost of the inspection is \$100.00. You will find the application for the Certificate of Occupancy (and further information on all the requirements) on our website at www.elizabethtownship.com/property-sale-information.

MILITARY BANNERS

We are pleased to announce that the Elizabeth Township's Sportsman's Association will be continuing its military banner program. Military banners are proudly displayed on Rock Run Road from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day. To apply for a banner for yourself or on behalf of someone else, please visit www.elizabethtownship.com/military-banner-program for more information.

Many of the banners from the early years of the program have become worn and tarnished, so they have been examined and taken out of commission. An effort was made to alert those responsible for the banners that have been taken out of commission, but if you would like to know if your loved ones' banner has been retired, please call 412-751-2880. If you would like to reapply for the program, please visit our website and reapply

TAX COLLECTION

Beginning April 1st, 2024, the tax collector, Mary Walos, will be in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. These hours will be in effect until November 2024. From November to March, the tax collector will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The tax office will be closed from 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm for lunch.

The preferred method of tax payment is utilizing the black

drop box located outside of the Municipal Building labeled "TAXES". If you'd like a receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your drop-off. You are still able to come into the building to pay your taxes during the Tax Collectors normal hours, but you must ring the doorbell on the front door to be let inside the building. Credit card and cash payments are not accepted.

ACT 77 – SENIOR TAX RELIEF

Elizabeth Township participated in Allegheny County's Act 77 for Senior Tax Relief. To take advantage of this program, applicants must reach the following three requirements:

- Must have owned or occupied a primary residence in Allegheny County continuously for the past 10 years
- Must be 60 or older
- Gross household income must be \$30,000.00 or less

The program features a flat 30% discount of the real property tax for Allegheny County. Acceptance into this program also ensures a 10% discount in Elizabeth Township local tax. Note that application *must* be submitted through Allegheny County. For more detailed information, please visit: <https://alleghenycountytreasurer.us/real-estate-tax/real-estate-tax-2/>

BLOOD DRIVES

Thank you so much to everyone who has participated in the Elizabeth Township Community Blood Drives hosted by Vitalant. Your generous donations have helped support life for over 200 hospital patients in the last year and a half. We are hopeful that the number of donors will increase in 2024! Here is a list of the upcoming blood drives for 2024:

• June 21st • September 6th • December 20th

All blood drives will be held in the meeting room at the Elizabeth Township Municipal Building located at 522 Rock Run Road from 12:30 pm – 6:00 pm. Keep an eye out on our website/facebook for more information. Appointments are not required but are encouraged. Visit www.vitalant.org to make an appointment.

PUBLIC WORKS SUMMER HELP

The Elizabeth Township Public Works Department is seeking Summer help for the 2024 season. This is a great opportunity for college kids to gain some experience during their summer break. The Summer months are very busy for the Public Works Crew, so summer help will be assisting the Public Works Department in various tasks.

Criteria

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must have a valid driver's license
- Must pass a drug test
- Must be an Elizabeth Township Resident

The employment application can be found on our website at www.elizabethtownshippa.com, and you can return your application to the municipal building in person, or in the drop-box out front labeled **"TOWNSHIP OFFICES"**.

BUENA VISTA POOL

Buena Vista Pool is located at 120 Styche St Buena Vista, PA 15018 and is open to the public during the summer months. The pool is owned and operated by the Buena Vista Volunteer Fire Company and hosts two water slides, a large grassy area, a newly built pool house (2021), and a concession stand. Lifeguards are on duty during operating hours. Buena Vista Pool opened on Memorial Day 1950 and the 2024 season will be the pool's 74th consecutive year of operation, making it the oldest continuously running pool in Allegheny County. Check out Buena Vista Pool for family fun and staying cool during the summer! The 2024 opening day will be on June 5th!

Visit the Buena Vista Pool Facebook Page for more information!



ONLINE REPORTS

Did you know you can report potholes, street light outages, and damaged/missing road signs online? To make these reports, please visit www.elizabethtownshippa.com/public-works.

