



PENBROOK BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Penbrook Borough, 150 South 28th Street, Penbrook/Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103 (717) 232-3733

Borough Website: www.penbrook.org



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VOTER INFO

Last Day to Register to Vote
October 20th

Last Day to Apply for a
Mail-In Ballot
October 28th

Election Day is Tuesday
November 4th

*To vote, you must be 18, a US
Citizen and live at least 30
days prior to the election in
Pennsylvania and the Election
District where you live.*

Go to
www.PAVoterServices.pa.gov
To Register.

Thank You, Carmen Gonzalez, for Your Years of Service

The Borough Council would like to extend its deepest thanks to Carmen Gonzales for her many years of dedication and unwavering commitment to the Parks Committee.

Since joining the committee in 2014 as a member of Borough Council and serving as its chair, Carmen has worked tirelessly to enhance Penbrook's green spaces and create safe, fun recreational opportunities for local youth. Even after stepping down from Council, she remained a driving force within the Parks Committee, spearheading the revitalization of both Elm Street Station Park and Little Valley Park.

Carmen also played a key role in breathing new life into the Little Valley Summer Program, which serves Penbrook children ages 6–12. Her leadership helped reestablish this program as a cherished part of the community, positively impacting the lives of countless young residents. Though she stepped down as program director in 2023, she remained actively involved, ensuring a smooth and successful transition.

Carmen has now decided to step away from the committee to pursue other passions. Her energy, dedication, and enthusiasm will be greatly missed, but her contributions will be felt for years to come.

On behalf of the entire community, thank you, Carmen, for your incredible service. We wish you nothing but the best in your next chapter.

PENBROOK BOROUGH: THE COMMUNITY SURVEY IS NOW LIVE!

Your voice matters! We invite all Penbrook residents to take a few minutes to complete the 2025 Community Survey, now available online. This survey gives you the opportunity to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas — helping our leadership team make informed decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of the people who live here. Scan the QR code below!



Prefer paper? No problem — printed surveys are also available at the Borough Office during regular business hours.

Let's build a stronger Penbrook — together.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/
PenbrookSTMPCommunitySurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PenbrookSTMPCommunitySurvey)

BOROUGH MEETINGS

Council Meetings

July 7, August 4, September 2

Caucus Meetings

July 21, August 18, September 15

Parks Subcommittee Meetings

July 9, August 13, September 10

Planning Commission Meetings

July 24, August 28, September 25

Budget Meeting

July 28, August 11 & 25, September 8 & 22

All meetings are held at the Community Building, 150 S. 28th St. and begin at 6:30 PM. The building is handicap accessible from the Elm St. side. Use the handicap ramp to the automatic door and press the button.



BOROUGH BOOSTS EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY WITH NEW BACKHOE

Great news for our Borough! We've recently welcomed a brand-new backhoe to our Public Works fleet. This essential piece of equipment represents a significant upgrade and replaces our older model, which had started to become increasingly costly due to rising service needs and difficulties in sourcing affordable parts and accessories.

Why the Upgrade? Efficiency, Savings, and Safety

The decision to invest in a new backhoe brings several key advantages to the Borough and its residents. This modern machine offers:

- **Improved Fuel Efficiency:** Helping us manage resources responsibly and potentially reducing operational costs.
- **Lower Maintenance Costs:** Newer technology means less downtime and expense associated with upkeep compared to the aging equipment it replaces.
- **Enhanced Safety Features:** Ensuring our dedicated Public Works operators have the safest possible tools to do their jobs effectively.



A Versatile Tool for Year-Round Service

This backhoe is a workhorse that will be utilized in numerous ways to keep our Borough running smoothly. You'll see it in action:

- Loading salt trucks efficiently during winter weather events.
- Assisting with snow removal operations.
- Cleaning up debris after storms, such as the significant cleanup efforts required after last year's tornado.
- Supporting various other essential projects undertaken by the Borough throughout the year.

Smart Funding Secures Essential Equipment

We are pleased to report that this important upgrade was made possible through grant funding. Both the new backhoe and a recently acquired chipper were funded via this grant, allowing the Borough to obtain this necessary equipment without impacting the municipal budget directly.

This investment ensures our Public Works team is well-equipped to handle the diverse tasks required to maintain our community, enhancing both their efficiency and safety on the job.



PARKS COMMITTEE

Capital Area Greenbelt's Paxtang Parkway Trail Improvements

The 1.2 mile Paxtang Parkway parallels the Parkway Creek through a long-preserved wooded valley that connects Penbrook to Paxtang. The Trail was once a scenic vehicle route when it was built in the early 1900's, but today this segment of the Greenbelt is off-road transportation link that is reserved for non-motorized use by pedestrians and cyclists. It is one of the most utilized sections of the Greenbelt with a direct access for Penbrook residents from the Market Street Road gate and trail spur from Penbrook's Community Park.

