



# Municipal Reporter



**EXTREME EVENTS**  
*EDITION*

# EXTREME EVENTS

## ARTICLES IN THIS EDITION

PAGE  
**14**

Takeaways from the 2025 Nursing Home Explosion in Bristol Township, Pa.

PAGE  
**18**

Butler Township, Presidential Assassination Attempt

PAGE  
**20**

A Community in Crisis - York County Suffers Four Police Officer Deaths in One Year

PAGE  
**23**

From Reaction to Prevention: Steelton Borough's Approach to Reducing Gun and Youth Violence

PAGE  
**28**

FirstNet, Built with AT&T is Helping Rural Pennsylvania Stay Connected When it Matters Most

PAGE  
**30**

When Seconds Matter: How Accurate Weather Insights Supports Safer Communities

PAGE  
**32**

Recovering From Natural Disaster: How Hellam Township is Mitigating Flood Risk and Improving Lives

PAGE  
**35**

From Crisis to Control: Horsham Township's Comprehensive Response to PFAS Contamination

PAGE  
**40**

Resources for PFAS Drinking Water Settlements and Contamination Funding Strategies Guide

PAGE  
**41**

Flash Flood in Palmer Township Demonstrates the Need for Proactive Stormwater Program Funding and Management

PAGE  
**44**

How Extreme Weather Impacts Municipal Infrastructure

PAGE  
**46**

Weathering the Storm

**READ MORE** **Municipal Reporter** **ARTICLES AT:**



[PML.org/category/blog/municipal-reporter-articles](https://pml.org/category/blog/municipal-reporter-articles)





## Unemployment Compensation Trust

Does Pennsylvania's unemployment system have you feeling overwhelmed?

**The Trust can make your life easier.**

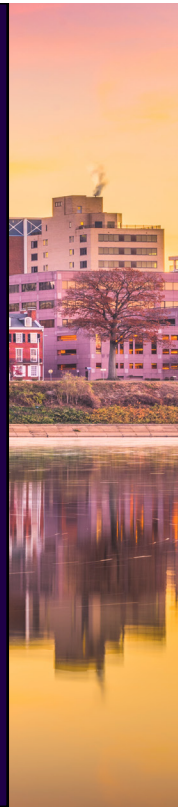
**A lot easier.**

**Get a quote!**

Lori Heenan

[lheenan@pml.org](mailto:lheenan@pml.org)

717-236-9469 ext. 251



**Follow**

**The League**



**On Instagram**





**MOSCA**

*Design*

Commercial Holiday Decorations

Seasonal & Custom Banners

Commercial Trees

Wreaths

RGB Light Show Displays

Fiberglass Props

Pole Mounted Decor

Garlands, Bows & More ...

[moscadesign.com](http://moscadesign.com)

[info@MoscaDesign.com](mailto:info@MoscaDesign.com) | 800.332.6798

355 Park Ave, Youngsville, NC 27596



# Municipal Reporter



## Pennsylvania Municipal League

### OFFICERS

**President** – J. William Reynolds, Mayor, Bethlehem

**First Vice President** – Doug Tusing, Council President, Ebensburg Borough

**Second Vice President** – Vacant

**Secretary/Treasurer** – John Brenner, League Executive Director

### STAFF

**Executive Director** – John Brenner, x\*230 – Publisher

**Director of Communications** – Susan Schrack Wood, x\*223 – Editor

**Deputy Executive Director - Operations – Chief Diversity Officer** – Abraham Amorós, x\*235

**Marketing and Member Services Manager** – Stevie Cona, x\*256

**Accounting Clerk II** – Colleen Cook, x\*234

**Meeting Manager** – Mary Costik, CMP, x\*232

**Governmental Affairs Manager** – Kaitlin Errickson, x\*226

**Corporate Engagement and Development Manager** – Chris Kazlauskas, x\*324

**Insurance Services Representative** – Polina Teslenko, x\*260

**Director of Trusts** – Lori Heenan, x\*251

**Director of Finance and Administration** – Susan Helms, CPA, x\*228

**Trusts Member Services Manager** – Vacant

**Director of Training and Professional Development** – Candice Heyward, x\*255

**Communications & Publications Manager** – Holli Hugendubler, x\*233

**Digital Content & Design Manager** – Britton Kosier, x\*224

**Deputy Executive Director - Membership** – Amanda Lane, x\*319

**Director of Information and Technology** – Josh Linsenbach, x\*248

**Director of Marketing and Membership** – Chris Lucco, ext. \*238

**Sustainability Coordinator** – Bailey Rocco, x\*253

**Training and Professional Development Manager** – Christy Saliaris, x\*322

**Training and Professional Development Representative** – Melinda Schmitz, x\*247

**Deputy Executive Director - Advocacy** – Amy Sturges, x\*225

**Executive Assistant** – Dena Tripas, x\*321

**Office Coordinator** – Rachel Washic, x\*229



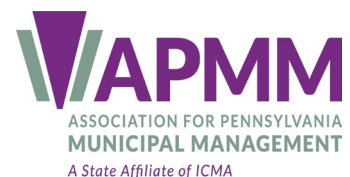
**President** – Todd Miller, Crescent Township

**First Vice President** – Alok Patnaik, Salisbury Township

**Second Vice President** – Liz McNaney, Upper Gwynedd Township

**Third Vice President** – Rebecca Sray, South Fayette

**Secretary/Treasurer** – Stacy Altman, Scott Township



**President** – Crandall Jones, Manager, Upper Darby Township

**First Vice President** – Sara Gibson, Manager, Camp Hill Borough

**Second Vice President** – John Schwend, Manager, Town of McCandless

**Secretary/Treasurer** – John Brenner, League Executive Director



# Our Mission

The Pennsylvania Municipal League strengthens and empowers effective local government through advocacy, education, and support for our members.

The League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. Today, The League represents participating Pennsylvania cities, boroughs, townships and home rule communities that all share The League's municipal policy interests. Our Board of Directors oversees the administration of a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy (on both the state and federal levels), publications designed to educate and inform, education and training certification programs, membership research and inquiries, programs, and group insurance trusts.

We are continually monitoring the needs of our members and are committed to providing the commonwealth's municipalities with cost-effective programs and services required to meet the distinct needs of their communities.

The *Municipal Reporter* is a publication of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners and the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management. It is published six times a year on a bimonthly basis. Opinions expressed by

authors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the officers, members and staff of The League.

Original articles on subjects of interest to municipal officials are welcome, but subject to review by editorial staff. The publisher has the right to reject unsuitable advertising.

All inquiries should be addressed to Susan Schrack Wood, Director of Communications, at:

717-236-9469, x \*223, [swood@pml.org](mailto:swood@pml.org), Fax 717-724-1663  
414 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101



[PML.org](http://PML.org) • [#StrengthThroughEngagement](https://twitter.com/StrengthThroughEngagement)



## JUNE 2026 | EXTREME EVENTS EDITION



5 .... Association Officers and League Staff

51 .. APMM President's Message

7 .... Calendar of Events

52...PSATC President's Message

8 .... League President's Message

53 .. Legislative Status Report – State

9 .... League Executive Director's Message

57 .. Legislative Status Report – Federal

10 .. Inside The League

59 .. Public Finance

11 .. Business Leaders Network Directory

14 .. Extreme Events

Annual subscription rate for The League's Municipal Reporter – \$65.

© 2026 Pennsylvania Municipal League



# Mark Your Calendar



## 2026

### 2026 Playground Build

**August 13-15**

Autumnwood Park  
Ferguson Township

### Municipal Leadership Summit

**October 7-10**

Hershey Lodge and Convention  
Center - Hershey



**League Learning  
Academy**

[Click here to see upcoming  
League Learning Academy courses](#)



[Click here to see upcoming  
PCCA courses](#)



# The League President's Message



**WILLIAM J. REYNOLDS**  
MAYOR  
CITY OF BETHLEHEM



Pennsylvania Municipal  
**League**

*One of the defining characteristics of local government is that we are often called upon to respond when circumstances are at their most challenging. Whether facing severe weather, infrastructure failures, public health emergencies, cybersecurity incidents, or other unexpected events, municipal leaders and staff are on the front lines of protecting our communities and maintaining essential services.*

*In this issue we highlight the reality that no municipality is immune from crisis. While the nature and scale of these events may differ from one community to another, the challenges they create are often remarkably similar. Local officials must make critical decisions quickly, communicate effectively with residents, coordinate across agencies, and adapt to rapidly changing circumstances.*

*One of the greatest strengths of the Pennsylvania Municipal League is that no municipality must face these challenges alone.*

*The League provides a network of municipal leaders who understand the unique responsibilities and pressures that come with serving our communities. When a crisis occurs, there is tremendous value in being able to learn from the experiences of colleagues who have faced similar situations. The lessons learned in one municipality can help another prepare, respond more effectively, and recover more quickly.*

*Beyond the relationships built through League membership, municipalities have access to a wide range of resources designed to support local governments before, during, and after difficult events. Educational webinars, training opportunities, publications, and shared best practices provide practical guidance on topics ranging from emergency management and resilience planning to communications and*

*recovery efforts. These resources help ensure that municipalities are not starting from scratch when confronted with new challenges.*

*The challenges we face may be different, but our commitment to public service is shared. Through the Pennsylvania Municipal League, we continue to build a stronger network of support, knowledge, and collaboration that helps all of our municipalities navigate whatever comes next.*

*Sincerely,*

*William J. Reynolds*

*William J. Reynolds  
Mayor, City of Bethlehem*

# The League Executive Director's Message

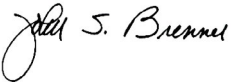
*One of the things to admire most about local officials is your constant ability to face a host of challenges simultaneously with professionalism, innovation and a can-do attitude. The phrase "grace under pressure" comes to mind.*

*Our Commonwealth has faced many extreme events over the years, including severe storms, flooding, and wildfires. Far too often you face challenges like structure fires, gun violence and other crimes, industrial accidents, sewer and water line breaks, sinkholes, and blighted properties. Other extreme events like the 2024 assassination attempt in Butler Township and the massive factory fire in Abington Township earlier this year, certainly impacts local communities.*

*In extreme event after extreme event, and they seem to be increasing lately, local officials - elected and appointed - rise to the challenge. You offer a steady hand during a crisis, and you help lead your citizens forward. You communicate, coordinate and collaborate by managing limited resources, mobilizing help when needed and making sure the job is done.*

*This issue of the Municipal Reporter focuses on extreme events and how we can learn from one another, share lessons and do our best to prepare for the next event around the corner.*

Sincerely,



John S. Brenner



[JOHN BRENNER](#)



## Executive Director's Video Report



# Inside The League



**ABE AMORÓS**  
**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -**  
**OPERATIONS – CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER**

*Happy Summer, everyone! As we start thinking about well-deserved time off at either the beach, the mountains, the woods or even a restful staycation at home, The League has been busy pondering ways to communicate more effectively with you as our valued members.*

*Soon, The League will be embarking on a podcast that will not only highlight the good works of our member municipalities but also provide subject-matter experts who will contribute substantive information to you. We have identified several key topics such as micromobility, homeless encampments, and mental health resources for elected and appointed officials while also looking to you for ideas on other topics that may be of interest.*

*Anyone wishing to contribute an idea, or offer a guest, should contact Susan Schrack Wood, our Director of Communications, at [swood@pml.org](mailto:swood@pml.org). Susan will be able to respond to your suggestions and help you develop any of your ideas moving forward.*

*In addition, we are thrilled to report that the certificate program, in coordination with Penn State and Keferling Associates, is on track to launch this fall. Look for more information in your inboxes later this summer as we will offer introductory courses on how to become better elected and appointed officials. Staff at The League have been on overdrive in collaborating with Keferling, Penn State DuBois and our friends at University Park. This exciting venture will join other state leagues in states such as Maryland, Montana, Georgia, and Virginia in the way of partnering with universities to offer members basic and advance training as public servants.*

*The League is also incredibly pleased to welcome our new edition, Polina Teslenko, as Insurance Services Representative for our three Trusts. Polina started with us recently and has been performing very well while learning about The League, its members, and our fantastic volunteer trustees whom we rely upon for continued success. Aside from excellent people skills, Polina earned advanced degrees in Ukraine and is fluent in three languages. Please help us welcome her to The League.*

*Lastly, don't forget to share any success stories with us that may be useful to our other member municipalities. Sharing best practices makes us all better in the end.*

*Until next time!*

*From Inside The League,*

*Abe Amorós*

Abe Amorós



# Business Leaders Network



**Lou Seidel**  
lou.seidel@accuweather.com  
814-235-8608

**AccuWeather**  
385 Science Park Rd.  
State College, PA 16803



**Amy Crouse**  
acrouse@acrisure.com  
412-394-9355

**Acrisure**  
444 Liberty Ave., Suite 605  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



**Patrick Geary**  
patrick.geary@alliant.com  
814-414-3053

**Alliant Retirement Consulting**  
3910 Caughy Rd., Ste 220  
Erie, PA 16506



**John Eldridge**  
apothicadmin@sasaudit.com  
610-617-0452, x112

**Apothic Revenue Resources**  
724 Montgomery Ave.  
Narbeth, PA 19072



info@aspirantllc.com  
610-348-8082

**Aspirant Consulting Group**  
PO Box 151  
Westtown, PA 19395



**David Kerr**  
dkerr@att.com  
717-269-5872

**AT&T**  
351 Stanley Drive  
Palmyra, PA 17078



**Emily White**  
ewhite@bearingadvisors.net  
833-270-2500, x110

**Bearing Advisors**  
118 Allison Ave.  
Bridgeport, WV 26330



**Brian Marchuck**  
BrianMarchuck@brownplus.com  
717-761-7171

**Brown Plus**  
210 Grandview Ave.  
Camp Hill, PA 17011



**Mike Palombo, Esq.**  
mpalombo@cdblaw.com  
412-395-1280

**Campbell Durrant, P.C.**  
535 Smithfield St., Ste 700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



**Tia McClenney**  
tia\_mcclenney@comcast.com  
878-787-0987; and

**Comcast Keystone Region**  
15 Summit Park Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

**Brian Jeter**  
brian\_jeter@comcast.com  
267-908-1218



**Matthew Shortall**  
matthew.shortall@constellation.com  
443-602-5755

**Constellation**  
1310 Point Street, 9th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21231



**Bryan Munley**  
bryan.munley@constellation.com  
215-776-8545

**Constellation**  
1310 Point Street, 9th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21231



# Business Leaders Network



**Zack Vigneault, CFA, CAIA**  
zvigneault@csmkc.com  
412-880-5234

**CS McKee**  
200 Ericsson Dr., Ste 100  
Warrendale, PA 15086-6507



**Lauren Detweiler**  
ldetweiler@dvtrusts.com  
267-803-5723

**Delaware Valley Trusts**  
719 Dresher Road  
Horsham, PA 19044



**Daryl Boich**  
daryl@ecollectplus.com  
866-225-0033

**ecollect+ Municipal Collections**  
804 Fayette Street  
Conshohocken, PA 19428



**Rachel Weeden**  
rweeden@esri.com  
909-369-5924

**Esri**  
1325 Morris Drive, Ste 201  
Chesterbrook, PA 19087



**Kara Smith**  
ksmith@hrg-inc.com  
717-564-1121

**Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG)**  
220 W. Kensing Dr., Ste 100  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066



