

Plumstead Township

BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Spring 2023

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

THE PROCESS HAS BEGUN!

The Township is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will provide a framework for future policy and planning decisions to guide growth and development of the Township for the next ten years and beyond. Response from the public on the desired goals and priorities of residents is a key component of the planning process. This survey is one of several planned engagement exercises.



Plumstead Township hired ETC Institute, a 3rd party firm, to randomly survey township residents and gather feedback for future planning efforts, programs, and services.

ONCE THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE COMPILED AND ANALYZED BY ETC. THE BUCKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION & THE TOWNSHIP WILL HOST SEVERAL PLANNED ENGAGEMENT EXERCISES. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND THE SESSIONS AND STAY UPDATED.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS ENCOURAGED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.PLUMSTEAD.ORG/COMPREHENSIVE_PLAN_UPDATE.HTML



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Plumstead Township Information

Contact Information

Township Office
5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
Telephone: 215-766-8914 • Fax: 215-766-9831
www.plumstead.org
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Police Department
5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
Office: 215-766-8741 • Dispatch: 215-766-8740
Fax: 215-766-8509
For EMERGENCY Dial 911
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM or by appointment

Public Works Department
Floyd S. Bryan Public Works Center
5119 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
Office: 215-766-0189 • Fax: 215-766-1439
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Water Department
Billing Questions: 215-766-0189
Repairs & Maintenance: 215-766-0189
For after hours service disruption or non-emergency issues of concern, please contact Police Dispatch at 215-766-8740. Identify yourself as a Plumstead Township Water Department customer.

Tax Collector - Sherry Labs
6162 German Road, P.O. Box 433, Plumstead, PA 18949
Telephone: 215-766-3785
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

State Senator Steven Santarsiero:
Senate District 10
Building 100, Suite 121
2003 Lower State Road, Doylestown, PA 18901
(215) 489-5000 • Fax: (215) 345-1361

State Representative - Shelby Labs
Silo Hill Professional Building, 1032 N. Easton Road, Doylestown, PA
Telephone: 215-489-2126
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Board of Supervisors:

Chairman Jim McComb
Vice Chairman Dan Hilferty
Asst. Secretary Ken Lichtenstein
Asst. Treasurer Greg Bankos
Member Pete Busillo

Administrative Staff

Township Manager: Angela P. Benner
Assistant to Township Manager & AP: Debbie DiAngelo
Assistant to Township Manager & RTK: Andrea Susten
Director of Public Works: Alan Bleam
PW Administrative Assistant & Water Billing: Pam Gravel
Chief of Police: David Mettin
Police Dept. Administrative Assistant: Sarah Ferri
Police Clerk: Jennifer Bodder
Accounts Receivable: Virginia Bowling
Code Enforcement: Keystone Municipal Services - Phil Neas
Zoning Officer: Keystone Municipal Services - Jesse Hill
Municipal Administrator: Michelle Storti

Meetings:

The Board of Supervisors meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each Month at 7PM (except where otherwise noted) and the Work Sessions will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month (as necessary).

The Planning Commission meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM.

The Zoning Hearing Board meets at the call of the Chairman.

The Environmental Advisory Council meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM.

All meetings are held at the Township Building unless otherwise noted on the Township calendar.

Celebrate Earth Day

Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 9AM - 1PM

Hanusey Community Park | 4757 Gordon Road



- Tree Giveaways
- Games & Prizes
- Kid friendly environmental crafts
- Environmental education materials
- Learn about alternative transportation
 - Electric/ hybrid vehicles
 - Electric Bikes



www.plumstead.org

Committees

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ESTABLISHES THE LAND PRESERVATION, EDUCATION AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) established the Land Preservation, Education and Advisory Committee (LPEAC) to spearhead township land preservation efforts and make recommendations to the BOS on land preservation applications.