Since its construction over 100 years ago, the adjacent land has transformed from rural farmland to suburban development with shopping centers, large surface parking lots, apartment complexes, and housing developments. The additional culverts, sewer encasements and other infrastructure is resulting in serious stream erosion from increased storm intensity and elevated runoff volumes. The trail surface is deteriorating, sections are threatened with washout and the accelerated erosion of stream banks is releasing sediment that threatens the downstream health of Spring Creek. Spring Creek supports a wild trout population and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

To address these concerns, CAGA has worked with many partners to lead restoration efforts for both the stream and trail. Partners include the Penbrook Leos, Penbrook and Paxtang Boroughs, the City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Skelly and Loy, and the Pennsylvania Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, and Transportation. Stream

restoration includes sewer pipe and culvert replacement, stream bank regrading and stabilization (with control weirs, boulders, log cribbing), and riparian buffers with native plantings. The trail will be narrowed- a "trail diet" - from its current +/- 20-foot width to a consistent 12-foot width meandering path with a natural 4-foot wide buffer on either side. The 1.2 mile trail surface will be restored and repaved with smooth asphalt.

As you may have noticed over the last few years, there has been a lot of heavy equipment and intermittent trail closures due to ongoing restoration and construction work. The spring and summer of 2025 will see continued stream restoration followed by extensive trail restoration work in the summer of 2026. To date, over \$5.6 million have been raised to support the planning, permitting, and construction/restoration activities along the Parkway. 1/3 of the trail and all stream repairs are designed with four areas of the stream fully restored and over 1,300 native trees planted. Thousands of invasive plants have been removed. The ongoing phases of the stream restoration are to be completed by July 2025 and the trail restoration is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2026.

The Capital Area Greenbelt Association (CAGA) is continuing to seek grants and donations for the remaining +/- \$600,000 that is needed to complete the design for trail improvements and construct and maintain all improvements. For more information on the Parkway project please see <https://caga.org/paxtang-parkway/> and to donate please see <https://caga.org/donate/>. CAGA thanks the citizens of Penbrook Borough for their continued use and support of the Parkway – and your continued patience as the trail improvements continue into 2026. The goal is to fully restore the Parkway by 2027 for the enjoyment of all the surrounding communities.



Penbrook Church of God Hosts **FREE** Community Picnic on July 12

Residents of Penbrook are invited to join in a day of summer fun and fellowship at the *Free Community Picnic* hosted by the Penbrook Church of God. The event will take place on Saturday, July 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Canby Street parking lot.

Designed to bring neighbors together and celebrate community spirit, the picnic promises entertainment for all ages. Kids can enjoy a jumpy house, slides, and games, while everyone is welcome to indulge in free food and classic picnic treats.

Admission is completely free, and all members of the community are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact the Penbrook Church of God or visit their social media pages for updates.

Walk with a Doc

Walk with a Doc brings people together for a common purpose – taking steps toward a healthier lifestyle. Walking truly is the best medicine and the benefits are even more amplified when we have the opportunity to walk with others in nature.

Each Walk with a Doc event is led by a volunteer healthcare provider who spends a few minutes talking about a relevant health topic. The walks are also an incredible opportunity for community members to connect, learn from each other, and celebrate both similarities and differences. These social connections are critical for a long and healthy life. We commit to creating a space of belonging where community members from all backgrounds feel safe and respected.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 12 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM
at Wildwood Park
Topic: Outdoor First Aid / Tick Prevention
Dr Patrick Gavigan

Thursday, June 10 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM
at Penbrook Community Park
Topic: Skin Cancer Prevention
Dr Matthew Helm



Little Valley Park Revitalization Phases 2 and 3 Update

Exciting improvements are underway at Little Valley Park as the borough substantially completes work on Phases 2 and 3 of its revitalization plan. These phases represent a significant investment in our community's outdoor spaces and were made possible by grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Residents can experience a number of new features and enhancements, including:

- Brand new playground equipment, offering safe and engaging play for children of all ages
- New fencing along Books Street to help keep kids safe and provide peace of mind for parents
- A fully resurfaced and relined basketball court, perfect for pickup games and community tournaments
- Updated signage and reseeded grass to improve the park's overall look and feel
- New benches

These upgrades follow the successful completion of Phase 1 in 2024, which brought a new pavilion and enhanced ADA accessibility, making the park more inclusive and comfortable for all visitors.

"Our parks are a key part of our community," said Penbrook Council Person, Nate Newcomer. "This project reflects our commitment to creating safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces for the community to gather and have fun."



PENBROOK PLANNING COMMISSION

PAVING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

Who We Are

The Penbrook Planning Commission is a group of dedicated volunteers that are committed to the growth and betterment of our community. Our purpose is to ensure that Penbrook remains an affordable and pleasant community in which to reside and raise a family. The planning commission is charged with strategically envisioning the future of Penbrook and laying out plans to achieve the community's goals for the future.

What We Do (Mission and Vision)

Our mission is to advocate for smart and sustainable development to meet the needs of today while paving the way to a vibrant future. We envision a community where every resident has the opportunity to thrive and where open spaces are preserved.