**Jennifer CruverKibi, CPA**  
jcruverkibi@md-cpas.com  
717-622-2338

**Maher Duessel**  
4250 Crums Mill Road, Ste 302  
Harrisburg, PA 17112



**Michael Boyd**  
michael.boyd@mbgbenefits.com  
412-246-2520

**Municipal Benefits Services**  
301 Grant Street, Suite 270  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219



**Ken Wollins**  
ken.wollins@mpspark.com  
781-690-4058

**Municipal Parking Services Inc**  
1000 Boone Ave. North, Ste 660  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

## Service Line Program



**Ashley Shiwarski**  
Ashley.Shiwarski@homeserveusa.com  
724-749-1097

**Service Line Program by HomeServe**  
4000 Town Center Boulevard  
Suite 400  
Canonsburg, PA 15317



## OBERMAYER

**Tom Wyatt**  
thomas.wyatt@obermayer.com  
215-301-0922

**Obermayer**  
1500 Market St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102



**PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER**

**Kelly Bray**  
kelly.braysnyder@amwater.com  
717-215-9459

**PA American Water Company**  
Scranton, PA 18505



# Business Leaders Network



**Zachary Peirson**  
zpeirson@benecon.com  
717-723-4600

**PA Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative**  
201 E. Oregon Rd., Ste 100  
Lititz, PA 17543



**Freddy Lutz**  
freddy@pennbid.net  
610-693-4769

**PennBid**  
PO Box 421  
Nazareth, PA 18054



**Lori Heenan**  
Lheenan@pml.org  
717-236-9469 \*251

**PennPRIME**  
414 North Second Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



**John Molloy**  
molloyj@pfmam.com  
717-232-2723

**PFM Asset Management**  
213 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



**Justin Steinbugl**  
jsteinbugl@safebuilt.com  
412-815-7841

**SAFEbuilt**  
1013 Wayne Ave.  
Chambersburg, PA 17201



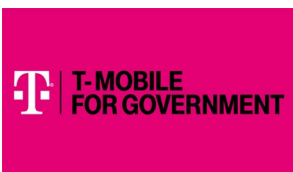
**William W. Warren, Jr., Esq.**  
William.warren@saul.com  
717-238-7698

**Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr**  
2 North Second St., 7th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



**Matthew Wardecker**  
matthew.wardecker@se.com  
717-713-5873

**Schneider Electric**  
530 Habecker Church Rd.  
Lancaster, PA 17603



**David Ombres**  
david.ombres@t-mobile.com  
412-737-8675

**T-Mobile**  
5996 Centre Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206



**Lori Heenan**  
Lheenan@pml.org  
717-236-9469 \*251

**U-COMP**  
414 North Second Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717-236-9469



**Bill Carnahan**  
william.b.carnahan@verizon.com  
412-633-3248

**Verizon**  
15 Montgomery Pl  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

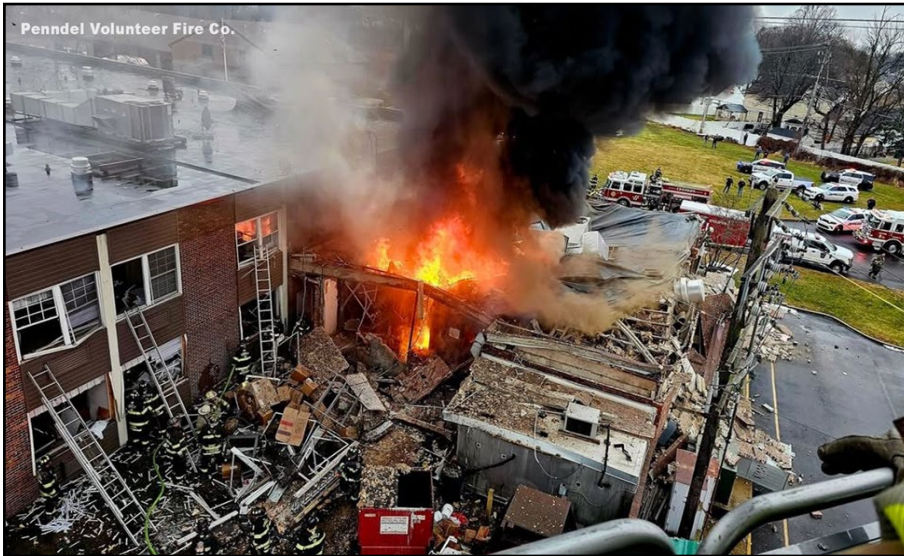


**Gloria Daudier**  
gloria.daudier@wellsfargo.com  
332-999-8997

**Wells Fargo**

## Takeaways from the 2025 Nursing Home Explosion in Bristol Township, Pa.

BY KEVIN DIPPOLITO, PA-CO, PA-CEM, IAAI-CFI, FIRE CHIEF/FIRE MARSHAL/  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, BRISTOL TOWNSHIP



### Introduction

On December 23, 2025, a natural gas-fueled explosion occurred with about 180 people inside a nursing and rehabilitation center in Bristol Township, PA. The explosion caused a partial building collapse, fire, entrapment, and mass casualty incident. The explosion and collapse caused approximately 40 injuries, 3 fatalities, and quickly overwhelmed local resources. The response from emergency services over the next 6 ½ hours would involve over 250 emergency responders from 4 counties, tested the hospital's emergency room surge capacity, converted the hospital lobby into an emergency shelter for approximately 130 residents and staff, and drew media coverage from across the U.S. and abroad.

### Details

On December 23, 2025, at approximately 11:15 a.m., the maintenance director at the Bristol Health and Rehabilitation Center, a 174 bed nursing home in Bristol Township, reported a natural gas odor in the basement boiler room and first-floor hallway to the gas

utility company. Shortly before noon a gas company representative arrived on scene.

At about 2:15 p.m. a natural gas-fueled explosion occurred with about 180 people in the building, causing a partial building collapse, entrapment, fire, and mass casualty incident. Among the people in the building at the time of the explosion were residents, staff, visitors, and subcontractors.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel whose station is directly across from the nursing home, exited their station after the blast shook

their building. As EMS exited their building, they encountered a cloud of smoke coming from the partially collapsed building and several injured people exiting the building. EMS immediately radioed in the explosion to the county 9-1-1 center triggering the dispatch of Fire, Police and additional EMS units for an explosion and mass casualty incident. Within minutes there were wounded people on three sides of the building being brought out at an urgent pace by fire and police personnel.



*Photo: Two small groups of residents, mostly in wheelchairs, can be seen across the street as emergency vehicles were arriving.*

*Photo courtesy - Third District VFC.*

# Extreme Events

When the Fire Department arrived, they encountered a partially collapsed and unstable building, a strong odor of natural gas outside, and several injured people lying on the ground or walking amid broken glass in close proximity to the building. There were also several wheelchair-bound residents in the street and parking lot brought out by staff prior to Fire Dept. arrival. Residents who were bedridden, had mobility limitations, or were trapped in the collapse area were awaiting rescue and calling out for help. Smoke was rising from a fire burning under the collapsed portion of the structure, and an injured gas company employee asked the first arriving fire chief to summon more help from his company.



*Photo: Police Officers from 3 different depts. carrying a victim away from the building to emergency medical personnel. Photo credit - Ron Roberts.*



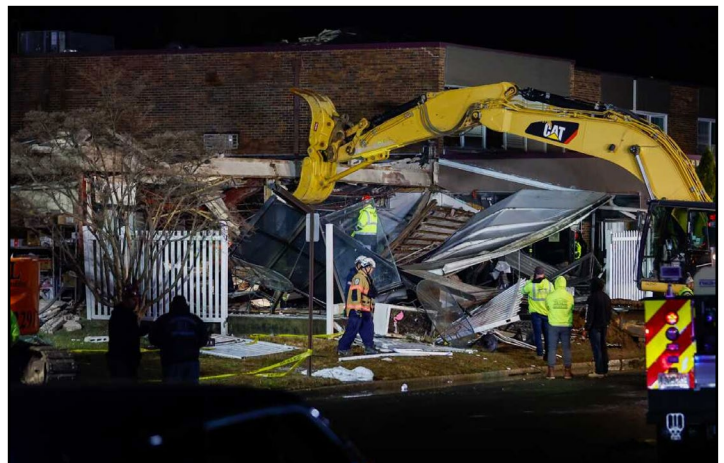
*Photo: Firefighters with hose lines keeping a free burning gas fire from extending into the residential portion of the building while search operations continued. Photo courtesy PennDel Fire Co.*

Law Enforcement arrived to find an unsecure scene and an immediate need to assist getting the injured, bedridden, or otherwise non-ambulatory residents and staff out of the building and into the care of EMS. A request for assistance from neighboring police departments was made, some of which had already started to respond upon hearing the initial radio reports. Simultaneously, there was a need for traffic and crowd control.

Emergency Management personnel also responded immediately upon dispatch. Once on scene and seeing the magnitude of the incident, the Township Manager was contacted for issuance of a disaster declaration as the need for heavy equipment from community partners was inevitable. Emergency Management personnel then began making arrangements for the temporary sheltering of uninjured residents and

employees. An additional Emergency Management staff member was assigned to the command post to serve as a scribe and provide logistics support, obtaining resources such as heavy machinery, utility pumps, and highway barricades.

While the initial first responders were inside the building working to remove non-ambulatory residents, and rescue victims trapped under debris and out of an elevator, the incident was expanding well beyond local resources and the scene itself. The fire incident commander had a 2nd and 3rd alarm transmitted along with (3) Technical Rescue Teams, EMS had requested the highest level of mass casualty response available, and mutual aid police departments were on scene or on the way to assist.



*Photo: An excavator summoned to the scene by Emergency Management personnel is used to stabilize a portion of the building while a technical rescues team searched below. Photo credit - Unknown.*

# Extreme Events

News of the incident spread quickly, and family members began arriving on scene and at the nearby hospital seeking information about family members. Media outlets arrived early into the incident and began reporting in real time.

With approximately 180 residents, staff, visitors, and contractors present at the time of the explosion, determining who had been evacuated and who remained inside the building was difficult. This uncertainty added risk to emergency responders by keeping them in the gas filled building for an extended period as they continued to search for victims.

Injured residents and staff were brought out of the building and turned over to EMS for treatment and transported to one of multiple hospitals, while the uninjured were relocated to the lobby of the hospital which was located next door to the nursing home.

Sheltering residents who were not injured presented additional challenges because many of the residents required ongoing medical care, and medication management. Township Emergency Management brought together the necessary responsible parties to find permanent facilities to transfer the uninjured residents to, while keeping track of each resident for purposes of family reunification.

## Conclusion & Takeaways

This incident illustrated how quickly a local emergency can evolve into a complex, multi-jurisdictional and multi-day event. Even after the rescue and recovery operations concluded, and the fire was extinguished, the incident continued to demand municipal resources. Some of the key takeaways from this event include:

### Facility Emergency Actions Plans

- Recommend similar facilities to establish emergency shelter agreements that can accommodate all residents.
- Ensure similar facilities have transportation agreements in place for non-emergency evacuations.
- Recommend the Emergency Action Plan of similar

facilities include plans for continuity-of-care within an emergency shelter.

- Recommend similar facilities use an accountability system that tracks patients, staff and visitors, and that the system is accessible from outside the facility by several employees.

### Incident Command

- A Unified Command and adherence to Incident Command System principles at mass casualty incidents is crucial to maintaining control of what may be a rapidly expanding incident.
- Early establishment of divisions and group supervisors is imperative to meet operational objectives.
- Assigning a scribe to the command post to log radio communications and face-to-face communications that take place at the command post proved beneficial.

### Public Information Officer / Press Briefings

- Assign an experienced PIO early in the incident.
- Schedule a time and location for a press conference and alert local media outlets.
- Emails and phone calls from media outlets seeking information will begin early into the incident and continue for days seeking updates.

### Radio Communications

- Each division of emergency services will likely utilize more than 1 radio channel.
- If mutual aid from outside your radio system responds, assign a representative from that agency to the command post to facilitate communications.

### Staging Areas and Traffic Control Personnel

- Staging areas for EMS units and fire apparatus is imperative.
- Traffic control personnel are instrumental in coordinating the flow of ambulances to triage and subsequent departure to hospitals, as well as getting the fire apparatus in position to meet operational objectives.
- Traffic control personnel must be made aware of where to direct arriving family members and media.

# Extreme Events

## Extended Operations

- The origin and cause investigation for this incident warranted site security by law enforcement and then private security for 12 days.
- A brick and mortar “base camp” was needed to support the investigation.

## Agencies Involved

- Numerous governing authorities will be on site. In our case, it was; the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF - by request).
- Depositions from key emergency responders may be required as part of the investigation.

## Emergency Management

- Emergency Management support, coupled with a robust emergency resources list, proved to be beneficial.
- Assigning a member of Emergency Management to the command post to provide logistics support for special equipment needs was invaluable.

## Mental Health

- Consider critical incident stress management and peer support resources for emergency responders as part of post-incident operations.

## Legal action and FOIA/RTK requests

- Lawsuits will be filed shortly after an incident such as this.
- Many FOIA/RTK requests will be received following this type of incident.

## References:

*National Transportation Safety Board preliminary report, dated 1/23/26.*



*Since 2005 he has served as the career Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, and Emergency Management Director in Bristol Township. Kevin oversees the Township's career Fire Rescue Dept., Office of the Fire Marshal, and the Office of Emergency Management. Kevin is a PEMA certified Professional Level Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and an EMT. He is a PA State Fire Academy and Bucks Co. Comm. College instructor. Kevin has presented fire service and emergency management related programs across the State and at FDIC in Indianapolis.*

## Butler Township, Presidential Assassination Attempt

BY TOM KNIGHTS, MANAGER, BUTLER TOWNSHIP

On July 13, 2024, an assassination attempt was made on the life of then-former President Donald Trump during a campaign rally held in Butler, PA. The attempt took the life of one attendee and wounded several others including the President while being broadcast live nationally. The immediate aftermath had law enforcement officers from all levels trying to determine if any co-conspirators were involved as thousands of rally attendees were trying to leave the grounds and media was attempting to enter the same grounds.

There is no reference source to guide anyone through an assassination attempt, and I certainly hope no municipality will be thrust into the international spotlight due to a senseless and intolerable act of political violence. I do want to provide some lessons that Butler Township learned from this experience.

### Media Policy

Butler Township has a long-standing media policy where the Township Manager is the source of contact for media. All information comes to and is disseminated from the manager. I encourage all municipalities to adopt some type of media policy so that communication is clear and not by committee. In this particular case, all Butler Township law enforcement assigned to traffic duty but ultimately thrust into searching for a person of interest became part of the investigation. During the first 24 hours after the attempt, “local law enforcement” became the focal point of criticism while federal agencies dominated media attention. That criticism was further elevated by other agencies pointing out that while the grounds themselves were in a neighboring municipality, both the building used as the shooter’s vantage point and the location of the stage were both within

Butler Township. After having the time to review officers’ accounts, the duty assignments, supporting information and briefing the Commissioners, I made myself available to media armed with facts to represent Butler Township and the township’s law enforcement response.

### Media

As a result of being exposed to media on an international level, I have a very unique opinion regarding media. Regarding a lesson to share – that would be speak to the facts, do not speculate and do not give opinion. Be a boring interview. Regarding the reality – media is absolutely relentless. During the first week following the assassination attempt, anywhere from 20-30 media vehicles from various outlets would spend the day and night in our municipal building parking lot. They would wait for the municipal building to open to try and get access to police and myself, then travel the short mile and a half to the site and stay there all day trying to report on anything new occurring there and then return to our parking lot to compile the day’s news. A full week. The phones rang off the hook during that same time period by the same media. Media found my home address and would park there during various times of the day and particularly early evening trying to get access. A couple of my neighbors would give me the “all clear” message when they left so I could sneak home. Media called my parents trying to get new contact methods for me. Relentless. Once the first interview was conducted the flood gates were opened. In addition to all national news outlets, I did interviews with media from the United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, Hong Kong and Germany. I even had an interview with an unknown Eastern European country who referred to me as comrade. And never doubt that local media will

# Extreme Events

claim bias if they are not given some time also – trust me. And of course there are consequences to media exposure.