At their January 3rd reorganization meeting the BOS appointed the following to the new committee: Brian Trymbiski, chair, Michael May, vice chair, James Stark, secretary, and Tom Lurz, Gary Talbot, Kimberly Troup and Chance Worthington, members at large. Supervisor Ken Lichtenstein will serve as board liaison and Township Manager Angela Benner will serve as staff liaison.

Among the LPEAC's tasks will be spreading the word about the importance and benefits of land preservation including the various preservation methods available to property owners; identifying property of special value; determining preservation funding sources; and working with qualified landowners to assist in the preservation of their property.

Over the years, land preservation has been an invaluable tool to help manage development and protect Plumstead's rural character. Thanks to strong township support, today over 4,300 acres of agricultural lands, open space and parks in Plumstead Township have been permanently preserved. The goal of the LPEAC is to encourage continued land preservation awareness and activity.

To learn more, visit the township website or contact LPEAC through the township office. The LPEAC meetings are open to the public and will convene, when necessary, on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to check the township website for confirmation of meeting dates.

Parks & Recreation



The Park & Rec Committee are working on finalizing 2023 Events & Camps. Please check back for all the details.

Website page:

<https://www.plumstead.org/camp-events.html>



Plumstead Township is looking for partners to sponsor Park and Rec events. We are looking to increase the free events we host each year for our community. If you are interested in partnering with us to make this possible, please contact Duane Freed via email (plumsteadparks@plumstead.gov) or check the Park & Rec page on the website for additional information.

DEPARTMENTS

Plumstead Township Police Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT HIRES NEW OFFICERS



Officer Thomas Habgood and Officer Patrick Raubenstine were hired as full-time patrol officers during the November 7th Board of Supervisors meeting. Thomas and Patrick were sworn in by Magisterial District Judge, Gary Gambardella in front of officers of the department, family and friends.



Thomas A. Habgood is a graduate of Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville New Jersey and is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Criminology. While there, he was on the Track and Field team, specializing in the javelin throw. After graduation, he attended the Temple University Police Academy where he graduated in March of 2022. In May of

2022, Thomas was hired by the Bristol Borough Police Department in Bucks County where he served as a part-time police officer.

Patrick S. Raubenstine is a graduate of Central Bucks West High School and has attended Bucks County Community College. He is a member of the Plumsteadville Fire Department and is a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps Reserve. Patrick attended the Temple University Police Academy and served as a part-time police officer with the New Hope Borough Police Department.



Interested in the public safety of Plumstead Township? Stay informed of the latest events by signing up to follow the Plumstead Township Police Department on CrimeWatch. Learn about the most recent cases being investigated, learn of recent arrests and stay informed of our community policing initiatives. Visit our Camera Registry program sign-up, learn about the make-up and specialties of the department and gain access to frequently requested forms. There are numerous links to other law-enforcement/public safety sites which are easily accessible on the site. Join thousands of others following the Plumstead Township Police Department! Follow us at <https://bucks.crimewatchpa.com/plumsteadtwppd>

SHOP WITH A COP - 2022

Plumstead Township Police Department hosted our annual Shop with a Cop on December 6th and it was a huge success! Over 130 students were able to benefit from this program.

We cannot thank all the agencies that pulled together in addition to all volunteers who made this possible. A major component to the success of this event is the donors from our community who so graciously contribute funds year after year.

This is definitely a group effort, and we are beyond thankful that we were able to do it again in 2022. Thank you to Groveland Elementary for assistance as always and to Walmart (Hilltown) for hosting the event! We were supported by the following agencies:

Bucks County Sherriff's Office, Buckingham Township Police Department, Bedminster Township Police Department, Central Bucks Police Department, Central Bucks Rotary, Doylestown Township Police Department, Dublin Borough Police Department, Hatfield Township Police Department, Hilltown Township Police Department, New Britain Township Police Department, Newtown Township Police Department, PA Game Commission, PA State Police – Dublin Barracks, Solebury Township Police Department Source, Telford Borough Police Department.



PLUMSTEADVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY RECEIVES \$1.7 MILLION GRANT!

Great headline, isn't it? We are truly grateful to receive this award, however, receipt of the money is much more complicated than the headline. This grant requires matching funds from the Fire Company. Therefore, we the Fire Company must pay out \$1.7 million in order to get the \$1.7 million from the state. Therefore, we still need to hold fundraisers and receive donations.

First, there is a catch. There is no such thing as free money. PVFC will not receive a check for \$1.7 million for building renovations or to use as we need. We must apply three separate times to have specific project costs approved. We have already passed the first two application phases (screenings). The submission for final approval must be submitted by April 26, 2023.

Second, the soonest we can apply for reimbursement for our expenses will be when the state approves the final project application, estimated as December 2023, at the earliest. Yes, you read that right, reimbursement. First, we must spend the money in order to be reimbursed by this state grant. There is no big fat deposit coming to our bank account, for us to spend.

The grant cannot reimburse more than 50% of the project costs. The first 50% is called our match, our good faith effort that the project is necessary and that we have been diligent in raising the funds. PVFC does not have \$1.7 million sitting around to qualify as our portion of the match. However, we have qualified for \$928,000 in USDA mortgage financing, which will count as part of our portion of the match.


In addition to replacing Station 20 at Easton and Ferry roads, renovating Station 24 on Stump Road (built in 1935), we have needed to purchase two new fire trucks which are expected to be delivered in June 2023 for \$1.2 million. While we wish this expense was not necessary, we are replacing two fire trucks that are 31 and 24 years old and cost tens of thousands each a year to maintain. They are running on their last legs, and like an old car, it is costing us more to keep them on the road than it is to replace them.


To Recap:			
Expenses		Funding Sources	
Station 20 New Building	\$975,000	USDA Mortgages	\$928,000
Station 24 Renovations	\$2,400,000	Commercial Loan for Engine 20 & 24	\$691,895
New Engine 20	\$647,000	VLAP(State) Loan for Engine 20 & 24	\$500,000
New Engine 24	<u>\$647,000</u>	Pennsylvania Matching RACP Grant	<u>\$1,666,030</u>
			\$3,785,925
Total Debt / Project Costs	\$4,669,000		
		\$883,075 Shortfall we still need to fund	

Your fire company, the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company, still very much needs your donations and participation in our fundraisers to bridge the funding gap of \$883,075, and that is before we repay the loans that are needed to protect the community. All donations and proceeds from fundraisers benefit the Fire Company and allow us to continue to serve you and the community you live in.

Remember, your fire company is 100% VOLUNTEER, we don't get paid. We do this because we care about our neighbors and community.

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PUBLIC WORKS

DEAD OR HAZARDOUS TREES IN TOWNSHIP OWNED OPEN SPACE



It has been the Township's policy for the past several years to remove standing, hazardous trees, getting the tree to the ground safely to deteriorate.

The Township does not cut up and chip or remove the trees.

In the past three years we have taken over 500 trees (mainly white ash and oak trees, all diseased).

Having those trees cut up, chipped and removed, would be a significant cost estimated at least \$100,000 annually.

Work has been completed across township in or near almost every development. This open space was set aside at the time the development was approved in an effort to maintain a small area of natural state.

Staff is charged with the management of these areas on behalf of all tax paying residents.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

In effort to reduce the amount of natural waste that enters our landfills, a policy was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2001 that allows residents to participate in a yard waste recycling program offered by the township. Yard waste consists of tree branches and limbs only.

Yard waste will be collected on a monthly basis during February – May and September – November. Please keep in mind that the collections in October & November may be delayed since leaf pick-up coincides with the yard waste collection.

The program is designed to accommodate small yard waste. The program is not to be utilized for large scale clearing and tree removal. Mixed up, complicated piles and piles that require cutting will not be collected. Nor will hard wood be taken.

