



PENBROOK BOROUGH

2026 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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

Borough Website: www.penbrook.org



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POLICE & FIRE Emergency
Call 911

Police Non-Emergency
Call 717-558-6900

TV CHANNELS FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

WHTM Channel 27

WHP Channel 21

WAL Channel 8

RADIO STATIONS FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

WNNK 104 FM

WRKZ 107 FM

WIMX 1460 AM/99.3 FM

Penbrook has a New Assistant Borough Manager



We're pleased to announce that Bailey Welch has joined the Penbrook Administrative team as our new Assistant Borough Manager. Bailey brings several years of administrative, leadership, and community-focused experience from her background working in higher education. With a bachelor's degree in psychology from Shippensburg University and a master's degree in student affairs in higher education from Slippery Rock University, Bailey has extensive experience in relationship-building, crisis response, organizational management, and supporting diverse communities. Passionate about fostering vibrant and connected communities and public service,

Bailey looks forward to building relationships with her neighbors and contributing to the continued growth and success of the borough that she is proud to call home. This is a new position for the borough, which was added last year when Council voted to restructure the administrative team to focus more on pursuing grant opportunities, improving operation transparency through increased communication such as social media and website posts, and the modernization of our office procedures and code enforcement. Please join us in welcoming Bailey to the team. If you have any questions or concerns, Bailey can be reached at 717-232-3733 or her email at bwelch@penbrook.org.

BOROUGH MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6:30pm

Borough Meetings, Council Meetings 6/1, 7/6, 8/3

Caucus Meeting 6/15, 7/20, 8/17

Parks Meeting 6/10, 7/8, 8/12

Stormwater Meeting 6/17, 7/15, 8/19

Planning Commission Meetings 6/25, 7/23, 8/27

PENBROOK MAYOR
John McDonald
mayor@penbrook.org
Joseph Hogarth
manager@penbrook.org

1ST WARD COUNCIL
Nathan Newcomer
NateNewcomer@penbrook.org
Robin Dry
ward1b@penbrook.org

2ND WARD COUNCIL
Denise Lovejoy
ward2b@penbrook.org
Ben Stokes
ward2a@penbrook.org

3RD WARD COUNCIL
Charles Burdine
ward3b@penbrook.org
Nathaniel Shaw
NateShaw@penbrook.org

4TH WARD COUNCIL
Nacole Moore
NacoleMoore@penbrook.org
Jason Seaman
ward4a@penbrook.org



PARKS UPDATE

The Parks and Recreation Committee is proud to announce that the soccer mini pitch is completed and open for use by the community. The installation of the mini-pitch was a fully grant-funded initiative driven by **Philadelphia Soccer 2026**, the local host committee for **FIFA World Cup 26™**, in partnership with the **US Soccer Foundation** and **Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer**. The project was secured with support from the **JT Dorsey Foundation**. The mini-pitch will provide a safe, high-quality playing surface designed specifically for small-sided soccer games.

This is the first of many planned improvements for Community Park. The committee recently completed the planning process and has started applying for a first round of grant funding to support this significant, multi-phased reimagining of our largest park. The final product will be a park with amenities appealing to residents of all ages. To see the comprehensive plan for the park revitalization please visit the borough website at www.penbrook.org

We are also excited to announce that we have secured funding from a Dauphin County Local Share grant for a new basketball court at Community Park. Look for this change in the coming months.

In addition to the basketball court, we also received funding from a Dauphin County Local Share grant for a dedicated space at Little Valley Park to support our free summer program for kids 6-12 and for a fence around the basketball court. We recently completed the multi-phase revitalization of Little Valley and would like to thank DCNR for their significant contribution to funding the project. Please join us on Thursday, July 16 for the Grand Re-Opening of the Park. More details will be posted on our website and Facebook.

We want to thank the Dauphin County Commissioners for their continued support of Penbrook as we look to expand the functionality and appeal of our community parks. If you would like to participate in these ongoing efforts, please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month for our Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. The committee not only oversees the revitalization of our parks but also the free summer program and community events like the annual Fall Festival.