## Death Threats and Hate Mail

Tons of them. Every interview that aired brought a flurry of hate emails. And both sides of the spectrum were equally represented. Occasionally one encouraging email mixed in, but they were rare. People were passionately angry. And I think because there were so many governmental levels being interviewed and initially the investigation generated more questions than answers, viewers were left to formulate their own conclusions before the facts caught up. Obviously, I will not go into detail regarding the content of the messages I received. And right or wrong, I did not give them credibility. I certainly do not condone that behavior but made assumptions that people who were frustrated by the process had a new face to vent their anger towards. Only lesson I can convey from this is when emotions are running high, you will receive negativity and need to be confident in yourself.

## Act 22

If you have a police department and do not have body cameras, that is a different conversation to have. If you have a police department with body cameras and do not have a good understanding of Act 22, you need to. Act 22 governs the release of body camera video. It is commonly spoken in the same context as the Freedom of Information Act, but that is not a valid comparison. Active investigation does not impact Act 22 requests. And national media knows this. I received 42 Act 22 requests in the first 48 hours following the shooting. All wanting body worn camera video from the event. Important to note that Butler Township police were the only law enforcement agency with all officers having body cameras. See first sentence above. If you deny an Act 22 request, the appeal goes to the Court of Common Pleas, not the Office of Open Records. National media certainly knows this, and local media most likely does also. In reviewing cases of Act 22 at



*Butler Farm Show Grounds (right), 6:01 p.m. EDT, 10 minutes before the shooting. Photo: Wikipedia*

that time, municipal denials had a bad track record of successfully defending their denial. National media pressure most likely would have made the appeal even less likely to succeed. After briefing the Township Commissioners in advance, I made a decision to release the police body camera video from the event to all 42 requestors at the same time. No one got an exclusive. The next day, the phones were quiet, no hate emails, no random media outlets walking through the door. Became yesterday's news. If a picture is worth a thousand words, video is worth a million. Lesson learned here is to give your officers the tools they need to defend the job they do.

I hope the items I have spoken of helps anyone who has an event that has some level of exposure – even if it is, think at least, I am not that guy from Butler Township. If anyone needs tips on how to handle being interviewed in a dimly lit hotel room by various national security agencies, I can tell those stories at a different venue. But the relevance I wanted to provide is lessons learned on the biggest stage that have merit locally.



*Tom Knights - Butler Township Manager. Tom administers the township's operations alongside for main departments: Police, Zoning, Public Works, and Building and Grounds.*

## A Community in Crisis – York County Suffers Four Police Officer Deaths in One Year

BY TED CZECH, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, YORK COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND 911

---

I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in the country other than York County, because I can tell you with absolute certainty – after more than 20 years of working there as a police newspaper reporter and 5-plus years in county government – that we are blessed to have some of the most dedicated law enforcement officers in the nation.

That's why this community was shook to its core in 2025 when four of our police officers were killed in the line of duty in two incidents.

On Feb. 22 of that year, West York Borough Police Officer Andrew Duarte was fatally wounded at UPMC Memorial Hospital in West Manchester Township during a shoot-out with an armed man who had taken hostages.

Then, on Sept. 17, three Northern York County Regional Police officers – Sgt. Cody Becker, Det. Mark Baker and Det. Isaiah Emenheiser – were ambushed and murdered by a gunman at a house in North Codorus Township.

Other responding officers in both incidents killed the respective perpetrators.

In the aftermath of these incidents, there was a cascade of sorrow and anger that sought to envelop and ultimately shatter the community; however, in response, I have witnessed York County residents embrace the memories of the fallen officers and pour out their souls for the officers' families and comrades in blue.

York County is a county in healing; it may truly never heal from what has occurred, but what we can do is learn and love and never forget.

One of the techniques used by counselors when they assemble a group of first responders – from police

officers to EMS to 911 dispatchers -- that has endured a traumatic incident is to have them provide their individual involvement in it, so that way, context is created and order may be seen through the chaos. With the rest of the space here, I will provide scenes from my roles in these two incidents.

**2/22/25**

It was a sunny and crisp Saturday morning when I received an alert on my phone from York County 911 that there was a police incident in progress at UPMC Memorial Hospital in West Manchester Township. I initially thought "This must be a mistake," because there are plenty of initial calls from 911 that turn out to be benign.

But as the details were revealed in succeeding alerts and I connected with my supervisors at the York County Office of Emergency Management, I realized this was a true event and I needed to act swiftly. Next came the first deluge of calls on my phone from the media, all wanting information.

As the public information officer (PIO) for York County OEM and 911, it was my duty to inform them, but to do that, I had to discern exactly what was occurring. My supervisors had already opened the emergency operations center at the York County Department of Emergency Services when I arrived there. Deputy Director Bill James and I then developed an initial response to the media, based on 911 reports, which essentially stated that police responded to UPMC Memorial Hospital for an active threat and that the threat had been neutralized.

I posted the statement online and then headed to the scene to speak with the media, who I knew were gathered there. At the hospital, I delivered the same

# Extreme Events

statement to the media I had issued earlier, but this time I did so in front of a host of cameras, because I knew the TV stations needed something “visual.” I also included a hotline I had become aware of that was established for anyone who thought a loved one was either a patient, employee or visitor at the hospital at the time of the incident.

Hours later, the governor’s helicopter landed at the hospital and he, along with county and UPMC representatives, delivered a news conference. But the media’s inquiries didn’t end there.

In the week leading up to Officer Duarte’s funeral, I continued to receive calls from them. In response, I contacted West York Borough Police Chief Matt Millsaps and asked if I could issue a statement on his behalf. I read it to him and he agreed.

*It went something like this: “I’ve been asked this week about healing, ‘Does this represent healing?’ and I thought about that and everyone heals in a different way and at a different pace; for some, this may symbolize healing and for others, that may come much, much later. But I think one thing we all have in common is we recognize the love that Officer Duarte had for his family and friends, for his community and for the profession of policing. And that love was manifested in the way that he was a protector until February 22 of 2025.”*

Several months later, at the annual York County Fallen Officer Memorial service, held at the York County Department of Emergency Services, Officer Duarte was given a name plate at the memorial wall, located outside by the flag poles at the front of the building. And under the subject of something I thought would never happen, in the fall, after training for several months, I made my professional wrestling debut at the York Fairgrounds in an food drive event to honor Officer Duarte. I wore a custom black T-shirt during my match that had the thin blue line American flag on the back; on the front, it read, “Andrew Duarte -- In Loving Memory -- EOW 2/22/25”

## 9/17/25

It was near the end of my shift at OEM’s offices when our team received an alert from 911 about the officer-

involved shooting in North Codorus Township. This time, I immediately drove to the scene.

When I have spoken about this incident in public, I have stressed that the success in whatever role I played that day was due to the people who surrounded me. One example would be that prior to my arrival, one of the county’s emergency management coordinators staged the media on the grounds of a bar/restaurant located away from the scene. In that way, I didn’t have to worry about corralling them when I parachuted into the turbulent scene.

I delivered a brief public statement there and later, fielded phone calls from national-level media. York County was gaining notoriety around the country, but not in the way that anyone ever conceived or wanted. I don’t think it was lost on any first responders – and quite truly anyone in York County and beyond – that for a concentrated community of 450,000 to suffer two officer-involved shootings in one year in which four heroes lost their lives was an unimaginable, and possibly unprecedented, horror.

Painful similarities between the deaths of Officer Duarte and the three Northern York County Regional officers followed – deployment by the county’s Critical Incident Stress Management team to provide mental health services to first responders, a funeral at the county’s largest church and three more name plates added to the Fallen Officers memorial wall.

York County Sheriff’s Office Lt. David Godfrey, who suffered eight bullet wounds when he returned fire on the gunman, received a tearful welcome when he made his first public appearance at the Sheriff’s Office’s annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser. He later held a news conference on the day he was released from a rehabilitation hospital. Employees, colleagues and other well-wishers lined the foyer and clapped as he walked to a waiting car that day.

The Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank held a replenishment blood drive in Godfrey’s honor in June 2026 and were booked solid with donors all day, including myself. I hadn’t given blood since high school when I was able to skip three classes, but I

# Extreme Events

figured this was an appropriate sophomore effort. The best part was Godfrey showing up to thank everyone.

## Capability vs morality

In an incident described by many as opening a healing wound, the local paper (and my former employer), the York Daily Record, was able to secure possession of the autopsy report on the deaths of the three Northern Regional officers and published an article about it in grisly detail.

The paper's editors seemed satisfied with a disclaimer at the beginning of the story, while losing the irony that, bearing in mind that journalism can often be stark and unsettling, if one has to include such a warning, then possibly one should not have disseminated the story at all.

The county's district attorney, coroner and Northern Regional's police chief all publicly denounced the story.

A media outlet, it seems, can fail to remember that it is a public service, that it is part of the fabric of a community, as well as a business. Reporters are daily historians, protected by the First Amendment, but as such, they are burdened with a duty to do so responsibly. In short, there is what a newspaper can do and what it should, or in this case, should not do.

Did the story on the autopsy enhance the public's understanding of the incident? Did it contribute to the county's healing? Was the potential anguish caused by it being published weighed with its importance in the overall narrative? I would say resoundingly not to all of these.

During my tenure at the YDR, there were occasions when the paper did in fact consider the potential harm in publishing information. In one case, which again involved Northern Regional Police, the newspaper's editors refrained from releasing the name of a victim in a serious incident, which I believe was a violent carjacking because the suspect had not been arrested.

The argument that individuals who do not wish to read the story could simply ignore it fails to hold muster with the prevalence of social media and the laws of social osmosis.

The YDR will have to live with their decision, one that more than likely will not be soon forgotten. What will, without a doubt, outlast their ugly move, are the legacies of Andrew Duarte, Cody Becker, Mark Baker and Isaiah Emenheiser.



*Ted Czech - Public Information Officer, York County Office of Emergency Management and 911, Author, Former Crime Reporter and Media Subject Matter Expert.*

## From Reaction to Prevention: Steelton Borough's Approach to Reducing Gun and Youth Violence

BY MAYOR CIERA DENT, CHIEF SHAWKI LACEY, AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR TYLER VAUPEL

### Steelton's Legacy of Resilience

Steelton, Pennsylvania is a resilient place. Built on the backs of steelworkers who came from across the globe seeking opportunity, Steelton was once a thriving industrial community and a symbol of the American dream. At its peak in 1910, more than 14,000 residents representing over 30 ethnic groups called the borough home.

Like many manufacturing communities across America, Steelton experienced decades of economic decline as industry contracted and jobs disappeared. The devastating flood of 1972 displaced approximately 3,000 residents and destroyed the borough's diverse West Side neighborhood. Over time, population loss led to a shrinking tax base, reducing resources available to support municipal services, economic development, and neighborhood investment.

The effects of disinvestment became increasingly visible. Blighted properties, deteriorating infrastructure, limited economic opportunities, and intergenerational poverty created challenges that extended far beyond economics.

In January 2026, Steelton faced another significant challenge with the closure of the steel mill that had defined the borough for generations. Yet Steelton's story has never been one of surrender. It has always been one of resilience.

### A Community at a Breaking Point

*For Steelton, 2026 became an inflection point.*

Within a matter of months, the borough experienced a series of significant public safety incidents that shook the community. A mass shooting left one young

man dead and multiple others injured. Residents witnessed a drive-by shooting involving suspects from as far away as Louisiana. An elderly couple became victims of a violent Facebook Marketplace robbery.

Numerous shots-fired calls, gang-related concerns, illegal firearm recoveries, and youth violence incidents further heightened public anxiety.

One incident involved a teenager being targeted with an AR-style firearm. Another involved a near-fatal crash caused by drag racing and impaired driving that could have easily claimed multiple lives.

Mayor Ciera Dent found herself having conversations that no community leader wants to have. During one particularly difficult period, she publicly acknowledged that she did not feel comfortable allowing her own children to freely walk portions of the borough without concern.

When residents feel unsafe, local leaders have a responsibility to acknowledge that reality while simultaneously providing hope and a path forward. The incidents facing Steelton served as a reminder that violence affects far more than those directly involved. It impacts families, neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and the overall sense of community.

### Moving Beyond Reaction

While residents experienced the impact of these incidents firsthand, the Steelton Borough Police



# Extreme Events

Department was simultaneously evaluating how to move beyond a traditional reactive model of policing.

When Chief Shawki Lacey assumed leadership of the Steelton Borough Police Department, it became apparent that a more comprehensive approach was needed. Like many municipalities, Steelton faced staffing limitations, resource constraints, and increasing demands for service.

Under Chief Lacey's leadership, the department adopted a strategy centered on proactive policing, increased visibility, community engagement, data-driven decision-making, and strategic partnerships. The goal was straightforward: prevent violence before it occurs while strengthening trust within the community.

## Policing with Limited Resources

One reality often overlooked in conversations about public safety is the challenge facing small municipal police departments.

Like many municipalities across Pennsylvania, Steelton faces staffing limitations, recruitment challenges, aging equipment, and budget constraints. On many shifts, the department operates with only two to three officers responsible for responding to emergency calls, conducting investigations, handling traffic enforcement, addressing quality-of-life complaints, and maintaining a visible presence throughout the community.

Despite these challenges, the department remained committed to proactive policing through grant funding, strategic partnerships, and creative problem-solving. Steelton secured resources to support officer recruitment, sustain a mental health co-responder program, and provide updated equipment for patrol officers and staff.

## Visibility Matters

One of the first lessons learned by department leadership was that visibility remains one of the most effective crime deterrents available to law enforcement.



**Use the power of group purchasing to lower your health benefit costs.**

Since 2006, PMHIC has been the premier health insurance option for PA municipalities and related agencies. PMHIC provides savings, transparency, and control over health benefit expenses.

**Start the conversation today.**

888.400.4647 | [info@benecon.com](mailto:info@benecon.com) | [benecon.com](http://benecon.com)



# Extreme Events

Steelton increased officer visibility through directed patrols, traffic enforcement initiatives, foot patrols, and collaborative enforcement efforts with neighboring agencies and the Pennsylvania State Police. Residents reported feeling safer, and officers gained valuable information through positive interactions with community members.

## Investing in Youth Before Violence Occurs

Youth violence presents unique challenges because it is often influenced by trauma, peer pressure, social media conflicts, lack of supervision, and limited opportunities.

Recognizing these realities, Steelton adopted a proactive approach focused on intervention and prevention. Curfew initiatives and early intervention efforts were designed to identify concerns, connect families with resources, and intervene before minor issues became major public safety concerns.

Long-term violence prevention requires investing in young people before they enter the criminal justice system—not simply responding after they do.

## Leadership During Crisis

Following the mass shooting that claimed a young life, Steelton issued an emergency disaster declaration to mobilize resources and demonstrate the seriousness of the situation.

Leadership during crisis required balancing urgency with stability. It required acknowledging residents' fears without amplifying them, maintaining transparency, and remaining visible during difficult moments. Residents deserve leaders who are willing to communicate honestly, continue showing up, and work collaboratively toward solutions.

## Turning Strategy Into Action

While enforcement and prevention strategies remained critical components of Steelton's public safety efforts, borough leadership recognized that sustainable change required more than policing.