Large scale storms that overwhelm the area causing significant damage will be address on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. As we learned following the October 2021 snowstorm, the volume generated could not be practically handled by the Township staff while still conducting normal daily operations.

IMPORTANT SPECIFICATIONS:

Yard waste shall be placed in neat piles at the edge of the road, near your driveway. Limb size is restricted to 6' foot lengths no greater than 5" in diameter. Piles are to be stacked with the cut edge facing the road. Piles must be less than 2' in height and 2' in width. No more than 10 piles will be accepted at one time. Piles not meeting these specifications will be refused for collection at the discretion of the on-site Crew Foremen.

Grass clippings, leaves, trash, rocks, dirt, plants or bushes with dirt and root ball intact WILL NOT be accepted. These items should be composted within your property or arrangements should be made with a sub-contractor to properly dispose of these items.

You must call Public Works at 215-766-0189 and register to have your yards waste collected. Yard waste is to be placed curbside by 7:00 AM on the Monday of the scheduled pick-up. Pick-up will be based on citizen response, weather conditions and scheduling within the Public Works Department.



Road Work

The Board of Supervisors, as part of the approved 2023 budget, approved over \$1 million dollars in funding for the following road repair projects in 2023.

Public Works crews will do all necessary preparation work ahead of any contracted work.

Funding will cover the following:

- Paving of Meetinghouse Road between Curly Hill Road and Stump Road
- Paving of Poplar Lane at Curly Hill Road
- Micro-surface paving of all streets in the Durham Ridge development
- Rubberized asphalt crack sealing in Fox Hunt, Summer Hill, and Estates of Brookside
- Bituminous sealcoat application on McNeil, Ridgeview, Twin Silo, Covered Bridge, Schlentz Hill, Shad and Rodgers Roads



PLEASE NO DUMPING IN THE BASINS!

Just a gentle reminder.. Plumstead Township is asking for your help. Please no dumping of any kind in our basins!

Naturalized basins are NOT the same as a compost site. The dumping of yard waste could enable the growth of invasive plants and it will be costly to the Township to remove the invasive plant materials.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Love your dog? - License your dog



Just a reminder, all dogs three months or older must be licensed in the state of PA each year. You can purchase an annual or lifetime license.

All dogs and nonferal cats, three months of age or older must be vaccinated against rabies. Violators can be cited with a minimum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs.

Licenses may be purchased through the County Treasurer's office in Doylestown (215) 348-6244 or at www.padoglicense.com



7711 Easton Road
Ottsville, PA 18942

MON - FRI: 6:30AM - 6PM
SATURDAY: 7AM - 5PM
SUNDAY: 9AM - 3PM

610.847.2066

8244 Easton Road
Ottsville, PA 18942

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VETERANS

Veterans Day Celebration 2022

November 12, 2022 was the warmest anyone could remember for Plumstead's annual Veterans Day celebration. Although the day started out as overcast, it was windy but did not rain. The program began in Veterans Park with the invocation delivered by Public Works Director Alan Blead. The flag raising was performed by the Doylestown Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and the Spartan Young Marines. The pledge of allegiance was said by all attendees then the event proceeded indoors to Plumstead Christian School.



Veterans Committee member Marlena Parker welcomed all to the indoor portion of the celebration with an introductory message followed by the singing of our National Anthem by Dave Gale. Dave has honored us with his singing for many years. State Representative Shelby Labs addressed the audience speaking about her support of veterans and her role as the spouse of a veteran.



A highlight of every Veterans Day celebration is when the service songs are played and those who served proudly stand when their service song is played. It never ceases to be a humbling event to be recognized for serving with a round of applause from the audience. Marlena Parker again led this part of the celebration.

Next up was the main speaker, Supervisor and Veterans Committee member Jim McComb. Jim spoke about how Veterans Day is about reflection, pride and appreciation. Several videos were shown depicting the appreciation for those who served.