Advocacy, Action, Funding

We actively engage in:

- **Advocacy:** Championing the interests of our residents and ensuring that their voices are heard in planning processes. **Your input matters, be on the lookout for our survey!**
- **Action:** Implementing plans and projects that align with our community's goals. **Thoughts and**

ideas shared with us will be incorporated into a comprehensive plan, Penbrook 2030.

- **Funding:** Securing funding for various initiatives, ensuring that projects are financially viable and sustainable.

Join Us As We Transform Vision into Reality

Ways to get involved:

- **Join Our Meetings:** We convene on the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at the Penbrook Municipal Building. Our meetings are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their perspectives.
- **Become a Member:** The Penbrook Planning Commission is always on the lookout for passionate individuals ready to make a difference. We currently have several vacancies and invite community members to join us. This is an opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Penbrook. If you are interested, please contact Chairman Ben Stokes at ward2a@penbrook.org for more details.

Together, we can build a thriving, resilient, and beautiful Penbrook for generations to come.

STORM WATER AUTHORITY

Keep Grass Clippings Out of Our Waterways

Blowing grass clippings into the street might seem harmless, but it can have a significant impact on our local waterways. When rain washes these clippings down the storm drain, they end up in our creeks and rivers, polluting the water.

Here's why this is a problem:

- **Clogged Drains:** Grass clippings can clog storm drains, leading to localized flooding during heavy rainfall.
- **Water Pollution:** Clippings decompose in the water, consuming oxygen and releasing nutrients that can fuel algae blooms, harming aquatic life.
- **Erosion:** Clippings on the street can contribute to erosion, washing away valuable topsoil.
- What can you do?
- Mulch: Let your grass clippings decompose naturally on your lawn, providing valuable

nutrients.

- **Bag and Compost:** Collect clippings and add them to your compost pile.
- **Sweep and Rake:** Sweep or rake clippings back onto your lawn.
- By taking these simple steps, you can help keep our waterways clean and healthy.
- **Remember:** *Don't blow grass clippings into the street.
- Keep our waterways clean.
- Penbrook Borough Stormwater Authority
<https://www.penbrook.org/authority/>



Penbrook Borough

FALL FEST

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY

September 27th, 2025

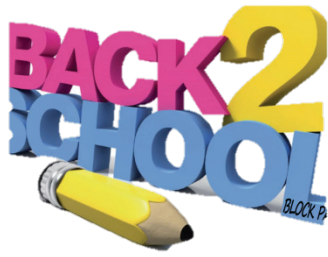
3pm-6pm

Penbrook Community Park

**RAIN DATE:
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 4TH**

FUN FOR ALL

- **Live Entertainment**
- **Food • Giveaways**
- **Kids' Activities**



PENBROOK BOROUGH

BACK 2 SCHOOL BOOK BAG REGISTRATION FORM-2025

TODAY'S DATE _____

CHILD'S FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

PARENT or GUARDIAN's NAME(S)

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

PHONE/CELL () _____ EMAIL: _____ @ _____

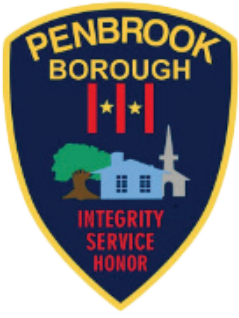
CHILD'S AGE: _____ GRADE _____ SCHOOL: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE _____

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- Please return **Book Bag Registration Forms** to the Penbrook Borough Office at 150 S. 28th Street **NO LATER THAN JULY 12.** Limited to the first 50 requests. Late Registration forms will not be accepted.
- Students must reside in Penbrook and attend grades K – 12.
- All Book Bags (with school supplies) can be picked up during the **National Night Out event at the Penbrook Community Building located at 150 S 28th Street on August 6th between 6:00 and 8:00 pm.** Students must be present.
- For questions or to donate school supplies, please contact Council person Nacole Moore at ward4b@penbrook.org.





Penbrook Borough
150 South 28th Street
Penbrook/Harrisburg, PA 17103
(717) 232-3733

Penbrook Now Allows Brewery Licenses!

Last fall, the following ballot referendum passed with a vote of 905-346:

“Do you favor the granting of brewery licenses for the sale of malt or brewed beverages by the case, by the keg and by the glass for consumption on premises, plus the sale of wine and spirits by the glass for consumption on premises, in Penbrook, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania? Yes/No”

This referendum allows brewery licenses, or establishments known as brewpubs. Some local examples include: Rubber Soul in Hummelstown, Zeroday Brewing in Harrisburg, and Boneshire Brew Works in Rutherford. Breweries and brewpubs have become popular in

many boroughs and have helped in revitalization. Prior to the referendum, beer distributors and Fine Wine & Good Spirits were the only establishments permitted to sell alcohol in Penbrook. Unlike these businesses, a brewpub would provide a gathering place for residents. Although there are no imminent plans for a brewery/brewpub to open in Penbrook, the borough council is finalizing an ordinance to address potential locations and hours of operation. Brewery License fact sheets can be found on the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board website at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/lcb.html>, or at a Penbrook Planning Commission meeting, held the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM, in the Community Building.