SUMMER safety FAIR

Ferry Rides

Bike Rodeo

Safety Demos

Chicken BBQ

River Rescue Demos

Face Painting

Swimming Lesson Sign-Ups

Car Seat Checks

Pet Adoptions

Mobile Wellness Unit

Music

And More!

11 AM - 2 PM
Saturday, June 6
Harrisburg City Island

Info Here!



Presented by:
Sen. Patty Kim
Rep. Nate Davidson
Rep. Dave Madsen
Rep. Justin Fleming
With Harrisburg River Rescue



LAW UPDATE

Distracted Driving Fact Sheet

PENNSYLVANIA'S DISTRACTED DRIVING LAW

Known as Paul Miller's Law, this law bans the use of hand-held devices while driving.

Effective June 5, 2025, the law prohibits as a primary offense any driver from using an interactive mobile device (IMD) while driving a motor vehicle.

The law:

- Defines an interactive mobile device as a handheld wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer, or similar device which can be used for voice communication, texting, emailing, browsing the Internet, instant messaging, playing games, taking or transmitting images, recording or broadcasting videos, creating or sharing social media or otherwise sending or receiving electronic data.
- Defines driving as operating a motor vehicle on a highway, including anytime the motor vehicle is temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device (e.g., a traffic light or stop sign), or other momentary delay.
- Defines the use of an interactive mobile device as using at least one hand to hold, or supporting with another part of the body, an interactive mobile device, dialing or answering an interactive mobile device by pressing more than a single button, or reaching for an interactive mobile device that requires a driver to maneuver so that the driver is no longer in a seated driving position, restrained by a seat belt.

Penalties Under this Law

As a primary offense, drivers can be stopped by police if they have a mobile device in their hand while driving.

- For the first 12 months, the penalty is a written warning.
- Effective June 5, 2026, the penalty is a summary offense with a \$50 fine, plus court costs and other fees.
 - If a driver is convicted of homicide by vehicle and driving while distracted, they may be sentenced up to an additional five years in prison.

A driver may use an interactive mobile device if the driver moves the vehicle to the side of or off a highway and halts in a location where the vehicle can safely remain stationary. The hands-free law allows for an emergency use exception if it is necessary to communicate with a law enforcement official or other emergency service to prevent injury to persons or property.

PENNSYLVANIA'S TEXTING-WHILE-DRIVING BAN

The law prohibits as a primary offense any driver from using an interactive mobile device to send, read or write a text-based communication while his or her vehicle is in motion.

www.PennDOT.pa.gov/Safety

- Defines an interactive mobile device as a handheld wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer or similar device which can be used for voice communication, texting, emailing, browsing the Internet, instant messaging, playing games, taking or transmitting images, recording or broadcasting videos, creating or sharing social media or otherwise sending or receiving electronic data.
- Defines a text-based communication as a text message, instant message, email or other written communication composed or received on an interactive mobile device.
- Makes clear that this law supersedes and preempts any local ordinances restricting the use of interactive wireless devices by drivers.

Penalties Under this Law

- The penalty is a summary offense with a \$50 fine, plus court costs and other fees.
- The violation carries no points as a penalty and will not be recorded on the driver record for non-commercial drivers. It will be recorded on commercial drivers' records as a non-sanction violation.

The texting ban does NOT include the use of a GPS device, a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle, or a communications device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus or school bus. The law does not authorize the seizure of an interactive wireless device.

BACKGROUND, NATIONWIDE PERSPECTIVE

In 2023, there were 11,262 crashes involving a distracted driver in Pennsylvania, resulting in 65 fatalities and 409 suspected serious injuries.

Today, there are few individuals without a cell phone. Numerous studies indicate that texting drivers typically have their eyes diverted from the road longer than any other distraction. Banning drivers from using any interactive mobile device while operating a motor vehicle will help to ensure that their full attention is on the task of driving.