Community Relations Coordinator Tyler Vaupel focused on translating those goals into action through

outreach initiatives, partnership development, and direct engagement with residents. Sustainable public safety required engagement, relationship-building, and opportunities for residents to become active participants in solutions.

## The Stop That Tour

Following several violent incidents, leaders from York City's nationally recognized Group Violence Intervention initiative reached out after seeing news coverage of the challenges facing the borough.

Together, local officials, law enforcement officers, community organizations, and residents launched Steelton's first Stop That Tour. Teams went door-to-door throughout affected neighborhoods. Resources were distributed. Community organizations provided information about available services. Food and household essentials were offered to residents. Most importantly, conversations took place.

Residents shared concerns about violence, youth behavior, blight, and quality-of-life issues. They talked about fear. They talked about frustration. But they also talked about hope. The outreach reinforced something important: residents wanted to be part of the solution when given the opportunity.

## Partnerships as a Force Multiplier

For Mayor Dent, partnerships provided opportunities to strengthen regional collaboration and advocate for resources beyond the borough's boundaries. For Chief Lacey, partnerships enhanced law enforcement capabilities through mutual aid, information sharing, joint enforcement efforts, and



# Extreme Events



investigative support. For Community Relations Coordinator Tyler Vaupel, partnerships created pathways for community engagement, outreach initiatives, resident services, and relationship-building efforts.

Together, these collaborative relationships allowed Steelton to extend its reach beyond traditional government services and create a more comprehensive approach to public safety.

The borough's experience reinforced a simple but important lesson: communities are strongest when they work together. Whether through public safety initiatives, community outreach efforts, educational partnerships, or regional collaboration, collective action remains one of the most valuable resources available to local government.

## Data-Driven Problem Solving and Trust Building

Prevention requires more than visibility and partnerships. It also requires understanding patterns and addressing root causes.

The Steelton Borough Police Department increased its focus on analyzing calls for service, identifying nuisance properties, monitoring repeat offenders, and addressing locations that generate disproportionate levels of police activity.

Public safety also cannot exist without public trust. Residents are far more likely to report suspicious activity, cooperate with investigations, and participate in crime prevention efforts when they believe their police department is invested in their well-being.

## Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead

Steelton's experience reinforced several important lessons. Preparedness matters. Transparency builds

trust. Leadership requires adaptability. Partnerships create strength. Prevention is always more effective than reaction.

Steelton's story is not defined by violence. It is defined by resilience. It is defined by officers who continue serving despite limited manpower and resources. It is defined by residents who refuse to give up on their community. It is defined by partnerships that emerged during difficult moments and leaders who chose action instead of complacency.

The incidents facing the borough tested the community, but they also revealed its strength. Through leadership, prevention, partnership, and persistence, Steelton continues moving forward. As municipal leaders, we cannot always prevent every crisis. What we can do is prepare, respond, learn, and continue moving forward. That is the work of leadership. And that is the work Steelton continues to do every day.



**Tyler Vaupel** is the Steelton Borough Community Relations Coordinator. He conducts grant research, writing & award management, oversees public programs, assists with public outreach, coordinates events, manages the Borough's website & social media, and much more.



**Mayor Ciera Dent** is serving her second term as Mayor of Steelton Borough and is the first African American woman elected to lead the community. Throughout her tenure, she has prioritized public safety, community engagement, economic revitalization, and regional collaboration.



**Chief Shawki Lacey** is the Chief of Police for the Steelton Borough Police Department and a veteran law enforcement professional with more than 25 years of experience in public safety, criminal investigations, and leadership. Chief Lacey holds advanced degrees in Security Management and Organizational Leadership.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

# Municipal Leadership Summit



[PML.org/municipal-leadership-summit](https://PML.org/municipal-leadership-summit)

**HERSHEY LODGE AND  
CONVENTION CENTER**



This year's theme, **Connecting Communities, Sustainable Futures**, recognizes that sustainability extends beyond environmental initiatives. It is reflected in the policies, investments, partnerships, and everyday decisions that help communities thrive long term. Whether discussing leadership, workforce development, public engagement, finance, infrastructure, economic vitality, or environmental stewardship, each session will explore ways municipalities can build capacity, strengthen resilience, and create lasting value for their residents.



# Extreme Events

## FirstNet, Built with AT&T is Helping Rural Pennsylvania Stay Connected When it Matters Most

BY DAVID KERR, PRESIDENT, AT&T PENNSYLVANIA

Reliable communications are paramount in communities across Pennsylvania, but our more rural communities often face greater challenges given that their where terrain and remoteness can affect how quickly help can arrive. Rural first responders face unique challenges in staying connected, and **FirstNet®**, **Built with AT&T** – America’s public safety network – is making investments to overcome those challenges.

FirstNet is the only nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built for America’s first responders and the extended public safety community, enabling public safety subscribers to communicate with one another easily and quickly during everyday situations, big events and emergencies.

It provides first responders with truly dedicated coverage and capacity when they need it, unique benefits such as always-on priority and preemption across the nationwide, high-quality Band 14 spectrum set aside for FirstNet – public safety’s “VIP lane” – and all AT&T commercial bands. These advanced capabilities help fire, EMS, law enforcement and other public safety entities save lives and protect their communities.

FirstNet was shaped by the vision of Congress and the first responder community following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. FirstNet is built with AT&T in public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (**FirstNet Authority**) – an agency within the federal government. AT&T has a federal mandate to expand and evolve the network, so public safety stays at the forefront of innovative, lifesaving technologies.

From 2021 to 2025, AT&T invested nearly \$1.7 billion in its wireless and wireline networks in Pennsylvania to help expand coverage, increase capacity, and



*FirstNet Satcolt in the Field*

improve reliability for first responders, businesses and individual customers across the state. During that period, AT&T built new sites and upgraded existing ones across the Commonwealth, including adding Band 14 to enhance connectivity for first responders on FirstNet. We rely on direct feedback from public safety to help address their needs statewide, but especially in more rural communities where geography and distance have historically made connectivity more challenging.

In addition to building and upgrading cell sites, the **FirstNet Response Operations Group™ (ROG)** routinely supports public safety in connection with large, planned events and emergencies where coverage and capacity for public safety could be impacted.

### FirstNet in Action

FirstNet is making a difference in communities across Pennsylvania. A few examples include:

# Extreme Events

- A newer site in Shade Gap, in Huntingdon County, was built based on feedback from local first responders who identified a need to fill coverage gaps in this rugged area. The site helps local volunteer fire and EMS crews, law enforcement, and state and country emergency management personnel who often serve large territories with limited resources have better access to dispatch information, mapping tools, patient data, and coordination with neighboring agencies.

AT&T also recently turned on new sites in Hoopersville, Drums, Richeyville, McKean and other rural communities across the state, giving rural first responders the coverage they need to save lives and protect property.

BeST Transit, which serves residents across Bradford, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties and supports public safety during emergencies, recently upgraded its connectivity with new, push-to-talk devices for their vehicles and **FirstNet MegaRange™**, AT&T's portfolio of high-power user equipment (HPUE). When transmitted over Band 14 spectrum, HPUE provides the strongest signal available in the U.S., enabling vehicles, cameras and other devices to operate at the end of signal coverage and help ensure passenger safety.

As a key part of the extended public safety community, BeST is part of the counties' emergency response plans to support evacuations from settings like hospitals and nursing homes during emergencies and large-scale disasters. Other members of the extended community

include industries like public works, utilities, transportation, hospitals, schools, and essential government services, which can be called upon to support first responders in case of emergency.

- FirstNet also supports public safety during major events. Every year, **Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney** draws thousands of visitors, creating a temporary surge in communications demand. For state and local public safety officials managing traffic, crowds, and medical responses, maintaining reliable network access is critical. FirstNet and its always-on priority give first responders the communications support they need even when surrounding network usage spikes.

Across rural Pennsylvania, these tools are helping agencies do more with limited resources. First responders today rely on more than voice communications. They use smartphones, tablets, vehicle routers, and connected applications for navigation, incident reporting, records access, telematics, and situational awareness. In communities where mutual aid and cross-jurisdiction coordination are common, reliable connectivity helps agencies work together more effectively.

AT&T's continued investment in rural connectivity helps support not only residents and businesses, but also the first responders and service providers who keep communities safe.

Learn more about AT&T and FirstNet in Pennsylvania at [Pennsylvania.att.com](https://www.pennsylvania.att.com).

*FirstNet and the FirstNet logo are registered trademarks and service marks of the First Responder Network Authority. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.*



FirstNet Flying Cow



*David Kerr - President, Pennsylvania/West Virginia External Affairs for AT&T. David has been with AT&T for over 17 years and is responsible for developing and implementing public policy and philanthropic initiatives in PA.*

## When Seconds Matter: How Accurate Weather Insights Supports Safer Communities

BY JONATHAN PORTER, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF METEOROLOGIST, ACCUWEATHER®

Pennsylvania municipalities face a growing range of weather risks that can impact public safety, infrastructure, and daily operations. Events such as flooding, winter storms and extreme cold can escalate quickly, leaving limited time for response. When conditions change rapidly, the ability to act early is critical.

AccuWeather's mission is to save lives, better protect property and help people and businesses make the best weather-impacted decisions. With more than six decades of forecasting experience, AccuWeather provides forecasts and warnings with proven Superior Accuracy™ that often deliver earlier, more detailed and more actionable information.

The following case studies highlight how more accurate forecasts and site-specific weather warnings help support better decisions and improved outcomes.

### CASE STUDY 1 Texas Hill Country Flash Flooding – July 2025

In the early hours of July 4, 2025, rapid flash flooding impacted the Texas Hill Country, causing widespread damage and loss of life. Water levels rose quickly along the Guadalupe River, demonstrating how fast-changing rainfall events can become dangerous.

Near Hunt, Texas, AccuWeather Expert Storm Warning meteorologists issued a lifesaving SkyGuard® Flash Flood Warning with 30 minutes of additional advance notice compared to warnings from the National Weather Service (NWS) and all other known sources, precious extra time at night when most people were sleeping. Nearly 24 hours before flooding began, AccuWeather also issued a Severe Weather Threat notification highlighting the escalating flash flood risk, almost 9 hours before the NWS issued a Flash Flood Watch.

Following the event, AccuWeather partnered with local organizations to support recovery and preparedness efforts. Through collaboration with regional partners, AccuWeather extended site-specific severe weather

warning services to first responders and community organizations.

As part of this initiative, participants received:

- Site-specific severe weather warnings often with more advance notice than broader, publicly available alerts
- Multi-channel notifications including text and automated calls and confirmation of receipt
- Coverage of flash flooding, lightning, high winds, extreme heat, and wildfires
- Live, immediate, direct consultation with AccuWeather expert meteorologists

**This case reinforces a critical lesson for municipal leaders:** more advance notice and better location-specific information enable more effective emergency response and communication.

### CASE STUDY 2 Buffalo Winter Storm – December 2022

A major winter storm in December 2022 resulted in widespread impacts across the Buffalo region. Rapid deterioration in conditions, including strong winds, heavy snowfall and falling temperatures, created dangerous travel conditions.

The severity of the event was driven by:

- Snowfall rates exceeding the capacity of road treatment operations
- Limited visibility and drifting snow
- Timing that coincided with peak travel periods

AccuWeather forecasts best highlighted the potential for rapid deterioration and hazardous travel conditions ahead of the storm. AccuWeather was the only known source to forecast blizzard conditions in Buffalo lasting more than 36 hours. Two weeks in advance, AccuWeather clients were warned of “a major winter storm later next week causing significant travel troubles” and “the coldest lead-up to the Christmas holiday in decades.” **Key lessons for municipal leaders include:**

- Snow intensity can have greater impact than total accumulation

# Extreme Events

- Timing of weather events significantly influences risk
- Early decisions, including travel bans, can reduce exposure to dangerous conditions

AccuWeather's proven Superior Accuracy™ gave clients more advance notice to better prepare, days before other sources recognized the storm's historic severity. For municipalities, this meant the opportunity to pre-position equipment, issue travel restrictions, and activate emergency operations before conditions became unmanageable.

## CASE STUDY 3: Destructive Derecho – Ohio and Pennsylvania, April 29, 2025

When a powerful derecho swept across Ohio and Pennsylvania on April 29, 2025, winds exceeding 70 mph snapped power poles, uprooted trees and knocked out electricity to hundreds of thousands of customers across both states.

Utilities and municipalities faced challenges including:

- Downed trees and power lines closing roads for days, blocking emergency response
- Extended power outages compounding impacts on residents and critical infrastructure
- Near-zero warning time from standard sources – the NWS upgraded their wind warning only 3 minutes before destructive winds arrived

AccuWeather's Superior Accuracy™ enabled earlier and better preparation, including:

- Identifying the damaging wind threat 5 days in advance – a full day before the NWS and all other known sources
- AccuWeather's SkyGuard® Warning delivering a 32-minute advance warning, giving utilities and municipalities critical time to stage crews and equipment
- Accurate identification of the system as a derecho with its destructive path projected more than 3 days out

This event demonstrates that advanced warning is the difference between reacting to destruction and better preparing for it, best protecting infrastructure, operations, and lives.

## A Partner Focused on Decision Support

Across all severe weather scenarios, one factor remains consistent: time. Earlier, more accurate forecasts provide more options for decision-makers. As an

example of AccuWeather's proven Superior Accuracy™, for tornadoes, AccuWeather provides, on average, 16 minutes of advance notice compared to an average of only 8 minutes from the National Weather Service.

AccuWeather SkyGuard® Warnings and Snow Warning Service™ give municipalities pinpoint, site-specific warnings with often more advance notice than government sources and provide live, immediate consultations with AccuWeather's expert meteorologists, 24x7x365 – ensuring residents and critical infrastructure are best protected from severe weather threats and disruptive winter storms before they strike.

Independent studies have demonstrated the proven Superior Accuracy™ of AccuWeather forecasts, supporting better decision-making and improved outcomes for businesses and governments. AccuWeather serves more than half of Fortune 500 companies and thousands of government agencies, helping them reduce risk, improve operations and enhance public safety. AccuWeather has an annual renewal rate of 97%.

As weather risks continue to evolve, access to accurate, actionable information remains essential for municipalities working to best protect their communities.

AccuWeather is pleased to be a League Business Leaders Network member, meaning that if you are a League member not yet subscribing to AccuWeather's world-class services, you can sign up for the AccuWeather Snow Warning Service™ and SkyGuard® Severe Weather Warning Service, which are tailored for municipalities, at a League discounted rate. To learn more about the League discounted rates, please contact:

**Jonathan Colwell** | [Jonathan.Colwell@accuweather.com](mailto:Jonathan.Colwell@accuweather.com)



*Jonathan Porter - Senior VP & Chief Meteorologist at AccuWeather. He blends meteorology, weather news forecasting, & information technology to collaborate with the world's leading government meteorological services integrating the most advanced weather data & technologies into AccuWeather's products & services.*

## Recovering From Natural Disaster: How Hellam Township is Mitigating Flood Risk and Improving Lives

BY SARAH SMITH, ASSISTANT TO THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, HELLAM TOWNSHIP

Flooding is a major concern for municipalities across Pennsylvania, and Hellam Township is no exception. The township, a mostly rural community of 5,928 people, has several creeks and many floodplains that pose a threat. It experienced several historic floods in recent years: two in April and August 2011 from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee respectively, and another flash flood on August 31, 2018, from heavy rains. Through partnerships with several accompanying agencies, Hellam Township is working to mitigate future flooding incidents and improve the lives of residents for years to come.