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Hanna**

Wilson Baum Agency

TARA KITE

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OFFICE 412-751-2200

TKITE@HOWARDHANNA.COM

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OF ELIZABETH
TOWNSHIP**

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Luke Sippey from Troop 99 completed his Eagle Scout Project at the Buena Vista Boat Launch. Luke built and installed three fishing line disposal units. Fishing lines that are not properly discarded can cause serious injuries to wildlife and cause a buildup of litter. Troop 99 also picked up 10 bags of garbage during the installation. Thank you so much

Luke and Troop 99 for your service to our community, we are proud of all your accomplishments!

FORMER BUSINESS OWNER GIVES BACK

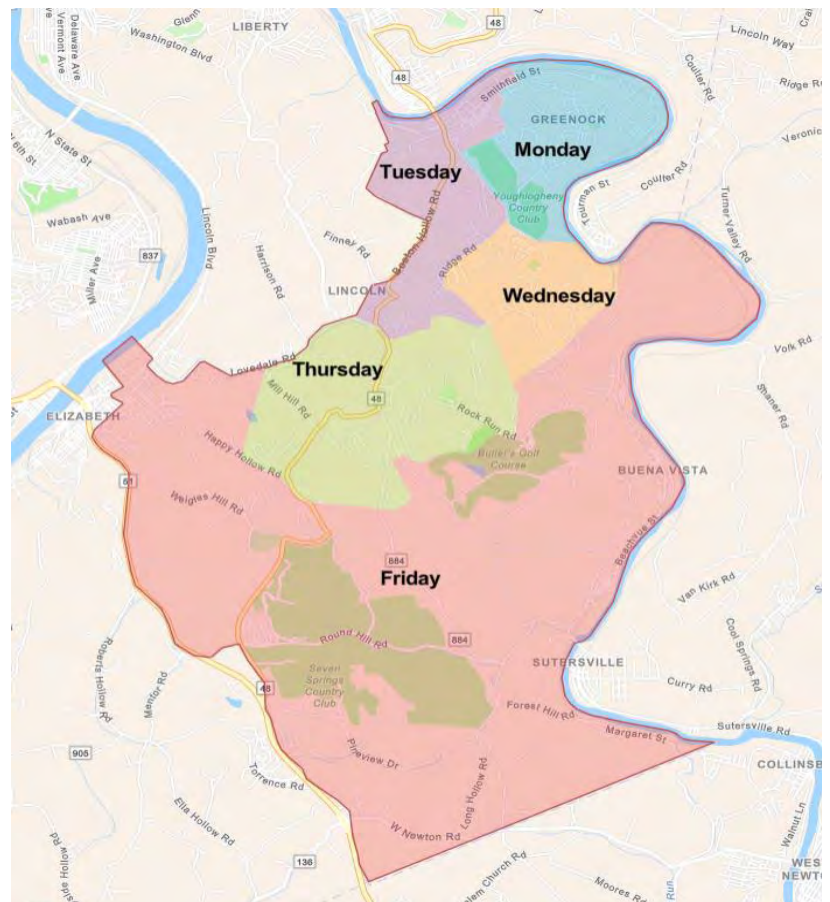
Joe Eori owned Big's Sanitation locally for 28 years and finally sold back in September of 2023. Mr. Eori has a great appreciation for the township and has generously donated \$10,000 to the Boston Baseball Field project in memoriam of his late father, Mr. Paul Eori. Paul was raised on Meade Street in Boston and would often tell his son about the good times he spent on that field. Many thanks to Joe and his commitment to helping the township be a better place to live.

BUSINESS EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

The Elizabeth Township Police Department is requesting that all businesses in Elizabeth Township fill out an emergency contact form located on our website at www.elizabethtownship.com/otherpoliceinfo. Should an emergency ever happen at your business, this information will be vital to first responders in alerting and getting in touch with the appropriate people. The privacy of your information will be respected and will only be shared directly with the department via online submission. The collected information will be used for emergencies only and will not be shared with the public.