According to the Governors Highway Safety Association:

- **Handheld Cellphone Use:** 30 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands prohibit **all drivers** from using handheld cellphones while driving. All but Alabama and Missouri are **primary enforcement laws** — an officer may cite a driver for using a handheld cellphone without any other traffic offense taking place.
- **All Cellphone Use:** No state bans all cellphone use for all drivers, but 36 states and D.C. ban all cellphone use by **novice drivers**, and 25 states and D.C. prohibit it for **school bus drivers**.
- **Text Messaging:** Washington was the first state to pass a texting ban in 2007. Currently, 49 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands ban text messaging for all drivers. All but six have primary enforcement.

www.PennDOT.pa.gov/Safety

PENNSYLVANIA LAW UPDATE

STARTING
**JUNE 6,
2026**

PENNSYLVANIA POLICE WILL ISSUE A
\$50 FINE
PLUS COURT COSTS,
TOTALING ROUGHLY **\$198.50**

PAUL MILLER'S
LAW
SENATE BILL 37

IT IS NOW A **PRIMARY OFFENSE**
TO HOLD, TOUCH, OR USE A PHONE WHILE DRIVING,
EVEN WHILE STOPPED AT RED LIGHTS OR IN TRAFFIC.



**NO HAND-HELD
DEVICE USE**
Holding, touching,
or using your phone
is illegal.



**EVEN WHILE
STOPPED**
This includes red
lights and
traffic delays.



**PRIMARY
OFFENSE**
Police can pull you over
and cite you just for
using your phone.



**\$50 FINE +
COURT COSTS**
Totaling roughly
\$198.50

PUT THE PHONE DOWN. STAY ALERT. STAY SAFE.
PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OTHERS.

DRIVE
SAFE
PA

SPECIAL STORMWATER ANNOUNCEMENT

Please note that there will be no Stormwater Fee billed for the period of July through December 2026. Previously, the Stormwater Fee was billed on a fiscal-year basis from July 1 through June 30. Beginning in 2027, the fee will transition to a calendar-year billing cycle running from January 1 through December 31.

Bills will be issued in January 2027 and will include payment options, such as paying the full amount by the designated due date or enrolling in quarterly installment payments. No action is required at this time until you receive your bill.

For additional information, please visit the Borough's website at <https://www.penbrook.org/> and navigate to the Stormwater Authority's page under the Government tab. Questions may also be directed to the Stormwater Authority email: authority@penbrook.org or by calling the Borough office at 717-232-3733. The Authority Board will hear public comments regarding the information in this letter starting at its regularly scheduled July meeting to be held on July 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Borough Municipal Building.

Property Maintenance Reminder

With Summer and the growing season fast approaching, the Code Department would like to remind property owners and residents about the Borough's Quality-of-Life Ordinance. We would like to highlight the high weeds, grass, plant growth and standing water portion. The High weeds and grass ordinance is one of the top violations in the Borough. High weeds and grass need to be kept below 8 inches high. No grass clippings allowed in street.

The Quality-of-Life Ordinance gives the Code Department a different option for the enforcement of property maintenance violations. The big key difference is that it allows the Code's Officer to issue tickets for violations (very similar to a parking ticket). Below is the Ordinance for covering high weeds & grass and guide to how the Quality-of-Life ticketing system works.

Chapter 202: Quality of Life Ordinance

J. High weeds, grass, plant growth or standing water.

All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds, or plant growth in excess of eight inches as defined herein, and water shall not be allowed to stand or accumulate in a manner that would attract insects or vermin. All such plant growth shall otherwise be in compliance with Borough of Penbrook Code and the provisions of the International Property Maintenance Code adopted therein and any violation thereof shall be considered a violation of this part and may also be enforced and ticketed as such.



Penbrook Church of God Community Picnic:

Saturday, July 11th, 11am-2pm, at the church Parking lot on Canby St. Enjoy free food, music, games, bouncy house, & crafts.

