

HALFMOON

TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018



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Please Be Advised

The Halfmoon Township Board of Supervisors are asking for your participation in an upcoming refuse and recycling survey. The Board is considering whether there is interest in participating in the Centre Region Council of Governments Refuse and Recycling Program.

For more information on current services provided please click the attached is the link to access their [brochure](#).

You can respond using the link provided for the on-line survey or you can fill out the paper copy that you will be receiving in the mail.

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

Please take a moment and respond to the survey!

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT!

Halfmoon Township will hold Trick or Treat night on Wednesday,
October 31st, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For tips on safety click here:
<https://www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safety-tips>

WAY FRUIT FARM

Will hold its annual

Apple Cider Demonstration:

October 6, 2018 from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Fall Festival:

October 13 & 20, 2018 from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Port Matilda Fire Company

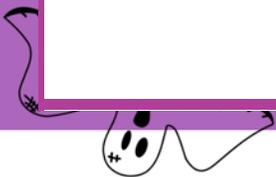
2018 Gun Raffle– 10th Annual Drawing

Saturday, October 6, 2018– 12PM-6PM

1st drawing at 12:00 PM- \$10.00 per ticket

Port Matilda Fire Hall, Port Matilda, PA

Only 2,000 tickets sold– Doors will open at 11:30 AM



Press Release from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC)

Centre County Conservation Easement Donation Protects Forestland along Bald Eagle Mountain

Halfmoon Township, Pa. – Sept. 6, 2018 – The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy announced today the donation of a conservation easement from landowners Dennis and Joan Thomson to protect 377 acres of forestland in Halfmoon Township, Centre County along Bald Eagle Mountain.

This protection safeguards important plant communities and wildlife habitats found within a large 320-acre contiguous forest. This forest area, positioned high on the slopes of Bald Eagle Mountain, is one of the largest areas of remaining untouched forest in Halfmoon Township.

The Thomsons are also placing an agricultural conservation easement on 243 acres of their farmland. That easement, to be held by Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, ensures that their agricultural land continues as a working farm. Funding for the agricultural easement was provided by the Halfmoon Township Open Space Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Program.

Natives of Wisconsin, the Thomsons moved to Central Pennsylvania in 1970 to work at Penn State University and eventually raise their family. Over a period of 42 years, they added adjacent properties to their now 618-acre Halfmoon Township homestead hoping to reduce threats from development and forest fragmentation in Centre County. For the Thomsons, protecting their forest with a donated easement comes instinctively as they both were raised with a conservation ethic imparted from their parents. Joan grew up on a dairy farm and Dennis' parents, who were botanists and nature enthusiasts, introduced him to American author and conservationist Aldo Leopold. Dennis says that this donation is not only a gift to the Conservancy, but an investment in nature for the region.

“It was important to us to create a legacy that contributed to the greater conservation good and be a good example for others considering donating land,” he said. “I’m privileged to be on this unique, precious and beautiful spaceship Earth and I’d like to believe I’ll leave a little bit of it in better shape than when I first arrived.”

In addition to forest and farmland, the property is interspersed with meadows and wetlands. The vernal pools, which are temporary areas of water that occur seasonally on land, on this section of the property are part of a complex of pools within the Gatesburg forest landscape. This wetland complex is recognized by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program as important habitats for distinctive plants, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates that use vernal pools at various stages of their life cycles. Additionally, the surrounding forest landscape supports several rare and threatened species, including eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*), Appalachian cottontail (*Sylvilagus obscurus*) and golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).

The easement will also protect Warriors Mark Run, a tributary to Spruce Creek which flows into the Little Juniata River, and its headwater streams. This run originates on the property and supports a population of native brook trout.

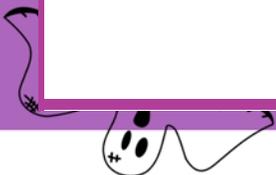
“This conservation project would not be possible without all of the partners in the region working to ensure this land remains wild and a place for future conservation planning and learning opportunities,” said Joan. “This land has been a big part of our lives, and it is satisfying and special to know it will endure.”