NEW FALL LEAF PICK-UP RULES

- 1) All leaves must be in a pile and placed no more than 5ft. from the gutter line (edge) of the street.
- 2) If the leaves cannot be reached by the leaf vacuum machine they will not be collected.
- 3) Leaves will be picked up by zone on a daily schedule. The schedule can be found online at www.elizabethtwp.com and by the corresponding map.
- 4) All leaves that are dropped off at the township building on the LAST Thursday of the month must be bagged.
- 5) Sticks, branches, and other yard waste will not be picked up on leaf collection days. Those items can be taken to the township building on the LAST Thursday of the month.
- 6) All complaints can be addressed by filling out the leaf pick-up request form found on the "Public Works" page of the Township website.
- 7) Leaf pick-up will begin and end on an as needed basis. **Dates will be published when available.**



BIG NEWS FOR ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP

We are thrilled to announce the start of a new housing plan - the first in decades. This development is a game-changer for our township in helping to meet the diverse needs and preferences of individuals and families looking to settle down in our community. We want to encourage developers to consider our township for future investments. The Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners truly believes we are the best-kept secret in Allegheny County and are ready for growth! By investing in our community, you'll be embraced by a vibrant network of individuals who are excited to see their town flourish. Let's make our township shine and keep building and expanding our residential neighborhoods!



MT. VERNON ESTATES
Lebanon Drive, Elizabeth Twp., PA 15135



THE DEVELOPERS

AWK Development - James Abdulla co-founded and became the majority owner of both AWK Development and J&E Real Estate LP & LLC in 2012. These entities have engaged in both government and subsidized affordable and market rate single and multi-family housing development projects.

THE BUILDER AND HIS VISION

Errol Abdulla received a phone call from a local bank informing him that a developer was unable to complete the development, called Mt. Vernon Manor and wanted to know if he would like to purchase the land. When Errol drove the property, he immediately fell in love with the beautiful, rolling Hills, cul-de-sac, and had visions of what it could be. Shortly after previewing the property he contacted Elizabeth Township, and couldn't believe how great they were to work with and how they encouraged new development. Errol Abdulla is now living his life long dream to build beautiful communities for families to live and thrive in.

WHY CHOOSE MT. VERNON ESTATES

Mt. Vernon Estates offers a diverse range of homes, including 12 single family homes, 40 townhomes and 5 carriage homes. Whether you are looking for a spacious family home, cozy townhome or first floor living patio home, Mt. Vernon has something for everyone! Construction has begun on the first building of patio homes, and will progress to the single family and townhomes. Single family homes will start from the mid \$400,000 range, patios from the low \$400,000 range and townhomes from the mid \$300,000 range.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
LINDA HEININGER OR THE BRIAN LARSON TEAM:
O: 412-361-4000 | C: 412-667-0538**



Real Estate Services



HOW TO AVOID A SCAM

Four SIGNS THAT IT'S A SCAM



Information for this article from the Federal Trade Commission website: [ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).

- 1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.** Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the Social Security Administration, the IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations. They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.
- 2. Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.** They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an emergency. Or that there's a virus on your computer. Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information. Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.
- 3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.** Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.
- 4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.** They often insist that you pay by sending money through a money transfer company or by putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), tell you to deposit it, and then send them money.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO AVOID A SCAM

- 1. Block unwanted calls and text messages.** Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.
- 2. Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.** Legitimate organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, such as your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers. If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.
- 3. Resist the pressure to act immediately.** Legitimate businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.
- 4. Know how scammers tell you to pay.** Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.
- 5. Stop and talk to someone you trust.** Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).

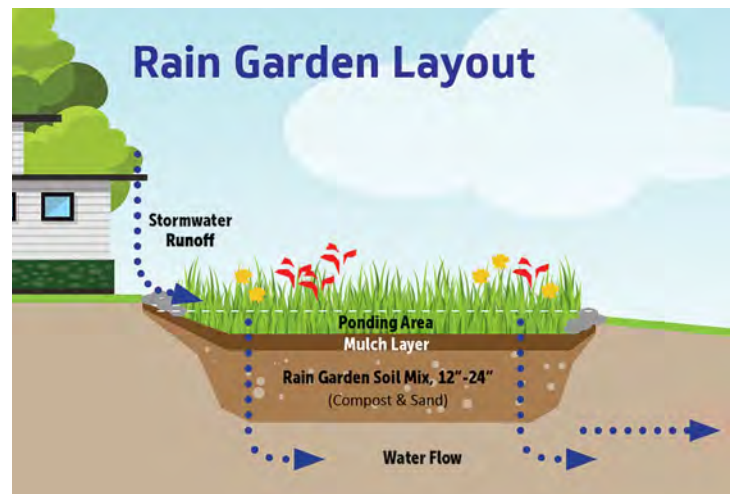
5 STEPS *for Creating a Rain Garden*

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution in streams and rivers

Rain gardens are shallow depressions that are planted with deep-rooted native and non-native adaptive plants and grasses. They are:

- Designed to collect rain water that runs off rooftops or lawns
- Areas that capture stormwater runoff, allowing it to soak into the ground. This recharges groundwater and naturally filters out pollutants.
- A source of food and habitat for birds and butterflies

Creating a rain garden not only shows your interest in protecting the environment, but also can be a beautiful addition to a home landscape.



5 STEPS FOR CREATING A RAIN GARDEN

Step 1

Pick the spot

- Contact local utilities by calling 811 to have them mark locations of underground wires, cables, or pipes
- A rain garden should be at least 10 feet from foundations and fence posts, and 25 feet from septic system drain fields and well heads

Step 2

Outline garden and determine depth

- The average size of a home rain garden is 70 square feet (7 x 10 feet), but the size can vary based on how much water you want to catch
- Gardens should be no more than 6 to 12 inches deep
- Make sure the garden is not flat because you need a depression to capture water

Step 3

Select the plants

- Select native and non-native adaptive plants that can tolerate "wet feet" in the lowest places
- Determine how many plants are needed based on your rain garden size and the mature plant dimensions

Step 4

Dig in

- The depression in your rain garden should be marked and dug to the depth you determined in Step 2.
- Without a depression, the rain garden will not work.
- Make sure not to compact the soil - this is the leading cause of failed gardens
- Place each plant at its minimum distance from other plants

Step 5

Finish-Up

- Install mulch or sphagnum moss to keep weeds out and retain moisture
- Water the garden each day for the first week, and then gradually reduce watering over the next three weeks. After a month, normal rain should be enough to keep plants healthy.
- Regular maintenance is required to keep your rain garden looking good and functioning well

Tips for Managing Your Rain Garden

- Don't worry about mosquitoes. Your rain garden should not retain water long enough for mosquitoes to have an opportunity to breed
- Your rain garden will contain flow from light rains, however, will fill up and overflow during heavy rains
- You may direct your downspout to the rain garden by digging a shallow swale or by routing it through a drain pipe
- If your soil lacks organic material, you may dig the depression an additional 2 to 3 inches and fill in with peat moss or compost
- Be creative by adding decorative items such as stones and garden ornaments to enhance your rain garden

HOW TO STAY SAFE

when a thunderstorm threatens

Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards



Prepare NOW

- **Know your area's risk of thunderstorms.** They can occur year-round and at any hour.
- **Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- **Identify sturdy buildings close** to where you live, work, study, and play.
- **Cut down or trim trees** that may be in danger of falling on your home.
- **Consider buying surge protectors,** lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances, and electronic devices.
- **Secure outside furniture.**



Survive DURING

- **When thunder roars, go indoors.** A sturdy building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm.
- **Pay attention to weather reports and warnings** of thunderstorms. Be ready to change plans, if necessary, to be near shelter.
- **When you receive a thunderstorm warning** or hear thunder, go inside immediately.
- **If indoors, avoid running water or using landline phones.** Electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines.
- **Protect your property.** Unplug appliances and other electric devices.
- **If boating or swimming,** get to land and find a sturdy, grounded shelter or vehicle immediately.
- **If necessary, take shelter in a car with** a metal top and sides. Do not touch anything metal.
- **Avoid flooded roadways.** Turn Around Don't Drown®. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.



Be Safe AFTER

- **Listen to authorities and weather forecasts** for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flash flooding.
- **Watch for fallen power lines and trees.** Report them immediately.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A THUNDERSTORM WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

When thunder roars, go indoors.



Move from outdoors into a building or car.



Pay attention to alerts and warnings.



Unplug appliances



Do not use landline phones.



SOURCE: <https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/thunderstorm-information-sheet.pdf>





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Spring 2024

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