The main thrust of the presentation was to profile some Plumstead veterans. We asked those Plumstead veterans that we know of three questions:

- Tell us about your service history
- How has the military influenced your life?
- What does being a veteran mean to you?

The following Plumstead veterans were profiled: Justin O'Hara - Marine Corps, John Wojcik - Army, Ralph Gentles - Marine Corps, Jerry Fox - Army, Brandon Navarre - Army, Ollie Groman - Coast Guard, Marlena Parker - Air Force, Dave Brauer - Navy, and Jim McComb - Marine Corps. The pride of each person profiled was evident in their responses to the questions.

The program concluded with an outstanding performance of a medley of patriotic songs by Spencer Productions, the benediction by Alan Blead, and the singing of God Bless the USA by Amy Wilfert.



The last part of the celebration was an excellent breakfast made by volunteers from Living Hope Community Church.

We are still trying to identify all veterans residing in Plumstead. Currently our list contains only about 55 veterans, and we know there are more. We would like to know our veterans so we can pass along information that may be pertinent to them and to provide any assistance that they may need. If you are a Plumstead veteran, please send your name, branch of service, years served and your e-mail address to Supervisor Jim McComb at jmccomb@plumstead.gov. Our list will never be given to anyone else.

2023 WATER BILLS

	WATER BILLS MAILED:	WATER BILLS DUE:
2022 – 4th Quarter	01/03/23	02/01/23
2023 – 1st Quarter	04/03/23	05/01/23
2023 – 2nd Quarter	07/03/23	08/01/23
2023 – 3rd Quarter	10/02/23	11/01/23
2023 – 4th Quarter	01/02/24	02/01/24

Water Meter Replacement Program

The Township is continuing a project to replace more than 1,500 older residential water meters with a new generation of remotely-read digital units. The replacement program will take place over the next several years and consist of replacing meters in homes built in the mid to late 1990's and early 2000's.

The replacement program will consist of replacing about 200 meters per year during the summer months.

Over time water meters wear out and their accuracy declines. The new meters, built by Neptune Technology Group in Tallahassee, AL – include an extended-life battery rated for 20 years of service, low flow measuring capability, leak detection to enable pro-active leak notification, increased accuracy due to improved technology and no moving parts like older meters had.

Installation, which involves removing the old meters and replacing them with the new ones, will be completed by a Public Works staff member. Customers will be notified by a letter in the U.S. mail asking them to call the Public Works office to schedule an appointment. The meter exchange takes about 20 minutes and requires access to the interior of the home in the presence of an adult age 18 years or older. The Public Works staff members will carry township issued identification badges, will be wearing tee-shirts with the township name on it and will be driving a township Public Works vehicle that has the township seal on the door. They will identify themselves as meter replacement staff.

The 2023 replacement program will complete the Cabin Run development. We will also work to replace meters in Plumstead Woods and a portion of the Landis Greene development.

Approximately 200 meters will be replaced beginning on or around June 19, 2023 and concluding August 18, 2023.

- The first notification will be sent out on or around June 1.
- The second notification will be sent out on or around July 3.
- The third notification will be sent out on or around August 1.
- Customers who do not schedule an appointment to have the work completed by August 18 will be posted with a service termination notice.

Please contact Public Works at 215-766-0189 with any further questions.



Water System Notes

Calls come in to the Public Works office from time to time regarding water quality concerns and excess use issues.

Potable water is provided to customers from ground water wells across the township. Most notable is the high, naturally occurring, mineral content (hardness) that can cause a light discoloration and sediment build up. The township addresses this concern by flushing the system through fire hydrants at least annually.

From time to time, we receive calls about "cloudy" water. In most all cases, this is simply air in the water. If you fill a clear glass from your tap and see cloudiness, let the glass sit for several minutes and the air will dissipate. You will know it was air even if you were to take a spoon and quickly stir the water in the glass. The water should remain clear. Air can enter the home plumbing through malfunctioning equipment or leaks.