Protecting land via conservation easements, which are permanent deed-restriction agreements tailored to meet specific landowner needs and conservation goals, is not a foreign concept to the Thomsons. Before moving to Pennsylvania, they donated land to The Prairie Enthusiasts, a conservancy in the upper Midwest, which turned their donated land into a public nature center.

“Centre County is a spectacular place, with extensive forested ridges, beautiful farming valleys and wonderful ecological resources. A donation of a conservation easement of this size and significance is a wonderful gift from the Thomson family,” said Tom Saunders, president and CEO of the Conservancy.

The Conservancy welcomes inquiries from landowners interested in learning more about donating conservation easements or other conservation options. For more information, please contact WPC at 412-288-2777 or info@paconserve.org.

The article above can be found by [clicking here](#).



**The 2018 Election will be held on:
Tuesday, November 6, 2018**

Please be advised that as of the May primary, The Pennsylvania Supreme Court released the state's new congressional map. This change was huge for Halfmoon Township as it divided the Township into the 15th & the 12th Congressional Districts. For a map showing the District split, please [click here](#).

If you are still unsure of what Congressional Districts you will be voting for in November's election please contact the Centre County Elections Office at (814) 355-6703.

Please be advised that voting will remain at Precinct #55- Halfmoon (Township Municipal Building).

**Port Matilda EMS will be holding
a soup & sandwich sale on:
Tuesday, November 6, 2018.**

Available at the Halfmoon Township Christian Fellowship Church: Sandwiches for \$4.00 along with a bag of chips.

Available at the EMS Building in Port Matilda: Sandwiches for \$4.00 along with a bag of chips and Soup for \$6.00 per quart (Soup is on a first come, first serve basis.)

Sandwich Options: Ham; Roast Beef or Turkey (All Sandwiches come with Cheese)

Soup Options: Vegetable Beef; Chicken Corn or Ham & Bean

Calls will begin October 8th and orders are needed by October 28th. If you don't receive a call please call (814) 692-1035.

Winter Maintenance

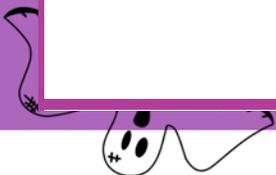
With Winter quickly approaching, the Public Works Department would like to remind residents of the guidelines for winter weather.

- In the event of plowing, all vehicle must be removed from the Township right-of-way.
- Be advised weather conditions can be so treacherous snow plow operators may find it extremely difficult to see: vehicles, people, pets, and/or other property along Township roadways.
 - Township standards are to remove snow in this order:
 1. School bus routes
 2. Other township roads
 3. Shorter/stub streets and cul-de-sacs
- Remember, Halfmoon Valley Road (State Route 550) is maintained and owned by the State and is not the responsibility of Halfmoon Township.
- Object repair policy states, if due to snow plowing/removal, an object is hit by any part of a Township vehicle, the Township will assist with repair and/or possibly replace said object. However, this does not include damage caused by weight of snow, slush or ice, or if damaged item was within five feet of the edge of any Township owned roadway. Therefore, please make sure all mailboxes are prepared for the harsh conditions to ensure it stay standing throughout the Winter months.
- Finally, the Township prohibits placement of any snow, slush, ice or any other material within any Township owned and maintained right-of-way, easement, access or cartway.

School is Once Again in Session

Watch for Stopped School Buses

The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code requires that drivers of a vehicle meeting or overtaking any school bus stopped on a highway or trafficway shall stop at least ten (10) feet before reaching the school bus when the RED SIGNAL LIGHTS on the school bus are flashing and the SIDE STOP SIGNAL ARMS are activated. The penalty for violating this section is a \$250 fine plus court costs, a 60 day license suspension and five points on your license. Let's keep our children safe.



Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13, 2018

Please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years.

Free Fire Prevention Week materials are available at:

<https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/>

Halfmoon Township Budgeting Sessions:

October 18 & October 24, 2018 @ 6:30 PM

October 25, 2018 after the regular meeting

November 1, 2018 @ 6:30 PM (If Needed)

Beginning on October 1st through December 14th all Halfmoon Township Business Meetings will be held at the Halfmoon Christian Fellowship Church located at 1776 Halfmoon Valley Road.

Those meetings include:

BOS Meetings: October 11th & 25th; November 8th; December 13th & 20th

PC Meetings: October 2nd & 16th; November 20th & December 4th

All Budgeting Meetings listed above.

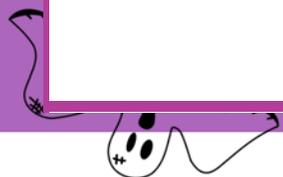
Real Estate Tax Collection Office Frequently Asked Questions

How many real estate tax bills will I receive? There are two bills attached to your property. The combined County/Municipal bill is mailed on March 1. This bill also includes an Open Space Preservation tax and may include a streetlight assessment. The real estate tax bill issued by the school district is mailed on July 1.

So, I received extra bills in February or July, what are those? Those are supplemental or interim real estate taxes. Interim Taxes are assessed in the event of new construction or improvements to an existing property, or a new parcel with land. Interim taxes are billed in February and July. This interim bill is based on when the improvements are completed or the house is occupied. For example, if you moved into the house or completed the improvements on October 1, 2018, you would be issued an interim tax for 2 months for the County/Municipal (November & December) and 8 months for the school (November thru June.) Please note, that the County tax years run on a calendar year from January to December. The school taxes run on a fiscal year from July to June.

Are the supplemental or interim bills forward to my mortgage company? No, the mortgage companies request copies of tax bills for which they are responsible to pay only before March 1 and July 1, the respective large tax bills. No other bills are forward to your mortgage companies and become the tax payer's responsibility to forward any bills to their mortgage company.

How can I tell if my annual taxes have been sent to my mortgage company? Both bills are different on how to tell if your taxes have been forward to your mortgage company. The County/Municipality tax bill will be stamped with the message: **THESE TAXES WERE SENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY.** Now the School takes a little more detective work, up in the top right corner of your tax bill you will see: **RETURN THIS TOP PART IF PAYING IN FULL.** Two lines under it will be a line the says, **Copy to Escrow Company:.** If the line has a company next to it, they were indeed forward, if the line is blank, they were not forwarded and it becomes your responsibility.



Real Estate Tax Collection Office More Frequently Asked Questions

Why did you return my payment? The Halfmoon Township Real Estate Collection Office only returns payments because of errors or over and/or under payments. To dive in a little deeper, DCED who makes the laws tax collectors are sworn to follow, feels that any check or payment made in error should be returned and not accepted. Because the tax collector holds no authority to issue refunds, we are forced to return all checks in the event of an error or over or under payment. So please re-check any payment being sent to the HMT R/E Office to make sure that it is the exact amount to avoid a returned payment.

I enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope with my payment but received no receipt, why could this be? The most common reason for this is because there was an error with the envelope. The two most common mistakes I see are, no stamp on an envelope or the envelope has already been sealed due to age. So, with no stamp or an already closed envelope there is no way to send a receipt that would not incur a cost to the other tax paying citizens. Therefore, my office has no choice other than to not return a receipt.

Is there any property tax relief for senior citizens? At this current time the only relief available to senior citizens is the Property Tax Rebate. To be eligible for the property tax rebate, a claimant or claimant's spouse must be at least 65 years old; or a widow or widower at least 50 years old during the tax year; or be at least 18 years old and have a permanent disability. In addition, claimants must meet the household income requirements. To receive additional information, please [click here](#).