### Impacts of Flooding

After the August 31 flooding in 2018, there were approximately 20 roads with damage in Hellam Township, which were documented and sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Most of the damage occurred to Kreutz Creek, Accomac and River Roads, which are owned by the state of Pennsylvania. Kreutz Creek Road was completely washed out and reduced to single lane only. Gas lines were exposed, and water flowed freely, ripping the pavement apart. The Hallam exit of Route 30 was underwater and unusable. In some areas of the township, flooding ran six feet deep.

On River Road, the flooding completely diverted the path of the creek, where a culvert had been repaired just the year before. Former Governor Tom Wolf came to the township to tour damage and directed the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to put three temporary pipes in so residents could use both ends of the road. The temporary pipes are still there, awaiting a permanent fix, with an expected cost of repairs at approximately \$1 million. The township has applied five times for grants to help fix the road.

On Horn Road, 40 inches of floodwater inundated a house. The water completely destroyed the entire first floor and inground pool, causing \$250,000 worth of damage.

### Flooding Mitigation

The township has undertaken several measures to mitigate flooding. After the 2018 event, severe erosion to Kreutz Creek caused damage to properties along Kreutz Creek and Dark Hollow Roads. Alongside the Emergency Watershed Protection program ([EWP](#)),

which offers technical and financial assistance to watersheds that pose a threat to communities after natural disasters, PennDOT, and government officials, the township assisted residents with restoring the creek bed and removing erosion to properties on both roads.

The flooding event that occurred in August of 2018 was sparked by heavy rains, but also by years of sediment buildup in Kreutz Creek. In some areas, the sediment has built up so high over the years that the creek flows nearly level with the road.



*Flooding on Dark Hollow Road from Kreutz Creek during the 2018 event*

# Extreme Events



*Damage to a property on Dark Hollow Road from Kreutz Creek flooding in 2018. The property was restored with the assistance of the EWP and Hellam Township*

The Kreutz Creek Climate Resiliency Watershed-Based Action Plan is working to address these concerns. The plan aims to prevent further risks to safety and damage to properties by assessing the current flow of Kreutz Creek, developing best management practices to mitigate flooding in the proposed project area (approx. 2264 acres of land draining into Kreutz Creek) and securing funding for the project by working with partners including PennDOT, the Center for Water Quality Excellence (CWQE) and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE).



*Damage to a property on Kreutz Creek Road from Kreutz Creek flooding in 2018. The property was restored with the assistance of the EWP and Hellam Township*

During the first phase of the project, a Task Force was formed, focusing on the area of Kreutz Creek

Watershed, known as the upper portion, from Spring Road to Route 462. They met with residents and toured areas known to have previous flooding issues alongside potential engineering firms, and oversaw the execution of several studies, including Hydrographic Data Development and Peak Flow analysis.

The USACE completed a hazard study in June of 2022, and made three suggestions for improvements to flood mitigation, with the most feasible being the proposed removal of 100,000 cubic tons of debris from Kreutz Creek. A request to revisit the study focusing on the concrete culvert beneath Kreutz Creek Road (near Lees Lane) and the buildup of sediment within it was completed in mid-2024, and a report was finalized in September of that year.

The project is currently in the grant application phase, with a goal of securing funding from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Growing Greener Grant program. The program awards an average of \$235,000 in funding, up to \$500,000, with a required 15% match in funding from the grant recipient.

The township has submitted three applications to the DEP Growing Greener Grant program. Accompanying the third application, submitted in June of 2025, were letters of support from residents, adjoining municipalities, local government agencies, York County government, local preservation groups and legislators.

“Everyone is in agreement that this flood mitigation/ climate resiliency project is critical as it impacts not only the lives, homes and businesses of residents, but commerce and travelers in general moving through this part of York County and future growth,” says Hellam Township Supervisor Mike Shillott, one of the members of the Task Force alongside Township Supervisor Nedette Otterbein and Township Manager Corina Mann.

Recipients are generally notified of their application approval by the end of the cycle year, but the process could stretch into the first quarter of 2026.

## Flood Recovery

There are several opportunities for federal and state funding available for those affected by flooding.

# Extreme Events

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) provides funding for citizens uninsured for damage from various presidentially declared natural disasters, including flooding. Funds can assist with housing and home repairs, medical assistance, funerals, childcare, transportation, hazard mitigation, personal property, and more. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, or qualified aliens, have expenses caused by a declared disaster, and must first file with their insurance provider before applying for FEMA assistance. FEMA reimbursed Hellam Township for \$472,000 dollars' worth of damage in 2011.

When federal funding is not available, individuals may be able to secure assistance from the Disaster Recovery Assistance Program (**DRAP**), administered by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management (**PEMA**). Funds can help with temporary housing, make home repairs, and replace certain personal items. Applicants must live in a municipality that has declared a disaster and have been denied a loan from the Small Business Administration, unless they receive government benefits from Medicaid, TANF, or SNAP. Eligibility is income-based, and the maximum amount available is \$10,000.

## What Residents Can Do to Prepare

The best way to recover from a flood is to prepare for it.

Knowing individual flood risk and whether you live in a flood zone or not is the first step in flood preparedness. FEMA provides a **flood map tool**, and **PA Flood Risk provides a specific tool** by address assessing floodplain management. It's also a good idea to have flood insurance, as it is a separate policy not commonly covered by homeowners' insurance. FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Policy (**NFIP**) and covers 22,600 participating communities.

Both **PEMA** and **York County Emergency Management** provide emergency preparedness guidelines. PEMA offers Code Red emergency alerts, and residents of Hellam Township can either visit the **website** or sign up for the **Savvy Citizen** app to receive alerts and notifications. The Eastern York County Emergency Management Agency (EYCEMA) is also in the process of developing its Emergency Operations Plan; Hellam Township residents are encouraged to monitor the township website for updates and planning sessions.

There are several things' residents can do to prepare themselves and their homes for flooding emergencies. Have emergency supplies on hand and a "go bag" if the power goes out or flooding is too high. Try to always keep your car's gas tank half-full. Charge phone and battery banks beforehand. Have a plan in place for medical devices dependent on power. Purchase ice. Visit state and local sites to peruse emergency plans already in place. Keep an ax in your attic to use in case you become trapped. Have an emergency plan in place for family.

Flooding is always a concern, but there are many steps residents and municipalities can take to mitigate damage and hazards to safety. Once funding is secured for the Kreutz Creek Watershed Restoration project, the township is hopeful that incidents like the flooding that occurred during 2011 and 2018 will be incidents of the past.



*Sarah Smith is the Assistant to the Township Manager for Hellam Township. Her specialties include web and print copy, website management, social media content creation and management, and editing and proofreading.*

## From Crisis to Control: Horsham Township's Comprehensive Response to PFAS Contamination

BY MICHAEL SHINTON, P.E., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HORSHAM LAND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

When per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—often referred to as “forever chemicals”—were discovered in Horsham Township’s groundwater in 2014, local leaders confronted a challenge few municipalities had faced before. The issue was complex and evolving, with emerging science, uncertain regulatory standards, and significant financial implications. At stake were not only the Township’s drinking water supply, but also public confidence in local government and the long-term reliability of critical infrastructure.

More than a decade later, Horsham Township’s response has become a model of municipal resilience. Through decisive action, coordinated leadership, and partnerships across all levels of government, the Township turned a public health crisis into a long-term strategy for water system reliability, environmental remediation, and financial sustainability.

### Discovery and Early Action

The first indication of a problem came in 2014, when the Horsham Water & Sewer Authority (HWSA) conducted sampling under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3). Testing revealed the presence of PFAS compounds in several of the Township’s public water supply wells, with concentrations in two wells exceeding then-current federal health advisory levels.

In response, and in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and EPA, HWSA immediately removed these wells from service and issued public notice. Further testing using more sensitive detection methods revealed a broader problem: PFAS compounds were present at measurable levels in all of the Township’s groundwater wells.

As the scope of contamination became clear, so too did its source. Investigations linked the presence of PFAS

in local groundwater to decades of firefighting training activities at nearby military installations, including the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and the Horsham Air Guard Station.

*“What began as routine testing quickly escalated into a defining moment for our community,”* said **William Gildea-Walker, Horsham Township Manager.**

*“We understood early on that this would require a sustained, coordinated response across multiple levels of government.”*

### Escalation and Policy Direction

In 2016, the challenge intensified when the EPA lowered its health advisory level for PFAS, reducing the acceptable combined concentration of key compounds such as PFOA and PFOS to 70 parts per trillion. As a result, three more HWSA wells were removed from service to comply with the updated guidance.

Faced with growing public concern and still-evolving scientific understanding, Horsham Township elected officials and HWSA leadership made a critical policy decision. Rather than simply meeting federal or state standards, they set a local goal of reducing PFAS concentrations in the public water supply to **“non-detect” levels wherever feasible.**



*Joint Meeting of Horsham Township Council and Horsham Water & Sewer Authority on September 27, 2016.*

# Extreme Events

*“Council made it clear that we would not settle for minimum compliance,” said Gildea-Walker. “Our residents deserved the highest level of protection we could reasonably achieve.”*

## Federal Partnership: The Role of the U.S. Navy

While the Township and HWSA moved quickly to protect the water supply, a lasting response required engagement with the federal agencies tied to the source of contamination—most notably the U.S. Navy. Because PFAS contamination in the region was linked to historical firefighting activities at the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, the Navy became a central partner in both investigation and remediation.

Early in the response, the Navy entered into cooperative agreements with the Horsham Water & Sewer Authority, providing grant funding for key actions, including the design, installation, and operation of treatment systems for impacted wells. This partnership helped offset some of the immediate infrastructure costs of restoring wells to service.

In addition to financial support, the Navy has played a long-term role in cleanup at the source of contamination. Working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and PADEP under federal Superfund and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) programs, the Navy has investigated groundwater contamination, evaluated remediation technologies, and implemented treatment systems at the former base.

More recently, federal efforts have included large-scale groundwater extraction and treatment, with millions of gallons of PFAS-impacted groundwater processed through ongoing remediation programs.

*“The Township’s ability to respond effectively depended in part on strong coordination with our federal partners,” said Gildea-Walker. “The Navy’s participation—both in funding and in addressing the source of contamination—has been an important component of the long-term solution.”*

For municipal leaders, Horsham’s experience underscores the importance of persistent engagement with federal stakeholders, particularly when the source of contamination lies beyond local jurisdiction.

## Short-Term Stabilization Measures

With multiple wells taken offline, maintaining a reliable supply of safe drinking water became the Township’s immediate priority. Horsham Township and HWSA implemented an aggressive short-term stabilization plan to ensure continuity of service while longer-term solutions were developed.

- Key elements of this approach included:
- Shutting down contaminated wells that exceeded advisory limits
- Maximizing use of lower-concentration sources within the system
- Increasing purchases of PFAS-free treated water from neighboring utilities
- Installing temporary treatment systems, including granular activated carbon (GAC) filters and ion exchange systems
- Implementing system-wide operational adjustments to reduce overall PFAS concentrations



*Horsham Township Council and Horsham Water & Sewer Authority tour a completed PFAS treatment filter on September 3, 2017.*

# Extreme Events

These measures allowed the Township to maintain water service while dramatically reducing systemwide PFAS levels. At the same time, they required significant financial resources, costs that were largely borne by local ratepayers through a surcharge. The annual cost of the short-term plan was estimated at approximately \$1 million, underscoring the need for a sustainable funding strategy.

*“We were balancing two realities: the urgency of protecting public health and the financial burden placed on our customers,”* said **Jack Butler, HWSA Board Chairperson**. *“That tension drove much of our decision-making in the early years.”*

## State Leadership and Legislative Innovation

As local costs mounted, the need for external funding and policy solutions became increasingly apparent. Former State Representative Todd Stephens, whose district included Horsham, emerged as a leading advocate for affected communities.



*Former State Representative Todd Stephens held a press conference on PFAS contamination on July 14, 2016.*

Stephens worked to secure state funding to offset the immediate financial burden on residents, including grants to eliminate or reduce PFAS-related surcharges on water bills. In 2016, for example, \$10

million in state funding was directed to Horsham and neighboring municipalities to support water treatment efforts and provide relief to ratepayers.

However, Stephens and other local leaders recognized that one-time funding allocations would not be sufficient to address the long-term costs of remediation. In response, Stephens introduced legislation to create a dedicated, sustainable funding mechanism tied to the source of contamination.

That effort resulted in the passage of Act 101 of 2019, a landmark law that established an innovative framework for funding PFAS remediation in communities impacted by former military installations.

## The Creation of MIRIA

Act 101 authorized the creation of the Military Installation Remediation and Infrastructure Authority (MIRIA), a municipal authority established to support cleanup and infrastructure improvements in PFAS-affected communities.

Under the law, certain state tax revenues generated within designated redevelopment zones—primarily associated with the former Willow Grove base—are redirected to MIRIA. This provides a dedicated funding stream that can be used for a range of purposes, including:

- Reimbursement of PFAS remediation costs incurred by water providers and municipalities
- Financial relief for ratepayers who previously paid surcharges
- Installation and operation of treatment systems
- Extension of public water service to residents with contaminated private wells
- Infrastructure improvements and economic development projects tied to redevelopment efforts

Crucially, Act 101 addressed a core issue faced by many municipalities: the mismatch between the source of contamination and the entity responsible for paying for cleanup.

*“Act 101 was about fairness as much as it was about infrastructure,”* said **Todd Stephens, Former State**

# Extreme Events

**Representative and MIRIA Board Chairperson.** *“Our residents should not bear the full cost of contamination caused by activities beyond their control.”*

Since its inception, MIRIA has generated tens of millions of dollars to support water system improvements and remediation, as well as transportation improvements and redevelopment planning in Horsham and surrounding communities. Recent grant cycles have continued to deliver substantial resources, including multimillion-dollar allocations to municipal authorities and PFAS-related infrastructure projects.

Looking ahead, the anticipated transfer and initial development of the first phase of the base property are expected to build on that momentum.

*“The development of the first phase of the base property will mark a significant milestone in the redevelopment process,”* said **Michael Shinton, Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority Executive Director.** *“That progress is expected to spur new investment in the area while expanding the funding available from MIRIA to advance critical environmental and infrastructure priorities.”*

## Building a Long-Term Solution

With funding mechanisms in place, Horsham Township and HWSA advanced a long-term strategy focused on system resilience, redundancy, and sustained water quality improvement.

Key components of the long-term plan included:

- Permanent installation of GAC treatment systems at impacted wells
- Conversion of temporary treatment systems into permanent infrastructure
- Development of additional interconnections with neighboring water systems
- Expansion of water distribution infrastructure
- Ongoing monitoring and optimization

These efforts were supported through a combination of:

- **Federal funding partnerships**, including Navy-supported treatment systems and source remediation

- **State-level funding through Act 101 and MIRIA**
- **Local capital investment and ratepayer contributions**

Importantly, these investments also aligned with broader planning initiatives, including redevelopment of the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station property. The integration of environmental remediation and land reuse planning reflects a holistic approach to long-term community development.

## Measurable Outcomes and System Transformation

Over time, Horsham Township’s coordinated response produced tangible results.

Through a combination of source management, treatment technologies, and infrastructure improvements, PFAS concentrations in the Township’s drinking water supply were reduced dramatically and are now at non-detect levels.

By early 2024, the Township and HWSA had completed the major elements of both their short- and long-term response plans, including installation of treatment systems across the water supply network.

At the same time, federal agencies, including the U.S. Navy, continued remediation efforts at the source of contamination, extracting and treating contaminated groundwater as part of ongoing environmental cleanup programs.