Penbrook Borough

FALL FEST

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

3pm-6pm

Penbrook Community Park

RAIN DATE:

Sunday

September 27

FUN FOR ALL

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

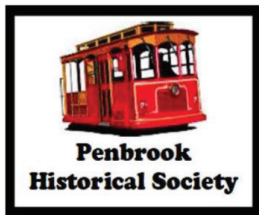


Kindness Matters:

Dwayne McDonald & Anelia Santos were recognized by the Penbrook Lions Club for their volunteer service in the community including many hours helping in the garden, at the pancake



breakfasts, helping with the StoryWalk, shoveling for elders, and picking up litter. Their kindness is applauded and greatly appreciated! Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. ~Helen Keller



Come join us at our upcoming Historical Society meetings in 2026 at the Community Building on Tuesdays at 4:30pm on the following dates:

March 31 June 30
Sept. 29 Dec. 29th

Coming soon...Penbrook Lions Club is launching a Veteran Banner Program as a living tribute for our community to honor past and present members of the Armed Forces.



If you would like to volunteer, or know of a loved one that you would like to honor, please contact us by mail or through our website:

Penbrook Lions Club
150 S 28th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103

Website Address: <https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/penbrookpa>



We Serve

Fitness every Thursday:

What: Light Aerobics

Where: Penbrook Community Building



When: Thursdays, 10:15-11:00am

Cost: Free

Who: Penbrook community members

Contact: tammymarie7@hotmail.com



Just a few reminders:

Administration office will be closed
June 19th and July 3rd

Representative Flemings office has printed driver manuals for those that Need them for summer teens learning to drive.

Property tax rebate ends 6/30 but is sometimes extended. Reach out to Representative Justin Fleming's office at (717)230-1172 for additional information.

Rebates start going out 7/1/26

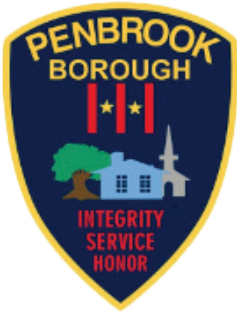
Firehouse updates:

Still looking for new members

Grilling tips:

Keep your grill 50 feet away from your house
Clean your grill before and after use
Never place hot coals in the trash





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

SOME SPECIAL HELP FOR PEOPLE OVER AGE 65

People 65 or older are entitled to certain discounts and rebates from the state. Here are some ways to save money:

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE

If you are:

- 65 or older; and
- have an individual income from all sources of up to \$14,500 or, if married, a total income from all sources of up to \$17,700, you may be eligible for the state's low-cost prescription plan. You pay only the first \$6 (\$9 for brand-name drugs) of a prescription's cost with the state Lottery Fund paying the remainder.

A second tier covers seniors who are single with an income of up to \$33,500 and seniors who are married with incomes up to \$41,500. To receive benefits under this tier, seniors must pay a monthly premium - averaging 337 per individual - and a copayment of \$8 for generic drugs and \$15 for brand-name drugs.

Social Security Medicare Part B premiums are excluded from income.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT

If you are:

- 65 or older; a widow or widower 50 or older; or 18 or older and permanently disabled; and
- A homeowner or renter and have a total income, from you and your spouse, not exceeding \$46,520 annually, you may be eligible for a property tax or rent rebate of up to \$1,000. You may be eligible for more if additional requirements are met.

Claimants can deduct half of any Social Security or Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits from their income when determining eligibility. Those receiving federal veterans' disability payments and/or state veterans' benefits also may exclude that income.

REDUCED AUTO REGISTRATIONS

If you are retired and have a total income not exceeding \$29,906 annually, you may qualify to register your passenger vehicle or light truck for a reduced annual fee instead of the usual registration fee.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you own your own home or rent a residence and meet income requirements, you may be eligible for aid in paying heating bills through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

If you qualify, payments will be made directly to the utility for credit to your account or, if your heat is included in your rent, to the head of your household.

Income limits and funding availability are determined annually. Check with your county assistance office for up-to-date information.

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

If you are 65 or older, you may purchase yearly senior hunting and fishing licenses at reduced cost. Lifetime fishing licenses are available, as well as 3-year and 5-year senior fishing licenses.

Senior lifetime hunting licenses are also available, as well as a lifetime combination license that grants hunting, furtaker, archery and muzzleloader privileges. Contact the PA Game Commission or the PA Fish and Boat Commission for more information.