What if I do not receive my tax bills in the mail? Every property owner is responsible to ensure that their real estate taxes are paid. Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner from making the payments. If you have not received your County/ Municipality bill by the first week of March, or your school district real estate tax bill by the first week of July, call me (Brett G. Laird) at (814) 692-9800 and request a copy of your bill.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Halfmoon Township	Phone Number
Administration & Tax Office	(814) 692-9800
Public Works	(814) 692-7757
Zoning (Contracted with Patton Township)	(814) 234-0271
Emergency & Legal	
Emergency- (Fire, Police & Ambulance)	911
“Call Before You Dig”	811
Port Matilda EMS	(814) 692-1035
Port Matilda Fire Company	(814) 692-4074
County Assessment	(814) 355-6721
County Treasurer	(814) 355-6810
Centre County Dog Warden (Tammy Owens)	(814) 553-8511
Pennsylvania State Police (Non-Emergency)	(814) 355-7545
Voting Information	(814) 355-6703
Utilities & Transportation	
CATA Bus Service	(814) 238-2282
Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority	(814) 238-6649
Comcast TV Cable Service	(800) COMCAST (266-2278)
West Penn Power: Power Outage	(888) 544-4877 / Customer Service: (800) 686-0021
Windstream Communications	(800) 326-9559
PENNDOT	Dead Animal or Pothole (800) FIX-ROAD (349-7623) After Hours (8AM–5PM) (814) 355-4731
Other Contacts	
Centre Region Code	(814) 231-3056
Port Matilda Post Office	(814) 692-8100
Warriors Mark Post Office	(814) 632-8600
EIT Tax Office	(814) 234-7120
State College Area School District (Real Estate)	(814) 231-1021
Upper Halfmoon Water Company	(814) 692-4309
Pennsylvania Game Commission	(570) 398-4744

HALFMOON TOWNSHIP BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS

All meetings are held at the Halfmoon Township Municipal Building and are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend or contact the groups listed below with questions and/or comments.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

2ND and 4TH Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Members: [Danelle Del Corso](#), [Mark Stevenson](#), [Barb Spencer](#), [Bob Strouse](#) & [Patti Hartle](#)

Email: supervisors@halfmoontwp.us or individually at first and last name@halfmoontwp.us

PLANNING COMMISSION:

1ST and 3RD Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Members: [Lorin Nauman](#), [Leah Davis](#), [Jeff Martin](#), [Joe Soloski](#), [Jody Kluskiewicz](#), [Sam Buckley](#), [Andrew Meehan](#), Alternates: [Regina Villarreal](#) & [Mark Paget](#)

Email: planningcommission@halfmoontwp.us

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD:

1ST Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Members: [Lorin Nauman](#), [Joseph Tylka](#), [D. Christine Bracken-Piper](#), [Ronald Hoover](#), [James Smith](#), [Patti Hartle](#) and [Reed Moyer](#)

Email: openspacepreservationboard@halfmoontwp.us

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD:

1ST Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Members: [Doug Dillon](#), [Jean Miranda](#), [Yvonne Smith](#) and [Kim Hyeseon](#)

Email: parksandrecreationboard@halfmoontwp.us

ZONING HEARING BOARD:

Meets as Required

Members: [Jim Andrews](#), [Ed Miranda](#) and [John Krajcovic](#)

Email: zoninghearingboard@halfmoontwp.us

CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

www.crcog.net

2643 Gateway Drive, State College, Pa. 16801

(814) 231-3077

Hours: Monday-Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

GENERAL FORUM:

4TH Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Location varies, so please call the office to confirm where the meeting will take place

Township Representatives: Township Supervisors at supervisors@halfmoontwp.us

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

3RD Tuesday of each month 12:15 p.m.

COG Offices

Township Representative: [Danelle Del Corso](#) at danelledelcorso@halfmoontwp.us

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

2ND Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

COG Offices

Township Representative: Danelle Del Corso at danelledelcorso@halfmoontwp.us

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

1ST Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m.