## Lessons for Municipal Leaders

Horsham Township’s experience offers valuable insights for municipal officials facing environmental challenges of increasing complexity:

### 1. Act Quickly and Decisively

Early detection and immediate action to remove contaminated sources helped protect public health and establish credibility with residents.

### 2. Establish Clear Policy Goals

Setting a “non-detect” objective provided a consistent framework for decision-making and aligned technical efforts with community expectations.

# Extreme Events

## 3. Communicate Transparently

Open and ongoing communication was essential in maintaining public trust throughout a prolonged and evolving situation.

## 4. Build Multi-Level Partnerships

Effective collaboration with federal and state agencies was critical in securing funding and implementing remediation strategies.

## 5. Invest in Resilient Infrastructure

Diversifying water sources and upgrading treatment capacity strengthened the system's long-term reliability.

## 6. Advocate for Legislative Solutions

Horsham's experience directly informed the development of Act 101 and MIRIA, demonstrating how local challenges can drive state-level innovation.

## 7. Engage Federal Partners Early and Persistently

When contamination originates from federal facilities or historic activities, sustained coordination with federal agencies is essential for both funding and long-term remediation.

## Conclusion

What began as an unexpected discovery in 2014 evolved into one of the most significant infrastructure and public health challenges in Horsham Township's history. Through strong local leadership, sustained investment, and effective collaboration across all

levels of government, the Township navigated the crisis and emerged with a more resilient and reliable water system. Today, that work has positioned Horsham as a national leader in drinking water protection, with some of the highest water quality standards in the country and PFAS levels reduced to non-detect in the public system.

Equally important, Horsham's experience helped shape new policy tools—most notably Act 101 and the creation of MIRIA—that are now benefiting communities across the region.

*"This wasn't just about solving a problem," said **Gildea-Walker**. "It was about building a system—and a set of partnerships—that will serve this community for generations to come."*

For municipal officials across Pennsylvania, Horsham's story offers both a roadmap and a reminder: complex challenges require not only technical solutions, but also leadership, collaboration, and a willingness to innovate.



*Michael Shinton, P.E. is Executive Director of the Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority (HLRA), overseeing redevelopment of the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station. His work includes coordinating environmental remediation efforts, including PFAS response initiatives, in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies.*

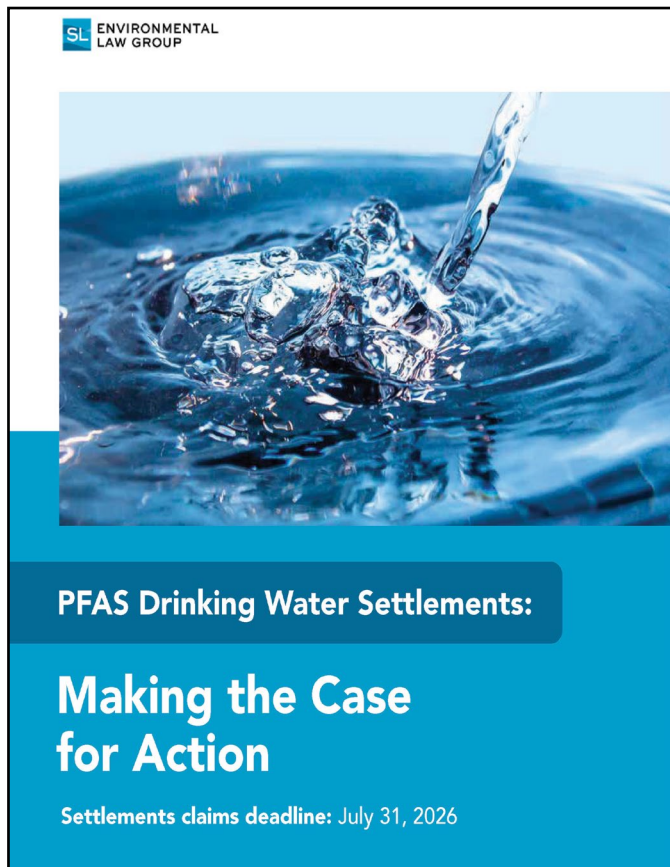
## Resources for PFAS Drinking Water Settlements and Contamination Funding Strategies Guide

PROVIDED BY SL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW GROUP


Below you will find links to some helpful materials:

- A brief action list for the PFAS water settlements, outlining key considerations ahead of the July deadlines and potential next steps for eligible agencies
- A guide to PFAS impacts beyond drinking water, including how contamination may affect municipalities and what to keep in mind when planning for potential costs

**Just click on the graphic below to view the document.**



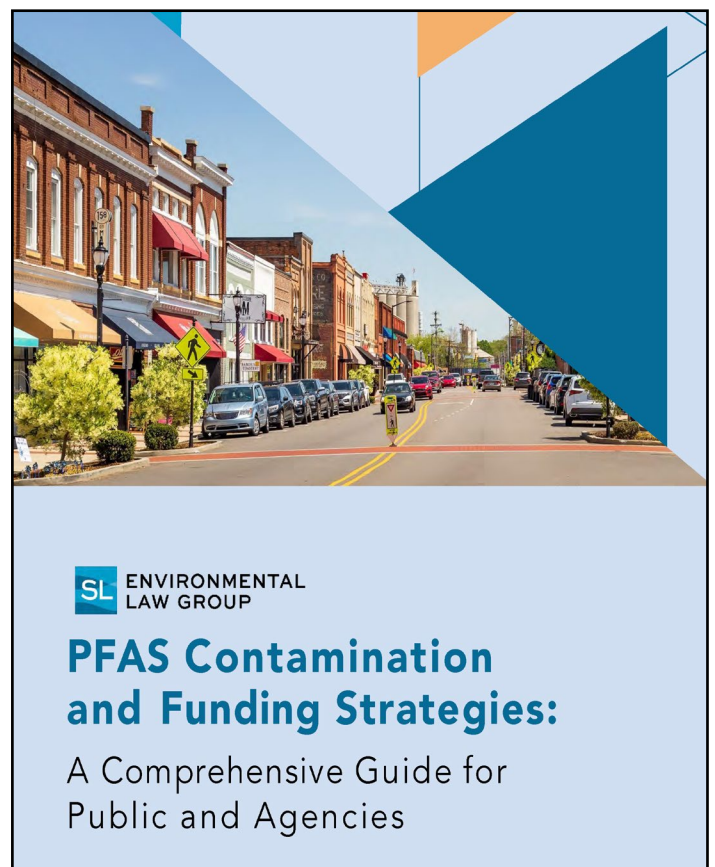
SL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW GROUP




**PFAS Drinking Water Settlements:**

**Making the Case for Action**

Settlements claims deadline: July 31, 2026



SL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW GROUP



**PFAS Contamination and Funding Strategies:**

A Comprehensive Guide for Public and Agencies

## Flash Flood in Palmer Township Demonstrates the Need for Proactive Stormwater Program Funding and Management

BY JUDY LINCOLN, SENIOR CONTENT & DIGITAL STRATEGIST, HRG, INC.

Imagine staring into a crater that's 30 feet deep, 40 feet wide, and 60 to 80 feet long. That's exactly where Palmer Township manager Bob Williams found himself on a Sunday morning in July three years ago.

*"It was like a Grand Canyon type of fissure,"* he said. And like the Grand Canyon, the crater was carved by water. A microburst storm had dumped four inches of rain on portions of the township in less than 2 hours overnight. That's equivalent to more than 100,000 gallons per acre. The force of this water bursting through a failed stormwater pipe had torn through two residential backyards, leaving a massive hole behind with a fence dangling in mid-air from its post.

The township's stormwater engineer, George White of Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG), said, *"It was like nothing I've seen before."*



*View looking northwest at a portion of the damage which occurred when a 48" stormwater sewer pipe failed during flash flooding.*



*The flash flood lifted the asphalt trail surface and washed 20" rocks under the asphalt.*

White had seen stories about the flash flood in Palmer on the news, jumped in his car, and was on his way to investigate before Williams even called him. He was already en route when Williams dialed him in that morning and joined township personnel on site within 15 minutes of the call.

Williams, White, and the township's public works director Scott Kistler immediately focused on ensuring the foundation of the two homes were stable. Once they did, they set out to survey the rest of the flood damage across the township, and it was significant.

Floodwaters had continued south, depositing three feet of rock, soil, and debris on a nearby roadway before eroding another ditch approximately 15 feet deep and 125 feet long. A rush of stormwater over a bike path in Riverview Park had damaged approximately 100 feet of paved pathway, lifting and folding the asphalt. Schoeneck Creek had overtopped a culvert underneath Van Buren Road, causing significant damage and compromising its structural

# Extreme Events

integrity. *“There was a lot of residential damage in different areas of the township,”* too, according to Williams. *“We were out pretty much the entire day assessing the damage.”*

## The value of thorough documentation in the immediate aftermath of a storm

Williams and his team moved quickly on Sunday to document the storm damage, a smart move for any municipality responding to an extreme weather event. Municipal managers need to ensure infrastructure is safe after a storm subsides. Some roads may need to be closed until emergency repairs can be completed. Utility lines could be damaged; streambanks may be unstable. Geotagged photos, measurements, and timestamped records will help engineers develop repair plans and support any claims the municipality may make to their insurance company or federal and state agencies. These agencies can move fast in the aftermath of a storm.

FEMA officials met with the township within days of the storm to tour the damage, and Palmer Township was able to give them a detailed assessment from HRG’s engineers documenting the damage, outlining emergency repairs, and providing clear cost estimates. Ultimately, however, the agency did not provide funding to Palmer. Though Palmer had sustained significant damage from the storm, the damage across the rest of the county did not meet required thresholds for funding. Even in storms as severe as the one Palmer weathered, federal funding is not a certainty, so municipalities need to act now to ensure they will have the money to respond when disaster strikes.

## The need to proactively fund and manage your stormwater system

The total cost of emergency repairs was more than \$3.7 million. Municipalities don’t typically have this kind of money available in their reserves, nor do they typically have it budgeted for their stormwater program, as Williams can attest. *“We didn’t have a specific line item in the budget for stormwater,”* he said. *“We had a line item for lost dogs, but not for stormwater.”* Thankfully, they had recognized this need months before the storm had hit and were in the process of forming a stormwater authority to proactively manage their infrastructure. The township put the initial \$3.7 million forward for the repairs, and the utility authority repaid the municipality after it began collecting revenue.



*Scouring at the southeastern corner of the culvert has started to undermine Van Buren Road. A corrugated metal liner from the northern culvert was also displaced by the flooding.*

But the real value of the authority is proactive capital improvement planning. Before the authority, the township only addressed its stormwater system when it failed, like so many municipalities across the state. Now, using the dedicated revenue from a stormwater fee, the township has mapped its entire system and is prioritizing the infrastructure most in need of repair. Corrugated metal pipes – like the one that failed and opened up that massive crater three years ago – are at the top of the list. *“Hopefully, we can prevent damage like this from happening next time a severe storm moves through Palmer,”* White said.

This is Williams’ most earnest advice to fellow municipal managers: find an engineer with stormwater expertise you can trust and get your program together now. He’s thankful he had already started that process before the storm hit in 2023. *“I didn’t know George a year earlier,”* he said. If this storm

# Extreme Events

would've happened then, *"I wouldn't have known who to call or where to find the money."* But when disaster struck, *"George was there in 15-20 minutes. Within days, he and his team had a three-prong plan for emergency repairs, longer term rehabilitation measures for affected infrastructure, and community-wide capital improvement planning to proactively mitigate future flood risk."*

Williams served in the military and had assisted with disaster response with the Army National Guard, so he and his team at Palmer rehearsed and trained for extreme events routinely. He has a good relationship with the municipal fire commissioner and a close-knit emergency response team that also includes the police chief and assistant township manager. They knew how to respond to the storm in real time. Now they're proactively working to mitigate future flood risk before the next big storm arrives.

Mapping infrastructure, conducting a condition assessment, and prioritizing capital improvements are smart steps every community should take. Investing in a hydraulic model can also help municipalities understand how stormwater flows through the community and mitigate potential flooding where the risk is highest. None of this is possible without proper funding, and a stormwater fee can be a valuable tool for municipalities with limited general revenue.

Setting up a fee takes time; Palmer spent almost a year setting up its stormwater authority, so municipalities should act now, Williams says. *"I have two words for my fellow municipal managers: Do it. You will experience an extreme storm event; Mother Nature has a way of sprinkling that around. Find an engineering firm you can trust that has the expertise and a deep bench of talent to help you through times like this. Start getting your stormwater program in order proactively. These are long-term projects. It's a 5,10-, and 20-year plan."*

Here is a checklist of recommendations to ensure your municipality is properly prepared for its flash flood risk:

## Before Storm Season Arrives

- Maintain an inventory of flood-prone areas
- Inspect stormwater assets
- Verify emergency contacts
- Review road closure plans
- Practice emergency response procedures

## When a Storm is Anticipated

- Monitor forecasts
- Clear critical inlets/culverts
- Stage equipment
- Notify departments
- Prepare public messaging
- Activate your emergency response team
- Begin field monitoring
- Pre-position barricades
- Coordinate with emergency services
- Issue public advisories

## During the Storm

- Prioritize safety
- Close flooded roads early
- Monitor utilities/infrastructure
- Maintain communications
- Track damages in real time

## After the Storm

- Conduct damage assessments
- Document thoroughly
- Identify hidden failures
- Restore access/utilities
- Perform an after-action review to identify potential improvements in response for next time.
- Update flood maps, emergency plans, and capital improvement priorities, as needed

## Long-Term Resilience Measures

- Consider investments in upsizing storm sewers, replacing aging infrastructure, and floodplain reconnection.
- Evaluate your zoning and floodplain ordinances



*Judy Lincoln -Senior Content and Digital Strategist at Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.*

## How Extreme Weather Impacts Municipal Infrastructure

BY ASHLEY SHIWARSKI , SR. DIRECTOR, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, HOMESERVE

City planners and local governments are facing a rapidly escalating crisis. Across the globe, weather patterns are shifting, bringing unprecedented storms, deep freezes, and severe flooding to regions that were never designed to handle them. For municipalities, this climate volatility directly translates to immense pressure on underground utilities.

Water and sewer systems form the invisible backbone of any thriving community. When these systems fail, the disruption is immediate and widespread. Streets flood, homes lose access to clean drinking water, and local governments are forced to divert essential funds to emergency repairs. As extreme weather events become more frequent, relying on reactive maintenance is no longer a viable financial or operational strategy for local governments.

Navigating this new reality requires proactive solutions. One increasingly vital tool for both local governments and residents is the implementation of service line protection plans. This article explores how extreme weather is stressing municipal infrastructure and explains why service line protection plans offer a necessary safety net for municipalities and homeowners alike.

### The Growing Challenges for Municipalities

Most municipal infrastructure was built decades ago, designed for a climate that no longer exists. Today, local governments are fighting a constant battle against the elements, with water and sewer lines taking the brunt of the damage.

Severe cold snaps are causing deep ground freezes in areas unaccustomed to such dropping temperatures. When the ground freezes, the soil expands and shifts, putting immense physical pressure on aging, brittle pipes. This leads to catastrophic water main breaks that can leave entire neighborhoods without water

for days. Repairing these breaks requires heavy machinery, emergency labor rates, and significant road reconstruction.

On the other end of the spectrum, heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt overwhelm wastewater systems. Sudden influxes of water cause sewer lines to back up, leading to localized flooding and environmental hazards. The sheer volume of water can erode the soil supporting these underground networks, causing pipes to sag, crack, or completely collapse. Pennsylvania has seen these risks firsthand. During Winter Storm Fern in January 2026, record-breaking snow in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, along with dangerous ice and freezing rain, put added stress on utilities and water infrastructure. Events like this show how quickly extreme weather can strain municipal systems and turn routine maintenance issues into urgent public works emergencies. For municipalities, managing these crises drains public works budgets and stretches municipal staff to their absolute limits.

