

SPRING 2026



PO Box 380, 4629 William Flynn Hwy, Harrisville, PA 16038
724-735-2705
mercertownship@zoominternet.net
www.mercertwpbutler.com

Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday by appointment only.
The office is closed on Fridays, Election days and all major holidays.

Supervisors:

John E. Bennett, Jr. (Chairman): 724-735-2757
William F. Long (Vice Chairman / Roadmaster): 724-290-5617
Emil W. Treese: 724-372-8940

Secretary / Treasurer:

Nikki Ciochetto

Assistant Secretary:

Holly Tissue-Thompson

Tax Collector:

Lisa Bauer
724-735-6616
150 Centertown Rd.

Emergency Management

Coordinator (EMC):

Brian Grossman

Auditors:

John Bliss
Karen Kellogg
Heidi Yasment

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE: 911
Harrisville Volunteer Fire Company: 724-735-4646
Pennsylvania State Police, Troop D: 724-284-8100
Superior Ambulance: 724-458-5350
Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Local Taxes: Berkheimer is the EIT (Earned Income Tax) collector for Mercer Twp. * PSD (PA School District) Code: 100604 This information is needed by your employer when you are hired, and also when you file your annual local taxes.

Real Estate Taxes: Please follow the instructions on your tax card. Payments are NOT received at the Township office.

Per Capita Tax: This is a flat rate tax imposed on all adult residents in the Township. It is due annually based on residency, not employment or property ownership. Mercer Township collects \$5 in the spring for the Township and \$10 in the fall for Slippery Rock Area School District.

Residency Changes: Please contact either the office or the Tax Collector if you have moved or if a relative has passed away.

Landlords / Renters: Landlords are required, by ordinance, to provide the Township with a current list of tenants. This form can be found on our website. Please remember to send this form to us every time you lease to a new tenant. We will be contacting you this summer and periodically in the future if we do not receive this information from you in a timely fashion.

Building & Demolition Permits: Required for all structures. Inspections are required for buildings over 1,000 sq ft.

Zoning: Mercer Township does not have a zoning ordinance. We follow the Butler County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) which can be found on the Butler County, PA website.

To report a dead animal on a state road: 1-800-FIX-ROAD or 724-284-8800. Please have street address, road name and position (driving lane, shoulder, median) and municipality of the location.

Trees or wires down on any roadway: Call 911 and note correct address of location.

Community Shred Event: May 2, 2026, 9 am—Noon: American Legion, 227 W. Prairie Street, Harrisville, PA 16038 (Provided by GCAFCU)

COUNTY INFORMATION:

- **Butler County, PA:** www.butlercountypa.gov
- **Butler County Bureau of Elections:** (724) 284-5308; E-mail: elections@co.butler.pa.us
 - ◊ Physical Address: 227 W Cunningham St, Butler, PA 16001
 - ◊ Mailing Address: PO Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003
- **Butler County Tourism:** <https://www.visitbutlercounty.com>

EDUCATION:

- **Slippery Rock Area School District:** District Office: 724-794-2960; <https://www.slipperyrock.k12.pa.us>
- **Butler Area Vocational/Technical School:** 724-282-0735; <https://www.butlertec.us/>
- **Slippery Rock University:** 800-778-9111; <https://www.sru.edu>
- **Butler County Community College:** Admissions: 724-284-8501; <https://www.bc3.edu/>
- **Slippery Rock Area Public Library:** 724-738-9179; <https://slipperyrocklibrary.org>

UTILITIES:

- **Columbia Gas:** Gas emergencies: 1-888-460-4332 (24/7); <https://columbiagaspa.com>
- **West Penn Power:** Emergency/outage: 1-888-544-4877; https://www.firstenergycorp.com/west_penn_power.html
- **Armstrong Utilities, Inc.:** Armstrong Service: 1-877-277-5711; <https://armstrongonewire.com>
- **Mercer Township Sewage:** 724-735-2705; <https://mercertwpbutler.com>
- **Tri-County Industries, Inc.:** 724-748-4705; <https://www.tricountyind.com>
- **WM:** (Butler) 855-852-7110; <https://www.wm.com/us/en/home/residential-waste-recycling-pickup>
- **Aiken Refuse, Inc.:** 1613 Wampum Rd. Ellwood City, PA 16117; 724-758-9400; <https://www.aikenrefuse.com>

STREET LIGHT OUT?