COG Offices

Township Representative: Bob Strouse at bobstrouse@halfmoontwp.us

PUBLIC SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

1ST Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m.

COG Offices

Township Representative: Barb Spencer at barbspencer@halfmoontwp.us

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COMMITTEE:

1ST Monday of each month at 12:15 p.m.

COG Offices

Township Representative: Barb Spencer at barbspencer@halfmoontwp.us

CENTRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

1ST Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

COG Offices

Township Representative: Andrew Meehan at planningcommission@halfmoontwp.us

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL:

4TH Tuesday of each month at 12:00 p.m.

COG Offices

Township Representative: Susan Steele at manager@halfmoontwp.us

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

2ND Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

COG Offices

Town Representative: Mark Stevenson at markstevenson@halfmoontwp.us

CCMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

2ND Wednesday of Each Month at 9:30 a.m.

College Township Offices

Township Representative: Susan Steele at manager@halfmoontwp.us

CCMPO COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

4TH Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Location varies, so please call the office to confirm where the meeting will take place

Township Representative: Barb Spencer at barbspencer@halfmoontwp.us

SCHLOW LIBRARY BOARD:

2ND Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Schlow Library

Township Representative: Virginia Squier at manager@halfmoontwp.us

AD HOC FACILITIES COMMITTEE:

1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

COG Offices

Township Representative: Patti Hartle at pattihartle@halfmoontwp.us

OTHER REGIONAL MEETINGS

UPPER BALD EAGLE/HALFMOON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

1ST Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Port Matilda Borough Building

Township Representative: Mark Stevenson at markstevenson@halfmoontwp.us

SPRING CREEK WATERSHED COMMISSION:

3RD Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Spring Creek Township Building

Township Representative: Mark Stevenson at markstevenson@halfmoontwp.us

CENTRE COUNTY TAX COMMITTEE:

Meets Quarterly

Bellefonte High School

Township Representative: Susan Steele at manager@halfmoontwp.us

CENTRE AREA CABLE CONSORTIUM:

Meets as Required

Township Representative: Patti Hartle at pattihartle@halfmoontwp.us

NEED ASSISTANCE...

HALFMOON TOWNSHIP OFFICE

www.halfmoontwp.us

Phone: (814) 692-9800

Fax: (814) 692-7585

Hours: Monday-Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Closed for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

1948 Halfmoon Valley Road

Port Matilda, PA 16870

MEET OUR BOARD



***From left to right: Back Row: Patti Hartle, Bob Strouse and Barbara Spencer
Front Row: Danelle Del Corso and Mark Stevenson***

MEET OUR STAFF

NAME	PICTURE	DUTIES
<p>Susan Steele (Full Time)</p> <p>manager@halfmoontwp.us</p>		<p>Manager, Treasurer, Finance Director, Budgeting, Secretary, Human Resources, Project Manager, Program and Policy Implementation, Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant, Personnel, Code Enforcement and Deputy Tax Collector</p>
<p>Amy Smith (Full Time)</p> <p>townshipclerk@halfmoontwp.us</p>		<p>Township Clerk, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer, Open Space Board Administrator, Zoning Administrator, Open Records Administrator, Assistant Secretary and Deputy Tax Collector</p>
<p>Brett Laird (Part Time)</p> <p>accountspayablereceivable@halfmoontwp.us Or tax@halfmoontwp.us</p>		<p>Assistant Treasurer, Real Estate Tax Collector and Accounts Payable/Receivable Clerk</p>
<p>Scott Brown (Full Time)</p> <p>roadmaster@halfmoontwp.us</p>		<p>Road Superintendent and Parks Maintenance</p>
<p>Mike Coakley (Full Time)</p> <p>safetydirector@halfmoontwp.us</p>		<p>Roads and Parks Maintenance</p>
<p>Ken Soder (Not in Office)</p> <p>zoningofficer@halfmoontwp.us</p>		<p>Zoning Officer and Flood Plain</p>