### Service Line Protection Plans as a Municipal Solution

To combat the rising tide of infrastructure failures, municipalities are rethinking their approach to utility maintenance. Service line protection plans have emerged as a powerful preventative measure. These programs help bridge the gap between public responsibility and private ownership, creating a more resilient community network.

When a municipality partners with a protection plan provider, they take an important step toward mitigating disaster for homeowners. These plans often include access to vetted, specialized networks of contractors who can respond immediately to line breaks or blockages. By having a streamlined system in place for rapid repairs, municipalities can prevent

# Extreme Events

minor problems from evolving into major headaches and significant financial hardships.

Furthermore, these programs help educate the public about the shared responsibility of utility maintenance. When private lines are well-maintained, the public main lines experience less strain. Protection plans essentially act as a buffer, reducing the administrative burden on city officials and ensuring that localized issues are resolved quickly and professionally before they impact the broader municipal grid.

## **The Homeowner's Perspective: Risks to Private Lines**

While municipal public works departments manage the main utility lines running under city streets, homeowners are typically responsible for the private service lines connecting their houses to the public grid. Many residents are completely unaware of this responsibility until disaster strikes.

Extreme weather does not respect property lines. The same deep freezes that shatter city water mains are equally destructive to the private pipes running through a homeowner's front yard. A sudden freeze can cause a private water line to burst, resulting in thousands of gallons of water flooding the property. Similarly, torrential downpours can overwhelm aging private sewer laterals, pushing raw sewage back up into residential basements.

Tree roots also thrive during periods of heavy rain, aggressively seeking out the moisture inside older, porous sewer lines. Once these roots breach the pipe, they cause severe blockages that are incredibly difficult and expensive to clear. For the average homeowner, these weather-induced utility failures are sudden, chaotic, and highly destructive.

## **Shielding Homeowners from Unforeseen Costs**

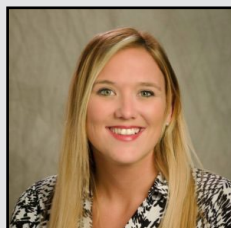
The financial impact of a failed service line can be devastating for a family. Repairing or replacing a buried water or sewer line often requires excavating driveways, uprooting landscaping, and hiring specialized plumbing contractors. These repairs typically cost thousands of dollars, a sum that many households simply do not have readily available in savings.

Standard homeowners insurance rarely covers wear and tear or weather-related degradation of exterior underground service lines. This leaves residents entirely exposed to the financial fallout of a deep freeze or sudden flood.

Service line protection plans provide a critical financial shield. By paying a small monthly fee, homeowners gain peace of mind knowing they are covered against these unforeseen disasters. If a line breaks due to shifting, freezing ground, or other extreme weather-related conditions, the homeowner simply makes a phone call. Many service line protection plans also include coverage for thawing frozen pipes, which can help prevent a small winter emergency from becoming a major and costly repair. The protection plan coordinates the contractor, manages the repair process, and covers the expensive excavation and replacement costs. This prevents families from going into debt and ensures that vital sanitation and water services are restored as quickly as possible.

## **Building Resilience Through Proactive Planning**

As weather patterns continue to test the limits of our built environment, both local governments and private citizens must adapt. We can no longer afford to wait for pipes to burst and streets to flood before taking action. Embracing service line protection is a highly effective way to build long-term resilience. For municipalities, these programs reduce the strain on public resources and help maintain the integrity of the broader utility network. For homeowners, they offer vital financial protection against the hidden, expensive risks buried in their front yards. By working together to protect these essential systems, communities can weather the storms ahead with confidence and security.



*Ashley Shiwarski -Senior Director,  
Business Development for Utility  
Service Partners, Inc., a HomeServe  
Company*

## Weathering the Storm

**SUBMITTED BY KENN BENNETT, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR,  
LANCASTER CLEAN WATER PARTNERS**

### Lancaster County Municipalities Are Handling More Extreme Weather

A summer thunderstorm that once dropped an inch of rain over several hours can now unleash multiple inches in a matter of minutes. Across Pennsylvania, municipalities are discovering that stormwater systems built decades ago are increasingly unable to handle today's more intense weather patterns.

In Lancaster County, the consequences often reflect that as well: flooded roads, damaged properties, eroded streambanks, polluted waterways, and sewer systems pushed to their limits.

Yet Lancaster County has emerged as a leader in developing solutions that address both flooding and water quality. Through innovative partnerships, municipal planning, and community engagement, local governments and conservation organizations are creating a blueprint for how communities can adapt to a future that includes more extreme weather.

### Conservation Can Be A Solution to Stormwater Issues

Recent storms have demonstrated just how vulnerable communities can be. In 2025, portions of Lancaster County received more than six inches of rain during



*Blue Green Connector - Photo Credit: Michelle Johnsen*

individual storm events. These storms tested both traditional infrastructure and newer green infrastructure projects designed to slow and absorb runoff before it reaches streams.

Local, award-winning projects like the Blue Green Connector and the Long's Park wetlands project are actively implementing best management practices (BMP's) to control and contain stormwater runoff through natural and engineered techniques.

The newly restored [Blue Green Connector](#) wetlands along the Little Conestoga Creek help manage nearly 2 million gallons of water every day. By restoring 25 acres of floodplain and removing thousands of cubic yards of legacy sediment, the project reconnects the creek to its natural floodplain, increasing its ability to absorb, store, and filter stormwater. It includes aspects of public access and public art as well, welcoming the community in diverse ways.



*Longs Park Wetlands -  
Photo Credit: Lancaster Clean Water Partners*

The [Long's Park wetlands](#) capture stormwater from the park, nearby roads, and Long's Pond, slowing the flow and allowing sediment and pollutants to settle out. Floating wetland islands and plant roots then naturally filter the water, removing excess nutrients

# Extreme Events

and improving water quality before it continues downstream. The system proved its worth during severe storms last July.

“During the storms earlier this month, the system worked exactly as it was designed.” Water Resources Engineer, Angie Brackbill said in a 2025 interview, “It handled the rainfall and the runoff from Route 30 and avoided the local flooding the area would have seen in years past.” This project was awarded the top honor as the **[Best Urban BMP in the Bay \(BUBBA\) by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network in 2025.](#)**

How these projects, and others, fared in the July 2025 storms was documented in the blog “Weathering the Storms”, <https://lancastercleanwaterpartners.com/weathering-the-storms/>

## A Neighborhood Scale Approach

One of the most promising examples of local adaptation is taking place in West Lampeter Township’s Heatherfield neighborhood.

Through a partnership involving Lancaster Clean Water Partners, West Lampeter Township, engineering firm RK&K, Lancaster Conservancy, and numerous community stakeholders, a comprehensive stormwater master plan was developed to address chronic flooding, aging infrastructure, and water quality concerns.

The project demonstrates that effective stormwater management requires more than engineering, it also requires listening to residents. More than 250 households received information about the planning process, and 123 homeowners completed surveys documenting flooding concerns and stormwater issues on their properties. Residents identified flooding hotspots, shared historical information, and helped engineers better understand how water moves through the neighborhood during storms.

The result is a community-informed plan that not only identifies infrastructure improvements but also creates a model that can be replicated in other residential neighborhoods throughout Lancaster County. Future implementation projects in West Lampeter Township include replacing aging pipes while adding green infrastructure designed to capture and infiltrate runoff.

Lessons learned from the Heatherfield project were clear: much of Lancaster County’s stormwater infrastructure is nearing the end of its useful life. Many neighborhoods were built decades ago, and homeowners often do not realize they may share responsibility for maintaining stormwater easements, pipes, swales, and drainage structures located on private property.

To address this issue, project leads developed legal guidance documents, homeowner education materials explaining stormwater responsibilities and maintenance needs, a storymap that displays the designs, and more. These resources are now being adapted for use by other municipalities countywide.

## Why Act 167 Matters

As communities grapple with these challenges, Pennsylvania’s Stormwater Management Act, commonly known as Act 167, has become increasingly important. Act 167 requires counties to develop watershed-based stormwater management plans and requires municipalities to adopt ordinances that implement those plans. The law was created to reduce the damaging impacts of accelerated stormwater runoff while addressing water quality, water quantity, and groundwater recharge.

Lancaster County recently completed its Act 167 Phase I planning effort with participation from 54 of the county’s 60 municipalities. Phase 1 establishes a strategic framework for updating the county’s watershed-based stormwater management plan. This effort builds upon the 2013 Blueprints plan and aligns with the county’s comprehensive planning initiative, places2040, which emphasizes stewardship of existing resources. The Phase I study also supports the goals of the **[Countywide Action Plan \(CAP\)](#)**, a key component of Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The strong response from local municipalities reflects growing recognition that stormwater problems cannot be solved by individual municipalities acting alone. Water flows across municipal boundaries, and effective solutions must do the same. County leaders are now advancing Phase II planning and implementation efforts, well positioning Lancaster for next steps.

# Extreme Events

## MS4 Permits and Regulatory Uncertainty

Municipalities also face requirements under Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permits, commonly known as MS4 permits. These permits require communities to reduce pollution entering waterways through stormwater systems and implement programs focused on public education, illicit discharge detection, construction site controls, and long-term stormwater management. Pennsylvania's DEP [issued a draft MS4 permit](#) on January 18, 2025 and has administratively [extended the current permit](#). Language about the new permit includes: In recognition of the increase in runoff as a result of climate change, the DEP will focus the MS4 permit on the management of runoff volume to reduce flooding. This new volume-focused approach aims to manage stormwater from 88% of the impervious area in the municipality over the next 50 years.

Despite the uncertainty of future MS4 requirements, Lancaster County's municipalities continue investing in projects because the need extends beyond regulatory compliance. Flooding, infrastructure failures, and water quality degradation affect residents regardless of permit requirements. There are a myriad of examples of local municipalities stepping up and orchestrating projects that help to mitigate floodwaters.



*Overlook Park - Photo Credit: Lancaster Clean Water Partners*

At [Overlook Park](#), native plantings spread across multiple acres help protect local waterways from pollution while improving the park's natural ecology.

The effort was made possible through collaboration with local partners, including the Stroud Water Research Center and Manheim Township.

Located in Warwick Township, the project along Lititz Run at Ballstown Road will restore approximately 1700 feet of the Lititz Run floodplain. As part of its restoration efforts, the township will remove legacy sediment and realign the stream channel. The township estimates the restoration project will reduce up to 225,000 lbs of sediment per year and restore approximately five acres of wetlands. ([SRBC.gov](#))

In the [Rock Lititz campus](#), a 17-acre floodplain restoration along the Santo Domingo Creek helped repair decades of environmental damage. The privately funded project removed legacy sediment, stabilized streambanks, and planted native vegetation to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and increase groundwater recharge.



*Mount Joy Borough - Photo Credit: Lancaster Clean Water Partners*

A Mount Joy Borough stream restoration project is improving a 24-acre section of Little Chiques Creek to reduce flooding, stabilize eroding streambanks, and improve water quality. Through a phased approach, the project uses native plantings and floodplain benches to capture sediment and pollutants before they reach downstream waterways.

The Mount Joy Borough project was funded by several grants, which allowed the work to be done for no cost

# Extreme Events

to the residents, who have been appreciative of the Borough's efforts.

*"Numerous residents have come up to us and have been very pleased with the work we are doing here,"* said Mount Joy Borough Manager, Mark Pugliese.

The annual MS4orum and municipal training programs have become important venues for sharing best practices and helping local officials navigate changing regulations. In 2025 alone, more than 160 municipal staff, engineers, public works professionals, and elected officials participated in stormwater training events.

The annual MS4orum brings together municipal staff, public works professionals, conservation leaders, and engineers to share practical tools and knowledge for meeting MS4 requirements and improving local water quality. The 2026 event is scheduled for October 5th. Look for more details coming soon!

Of the event, a representative from Penn Township said, *"Loved the speakers you had this year. Just the perfect amount of "hey listen to the science + this is what's happening in real life/common sense."*

## A Vision Beyond Compliance

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of Lancaster County's stormwater work is that it extends beyond regulatory requirements.

The county's stream delisting strategy aims to remove twenty streams from Pennsylvania's impaired waters list by 2040. The West Lampeter Township project represents one piece of that larger effort, using residential stormwater management that connects to preserved areas and agriculture to improve stream health, all while creating more resilient communities.

The work has already generated significant momentum. Municipalities across Lancaster County are adapting lessons learned from Heatherfield to address similar challenges in their own neighborhoods. Partner organizations are securing new funding for green infrastructure, stream restoration, and stormwater retrofits. Community organizations are training landscapers, educating students, and engaging homeowners in stewardship efforts.

Extreme weather is likely to remain a defining challenge in the coming decades. But Lancaster County's experience demonstrates that communities can do more than simply react to storms. Through thoughtful planning, collaboration, and investment, they can build systems that are stronger, more resilient, and better prepared for whatever comes next.



*Kenn Bennett - Communications Coordinator for Lancaster Clean Water Partners, where he serves as the principal storyteller connecting partner organizations, regional stakeholders, and community members around the mission for clean and clear water. Since 2023, he has worked to amplify the Partners' message by coordinating communications across sectors, highlighting success stories, and engaging the public in Lancaster County's clean water efforts.*

# ***COURSES RETURNING THIS FALL!***



## **League Learning Academy**

### ***LEARNING TRACKS***



**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MANAGEMENT**

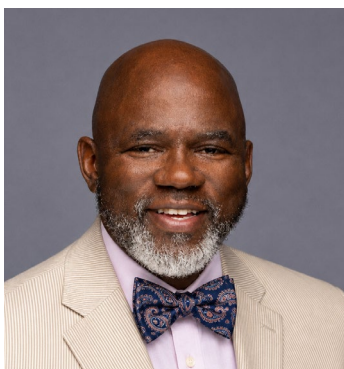
**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**FINANCE**

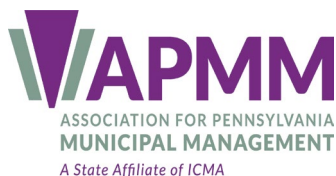


***[PML.org/training-development/league-learning-academy](https://pml.org/training-development/league-learning-academy)***

# APMM President's Message



**CRANDALL O. JONES**  
CHIEF ADMIN. OFFICER  
UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP



**APMM.net**

Greetings, Fellow APMM Members,

*As I begin my term as President of APMM, I do so with a deep appreciation for the leaders who have shaped this organization over the past 76 years. APMM's strength today is the result of the dedication, professionalism, and vision of those who came before us – municipal managers and administrators who invested their time, shared their expertise, and built a professional community that continues to support local government leaders throughout the Commonwealth.*

*I am especially grateful to my predecessor, Dan Santoro, Township Manager of Cranberry Township, for his outstanding service during the past two years. Dan's leadership helped guide APMM through an important period of reflection and planning, culminating in the adoption of our 2026–2029 Strategic Plan. Through an inclusive process that engaged members from across Pennsylvania, Dan and the Strategic Planning Committee helped chart a course that honors our history while positioning APMM to meet the shifting landscape ahead.*

*The plan begins with a simple but resonating truth – APMM's greatest strength is its people. Through the development process, members consistently described our association as collegial, supportive, and collaborative. It is our relationships that have always been at the heart of our mission to promote professional, ethical, and effective local government management in Pennsylvania.*