Please contact West Penn Power at 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) and say “street-light” after the greeting OR go online and use their [“Streetlight or Outdoor Area Light Problem” form](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/streetlight-or-outdoor-area-light-problem-form) at [firstenergycorp.com](https://www.firstenergycorp.com). When reporting an outage, let them know: your name and phone number (in case they need more information), address where the streetlight is located (nearest house or business address and the nearest cross street), the number on the utility pole (if known), and what is wrong with the streetlight (damaged pole; broken light fixture; light is off at night, on during the day, or flickers).

COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS:

2026 COUNTY OF BUTLER—LEGISLATIVE & ELECTED OFFICIALS REFERENCE GUIDE: <https://www.butlercountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10179/2026-Reference-Guide-PDF>

Pennsylvania Legislators:

- Timothy Bonner (Rep): (724) 458-4911; www.repbonner.com - PA Representative - 17th Legislative District
- Scott Hutchinson (Rep): (724) 282-1234; www.senatorscotthutchinson.com - PA Senator—21st Senatorial District

Federal Legislators:

- Mike Kelly (Rep): (724) 282-2557; <https://kelly.house.gov/> - US Representative - 16th Congressional District
- David H. McCormick (Rep): (717) 231-7540; <https://www.mccormick.senate.gov/> - US Senator
- John Fetterman (Dem): (215) 241-1090; www.fetterman.senate.gov - US Senator

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY:

Stacy Garrity, Pennsylvania State Treasurer states, “The Treasury receives hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property every year, often because of something as simple as a misspelled name or an out-of-date address. But let’s be clear: this is **YOUR** money we’re talking about, and I want to return it to you.” **1 in 10** Pennsylvanians have unclaimed property, and the average claim is more than \$1,000! Please check for yourself and other family members at the following website: <https://patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property/>

America is celebrating 250 years of Freedom this year! Butler County’s America250 initiative is trying to show off our area’s significant role in America’s founding by showcasing cultural events, educational programs and public exhibitions that promote American values such as freedom, unity and diversity. Through this initiative, individuals of all ages and backgrounds will have the opportunity to learn about the past, present and future of America, and strengthen their connection to the community. Lots of fun celebrations and learning opportunities will be held.

Check it out at the following website: <https://america250pabutler.org/>



SPRING 2026—MERCER TOWNSHIP UPDATE

PERSONNEL: John Bennett, Jr. was elected to another 6 year term. Bill Long has taken over the Roadmaster role, and will be guided by Pete Treese as he looks forward to retirement. Nikki Ciochetto will celebrate 5 years with the Township in June. Holly Tissue-Thompson was hired as a part time assistant secretary last fall. She and her family have lived in Mercer Township for over 20 years.

2026 TOWNSHIP ROAD PROJECTS: Our road projects this year will consist of seal-coating Centertown, Enterprise, Sutherland, and portions of both Shields and Unity Roads. Tree trimming, berm repairs, ditch cleaning, and filling of potholes where needed will also take place over the summer. We plan on a fall mowing along the Township roadways to help provide better visibility for winter driving. Please remember, the Township is not responsible for damaged mailboxes when plowing in the Township Right-of-Way.

GRANTS: The Township applied for and was awarded a \$50,000 Butler County Use Fee Fund Grant to help cover some of the paving costs from 2025. The Township will continue to apply for grants that are applicable to us to help offset some of our yearly expenses.

PUBLIC SEWER NEWS: The Kozy Rest project has been completed. Automatic payments using debit / credit cards continue to help keep our overall delinquency rate low. A few folks still are severely delinquent, and legal proceedings are underway to resolve these accounts. There are liens filed on delinquent and/or unconnected properties. Five properties still need to connect or legally abandon their access. If your grinder pump alarms, please contact the office. If it is an evening or weekend, contact one of the Supervisors. Leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

PRIVATE ON-LOT SEWAGE PERMITS: Dave Ice is our Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO). Applications are processed through the Township office. Dave's initial fee is \$850 for soils (pit) up to 5, perc, final inspection and first design review. The office charges a \$50 administration fee. There may be additional fees for alternate testing. Please call the office with any questions or to schedule an appointment to complete an application.