In almost every situation, when we receive a call regarding low or no pressure, it is likely caused by something within the

continued on next page

Water System Notes continued

home. In rare cases such as a fire, or in extreme, a main break, a whole house filter, specialized water treatment equipment, or a malfunctioning water softener is the likely cause.





Each of these appliances requires some level of service on a regular basis. Malfunctions include filters not being changed at regular intervals and are a common cause for quality issues and excessive use.

A malfunctioning water softener that was installed and had never been serviced was the recent cause for an extremely high water bill. Thousands of gallons of water went “down the drain” and had to be paid for by the customer. Please consult owner’s manuals and reputable service companies for more information on the proper management of these appliances. Adding salt and allowing the unit to automatically backwash are not the only things that need to be done to a water softener.

Finally, you can check your water usage by simply monitoring the water meter in your home. At a quiet time when no use is occurring, stand at your water meter. The numbers/dial should not be moving. If it is, you may have a toilet leaking or other appliance allowing water to flow freely. You can read your own meter on a daily, weekly or monthly basis and calculate your usage to see if you believe it to be within a normal range.

The graphic at right is an example of how quickly loss can add up.

We have a responsibility to provide clean, safe water, and we do. While we cannot offer specific advice, we hope that these few general topics will be seriously considered as a part of your normal home maintenance and care.

PIPE LEAK SIZE	GALLONS LOST	
	PER DAY	PER MONTH
	360	11,160
	3,096	95,976
	8,424	261,144
	14,952	468,512



- EGG HUNT (Details to Follow) April
- BLOOD DRIVE at Hanusey 4/5
- TAX COLLECTOR at Township 4/28
- ARBOR DAY EVENT 4/29
- SUMMER CAMPS June, July & August
(Details to Follow)

- MOVIE NIGHT June
- CAMP PLUMSTEAD 6/18 – 6/23
- BLOOD DRIVE at Hanusey 6/7
- TAX COLLECTOR at Township 6/30
- CONCERT IN THE PARK July
- CONCERT IN THE PARK August
- TAX COLLECTOR AT TOWNSHIP 8/31
- TAX COLLECTOR AT TOWNSHIP 10/31

TREE CITY USA

Plumstead Township has been a Tree City USA for 16 years!

Tree City USA is one of Arbor Day Foundations’ oldest programs. The program offers framework for communities to maintain and grow their tree cover. The program recognizes and celebrates the communities who continue to participate in the Tree City USA mission by sending flags, signs, and other materials for the Township to proudly display awards for continued commitment.



TREE CITY USA

Plumstead Township plants, maintains, and removes trees from streets, parks, and other public places in accordance with the Township’s requirements of street trees and landscaping in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. The Township’s Public Works Department, Environmental Advisory Council, and Tree Board, thank Tree City USA for recognition of the Township’s commitment to Environmental stewardship.



- Chimney Inspection & Cleaning
- Chimney Preventative Maintenance
- Chimney Restoration
- Chimney Replacement
- Chimney Caps & Flashing
- Fireplace Stove & Insert Repair & Restoration



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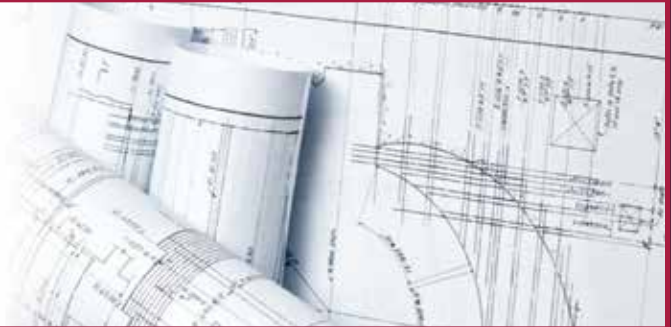
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