BUILDING PERMITS: Any new construction, additions, and/or demolitions within the Township require a building permit. Building inspections are completed by Construction Code Inspectors, Inc. (CCI) from Seneca, PA. Detailed information and forms can be found on the Township website at www.mercertwpbutler.com. Forms are also available by calling the office and arranging a pick-up time. Please call the office to make an appointment for a time to sit down and review all the documents to be submitted to ensure they have been properly completed. Mercer Township charges a \$25 administration fee. CCI fees will be paid directly to them.

AG-SECURITY COUNCIL: The Supervisors would like to form an Ag-Security Council that would be composed of 1 Supervisor, 3 farmers and 1 resident that is not a farmer. These would be appointed, unpaid positions. The Committee would investigate developing Ag-Security Areas that have a minimum of 250 acres. These acres do not need to be contiguous or under the ownership of one farmer. Land proposed must have soils that are found to be conducive to agriculture based on certain regulations. Farmers participating in an Ag-Security Area are entitled to special consideration from local and state government agencies if a farm is proposed for condemnation, and participating farmers are protected from some "nuisance" challenges, which help to encourage the continued use of farmland for productive agricultural purposes. *Anyone interested in volunteering should call Supervisor Bill Long at 724-290-5617.*

EMS: Residents pay a 0.5 mill EMS tax. This money goes to Superior Ambulance to provide the following services to Mercer Township residents: *All residents of Mercer Township are covered under an ambulance agreement with Superior Ambulance Service as your provider. However, you may choose to request another service if you like. If you use superior Ambulance Service for a 9-1-1 type call, you will only be responsible for 50% of your Insurance co-payment for ambulance service. There is no need to purchase a membership if you live within the Township. In 2025 we responded to 43 total calls in Mercer Township which were comprised of patient transports, cancelled response, treat & release, fire; police; and event standbys. There were 29 patient transports; 2 cancelled calls after dispatch; 8 patients treated but refused transport; 4 other category; Fire, Police, Event Standbys & Deceased patients.*

FIRE: Residents pay a 2.0 mill Fire tax. This money goes to the Harrisville Volunteer Fire Company to provide fire protection and other services to our residents. Please continue to donate to and support our VFC, as the amount of fire tax collected alone is not sufficient to sustain the cost of their equipment and services. Please also consider volunteering your time in service to the VFC as either an active or social member. *Harrisville VFC 2025 Call Totals: Jan - Dec, by month: 9; 13; 9; 13; 15; 11; 16; 14; 13; 8; 6; 17 = **144**.*

HARRISVILLE VFC: Hall rental is available by calling: 724-735-4646. Please consider purchasing reflective green address signs for your homes to make emergency responses easier and faster. Brush fire season is here! The Harrisville VFC is asking that you please use extra caution when you are burning, and refrain from burning on extremely windy days.

Mercer Township Supervisors are the managers for your Township. **Please keep this newsletter as a reference to use throughout the year** and please continue to supply us with feedback for future direction throughout the year. Thank you.

John, Bill and Pete

Clean Up Day



Saturday, May 9th: 7 am - Noon at the **TOWNSHIP GARAGE - 152 Boomerang Rd, Harrisville, PA 16038.**

*ENTER Boomerang Road at the **North** end and **EXIT** at the **South** end.*

- ◆ **Acceptable items include:** stoves; refrigerators; other white goods; furniture; and empty lawn mowers.
- ◆ **Unacceptable Items:** Liquids of any kind; toxic, hazardous or infectious materials (CFC's, mercury, PCB's, asbestos); batteries; nothing over 5 feet in length (except furniture); construction debris (dry wall, cement blocks, etc.); dirt; sod; grass; rocks; stones; whole tires; household garbage and electronic waste.
- ◆ Residents are limited to one pick-up truckload per address. Place appliances at rear of truck to be removed first. **For safety purposes**, please keep children inside the vehicle at cleanup site!
 - ◆ Questions call: 724-735-2705 or email: mercertownship@zoominternet.net
 - ◆ **WE CANNOT ACCEPT TVs OR ELECTRONIC ITEMS.** Staples offers free recycling all year:

<https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling>

*****PLEASE BRING THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOU AS PROOF OF TOWNSHIP RESIDENCY. THERE ARE NEW PEOPLE LIVING IN THE TOWNSHIP AND WE DON'T KNOW EVERYONE. THANK YOU.*****

Mercer Township
PO Box 380
Harrisville, PA 16038-0380