*At the same time, our profession is changing. Municipal managers face increasing workforce challenges, fiscal pressures, technological change, and a more complex public environment. Our strategic plan recognizes these realities and calls on us to invest in leadership development, strengthen member engagement, elevate awareness of professional management, build organizational capacity, expand partnerships, and foster ethical and inclusive leadership.*

*A strategic plan, however, is only a document until we collectively bring it to life.*

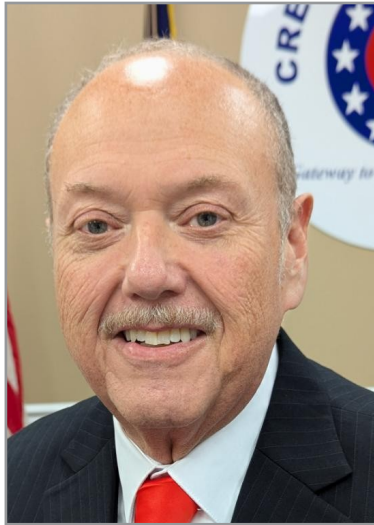
*Over the coming months and years, I encourage each of you to find a place within the work called out in the plan. Volunteer for a committee. Mentor an emerging professional. Share your expertise with colleagues. Invite a new manager into our network. Advocate for the value of professional local government management in your community. The future success of APMM will not be determined by any one president or board; rather, it will be shaped by the collective engagement of our members.*

*We all recognize that the challenges facing local government are significant, but so is the opportunity. Together, we can strengthen the profession, support one another, and ensure that ethical, effective, and inclusive municipal management continues to serve Pennsylvania communities for generations to come. Let's go!*

Sincerely,

Crandall O. Jones

# PSATC President's Message



TODD K. MILLER  
COMMISSIONER  
CRESCENT TOWNSHIP



[firstclasstownshipa.org](http://firstclasstownshipa.org)

## *The role of local government during extreme events*

*We in local government serve as the primary coordinators during extreme events. This is a huge responsibility with a lot of stressful emotions. Using established emergency management frameworks can help us to organize local response efforts and address threats to public safety and community well-being.*

*In the early stages of an extreme event, local officials are often the first point of contact for residents. We must support immediate efforts to reduce risk, communicate clearly with the public, and coordinate essential services while outside assistance is still being mobilized. Some of our biggest responsibilities during the events include:*

- **Communication** – maintaining mass notification systems that keep residents informed before and during an emergency.
- **Resource Sharing** – using formal agreements with neighboring communities to share personnel and equipment during a crisis.
- **Service Continuity** – sustaining local health and essential services to reduce disruptions and limit additional strain on hospitals.
- **Public Safety Operations** – directing police and fire resources to the municipality's most urgent needs.

*The work continues long after the extreme events. Recovery requires local officials to shift from immediate response to long-term restoration. This work often includes incorporating reconstruction standards into planning and coordinating with private-sector and nonprofit partners to meet community needs effectively.*

- **Recovery Planning** – using post-disaster needs assessments to estimate losses and prioritize critical infrastructure repairs.

- **Fiscal Accountability** – managing federal, state, and county disaster programs while streamlining reimbursement for administrative costs.
- **Institutional Capacity** – strengthening the local government's ability to coordinate with private-sector partners when outside support is limited.

*Together, these responsibilities make local governments central to community resilience during increasingly severe weather events and other large-scale disruptions.*

*Sincerely,*

*Todd K. Miller*

Todd K. Miller

# Legislative Status Report STATE



PREPARED BY AMY STURGES, LEAGUE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ADVOCACY – [asturges@pml.org](mailto:asturges@pml.org)  
KAITLIN ERRICKSON, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MANAGER – [kerrickson@pml.org](mailto:kerrickson@pml.org)

*All legislation can be found on the General Assembly's website:*

[legis.state.pa.us](http://legis.state.pa.us)

## Legislative Update

### The League and PSATC Testify on Fire Apparatus

The Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee held a public hearing on the cost of fire apparatus on Monday, June 8. Both The League and PSATC offered testimony highlighting our members responsible planning and funding for fire apparatus purchases, as well as the challenges faced with the rising costs and lengthy lead times for production.

A recording of the hearing and our written testimony can be viewed [here](#).

### Governor Shapiro Releases GRID Standards

Governor Josh Shapiro [released](#) the full Governor's Responsible Infrastructure Development (GRID) Standards, establishing clear guardrails and accountability measures for data center development in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Built around four core principles, the GRID Standards focus on protecting energy affordability, promoting transparency and community engagement, supporting workforce and economic development,

and strengthening environmental protection. If a data center developer follows these four guidelines, they are granted a streamlined permitting process and tax breaks.

The General Assembly will have to pass legislation to codify the mandates in the GRID policy and update existing tax law.

Read the full GRID Principles [here](#).

## Legislation Affecting Local Government

### Addressing Delinquent Tax Collection

*Second Consideration in the Senate, June 9, 2026*

**House Bill 852 (PN 3511)**, introduced by Representative Joe Webster, would amend the Local Tax Enabling Act. This bill originally allowed municipalities to send delinquency notices through first class mail instead of certified mail, however, it was amended in the Senate Finance Committee. The amended version of the bill would preserve delinquency tax notices through registered or certified mail. It would clarify notification requirements must be met before pursuing wage garnishment for delinquent taxes. A municipality, through a resolution, and a tax collection committee must formally approve any costs associated with delinquent tax collection. A municipality must provide public notification of costs associated with recouping the delinquent taxes at their physical office building and on their website. The tax collection committee would be required to post notification on the tax collector's website.

Lastly, the bill would add the mercantile, business privilege, and amusement and admissions taxes to the list of delinquent taxes a municipality may recoup collections costs.

### Prohibiting Occupancy Limits

*Passed the House, June 8, 2026*

House Bill 2109 (PN 3488), introduced by Representative Tarik Khan, would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) mandating local governments set an occupancy limit of five unrelated individuals who live together in a single household. Limitations can only be based on health and safety standards, as well as whether the individuals are matriculated at a college or university. A local government would still be able to set occupancy limits for facilities licensed by the state.

### Accessory Dwelling Units

*Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee, June 5, 2026*

**House Bill 2186 (PN 3373)**, introduced by Representative John Inglis, amends Title 53

(Municipalities Generally) adding a new chapter mandating accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as a use by right in every municipality on parcels in which a residential building is permitted, except where superseded by a deed restriction. The legislation lists a number of prohibited municipal regulations of ADUs. Lastly, a municipality may prohibit an ADU from being rented for fewer than 30 days at a time.

### Municipal Consolidation or Merger Act

*Senate Local Government Committee, June 5, 2026*

**House Bill 2361 (PN 3316)**, introduced by Representative Bob Freeman, would amend the Municipal Consolidation or Merger Act to make substantive changes to clarify the procedures for consolidation and mergers initiated by a petition of electors, as well as specify grant eligibility for merged or consolidated municipalities. Substantial updates include:

- defining both consolidation and merger agreements in the case of voter initiation and joint agreements in the case of municipal governing body initiation;
- specifying membership and organization for the transitional planning committee and creating an advisory committee for voter-initiated proceedings;
- requiring the Court of Common Pleas to appoint the additional affected resident member if no agreement is made;
- providing court mediation in situations where a consolidation and merger agreement cannot be finalized or is rejected by at least one of the participating municipal governing bodies;
- requiring municipal approval, by ordinance, of court mediated consolidation and merger agreements, and specifies that this approval is subject to an action in mandamus;
- allowing the Court of Common Pleas, in the cases of voter-initiated consolidations or mergers, to extend statutory deadlines if necessary; and
- lastly, allowing municipalities, regardless of how a merger or consolidation was initiated, to maintain existing grant eligibility for no more than seven years after a successful consolidation or merger.

## **Prevailing Wage Expansion to Custom Fabrication**

*Passed the Senate, June 10, 2026*

**Senate Bill 908 (PN 1804)**, introduced by Senator Frank Farry, would amend the Prevailing Wage Act expanding the definition of “public work” to include custom fabrication. Custom fabrication means fabrication, assembly, or production of nonstandard goods or materials fabricated or assembled offsite specifically for a public works project. The minimum wage rate for custom fabrication shall be the same as the wage paid for project work in accordance with each applicable trade. Compliance and reporting requirements are the same for custom fabricators as they are for other contractors and subcontractors.

## **Sunshine Act – Clarifying When a Posted Agenda May be Changed**

*Passed the Senate, June 10, 2026*

**Senate Bill 1150 (PN 1399)**, introduced by Senator Patrick Stefano, would amend the Sunshine Act following a December 2025 PA Supreme Court decision regarding Act 65 of 2021. The Court ruled that Act 65 authorizes four reasons an agenda may be changed by a governing body after being posted 24 hours prior to a public meeting, including:

- emergency business;
- business arising within 24 hours before a meeting;
- business that is de minimis and arises during a meeting; or
- other business when approved by a majority vote of the governing body.

Senate Bill 1150 would narrow the Court’s interpretation. Any change to a posted agenda would require a majority vote of the governing body. The reasons for the change must be announced at the meeting before the vote is conducted and the new agenda must be posted on the agency’s website and office location no later than the first business day following the meeting.

## **Home Ownership and Housing Development Regulatory Compliance Officer**

*House Housing and Community Development Committee, June 3, 2026*

**Senate Bill 1279 (PN 1756)**, introduced by Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, would create the Reduce the Red Tape for Housing Act to provide for a Housing Compliance Officer in the Office of Transformation and Opportunity to facilitate federal, state, and local permitting processes for housing developments. The bill also sets timelines for reviewing permits by executive agencies.

## **Expedited High Density Housing Approvals**

*Passed the Senate, House Housing and Community Development Committee, June 3, 2026*

**Senate Bill 1281 (PN 1760)**, introduced by Senator Greg Rothman, would amend the Municipalities Planning Code adding a section to expedite approvals of high-density residential housing on lots zoned residential and served by public utilities through the use of pre-vetted plans.

The legislation would require the State Planning Board (Board) to adopt rules requiring municipalities to approve specific types of housing development as set out below:

- attached or detached housing, including accessory dwelling units, prefabricated or modular housing, or mixed use with residential;
- single or multi-unit housing with a buildable area of not more than 2,200 square feet;
- housing with an average per-unit size of not more than 1,400 square feet;
- multi-unit housing with fewer than 50 units;
- housing that complies with the maximum density requirements of the applicable comprehensive plan or land use regulations;
- housing whose building plans comply with Department of Labor and Industry (Department) pre-approved plans.

The Board may specify design standards, scope of design review, and allowable variations; and the Department may specify the requirements for pre-approved plans.

Municipalities would not be required to approve a development type that does not comply with its zoning ordinance or other land use regulations.

**Expanding LERTA Tax Abatement**

*Second Consideration in the Senate, June 9, 2026*

**Senate Bill 1374 (PN 1786)**, introduced by Senator Patrick Stefano, would amend the Local Economic

Revitalization Tax Assistance Act or (LERTA) providing the option to expand the length of a local tax abatement program for residential development from 10 years to 20 years. Nonresidential development would remain at the 10 year tax abatement timeline.

**House and Senate Session Days 2026**

**House**

Summer Recess July-August

September 28-30

**Senate**

Summer Recess July-August

September 28-30

*\*reminder - session dates are subject to change*



## CONGRESS' TRANSPORTATION BILL INTRODUCED FOR AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**AUTHORED BY BRITTNEY D. KOHLER, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES**



During national Infrastructure Week this May, the National League of Cities (NLC) was glad to see local [transportation priorities advance in the House with the introduction of the BUILD America 250 Act \(H.R. 8870\)](#). The BUILD America 250 Act is a bipartisan, five-year \$580 billion renewal proposal in roads, bridges, transit, rail and safety programs during America's 250th anniversary. This bill significantly maintains the gains for local governments from the five-year programs started in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Most notably, the House bill makes a historic investment in local bridges with 25 percent of all bridge funds going to local bridges. The bill renews the [Safe Streets program for local safety projects that are saving lives](#), and it maintains access for local governments to competitive grants with multiple programs. The bill incorporates key provisions from the Railway Safety Act to respond to the long-standing [call for action after the Norfolk Southern derailment in Ohio](#). It also increases flexible transportation formula funding through the Surface Transportation

Block Grant program to \$74.7 billion as well as the \$2.8 billion Metropolitan Planning program that supports regional transportation goals.

However, as with all legislation, there are areas of the bill that raise concerns, such as the inclusion of a pilot to increase the size and weight of large trucks that can damage infrastructure that is not built to withstand it. Additionally, some programs are not quite up to IIJA levels, including Safe Streets, transit and rail programs, among others. A state-consolidated pilot is proposed that would eliminate the transportation alternatives funding in up to ten states. Both the Carbon Reduction Program and Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) formula programs were eliminated, yet PROTECT discretionary funding was spared.

### **Selected Funding Levels for BUILD America 250 Act**

- **Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), \$74.7 billion**

- **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)**, \$15 billion
- **Transportation Alternatives Program**, \$8.3 billion
- **Safe Streets and Roads for All Program**, \$3.75 billion
- **Surface Transportation Accelerator Grant Program (STAG)**, \$12 billion (proxy for BUILD/RAISE grants) with 50 percent for local and regional, 25 percent for rural and 25 percent for urban grants (population of not less than 50,000)
- **Metropolitan Planning**, \$2.8 billion
- **Highway Safety Improvement Program**, \$17.49 billion
- **National Highway Performance Program**, \$166 billion
- **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program**, \$6 billion\*
- **PROTECT Grant Program**, \$500 million annually
- **Mega Grant Program (freight/multimodal)**, \$10 billion\*
- **Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program**, \$15 billion\*
- **Rail programs under the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**, \$64.7 billion\*

## How the Bill Moves Forward

Due to the election year schedule that often puts Congress in District during August and October, the House will be racing the Congressional clock with no more than 40 in-session workdays left this year. The BUILD America 250 Act will need input from several Committees, as well as House leadership and Rules action, to move to the floor for a final House vote. The Senate still does not have a bill in play by any of the three key Committees — Environment and Public Works, Commerce or Banking. However, the BUILD America 250 Act markup is a substantial step toward a long-term authorization as a bipartisan bill that could create momentum for Congress clearing their Sept. 30 deadline.

## What Congress Needs to Hear from Local Governments

Now is a good time to reach out to your Member of Congress and their transportation staff to ensure that your communities' transportation priorities are

known. If you want to send a infrastructure support letter to Congress quickly, you can use [NLC's letter template](#).

## COVERAGES

### PennPRIME Trust

- Property
- Auto Physical Damage
- Auto Liability
- General Liability
- Employee Benefit Liability
- Public Officials Liability
- Employment Practices Liability
- Police Professional Liability
- Cyber
- Crime
- Volunteer Insurance Program

### PennPRIME Workers' Compensation Trust

- Statutory Workers' Compensation
- Employer's Liability
- Public Law 477 Liability – Heart & Lung



**PennPRIME**  
INSURANCE TRUSTS | A Service Program of The League



**Get a quote!**

Lori Heenan

[lheenan@pml.org](mailto:lheenan@pml.org)

717-236-9469 ext. 251

# Public Finance

## PLGIT BOARD BASICS

### HOW THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SERVES AS YOUR VOICE AT THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT TRUST

BY MATT CONLIN, INSTITUTIONAL SALES & RELATIONSHIP MANAGER, PFM ASSET MANAGEMENT, A DIVISION OF U.S. BANCORP ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

Many PLGIT (or the Trust) investors recognize that the Trust is different from other investment options available in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Unlike traditional financial institutions, PLGIT's members own and operate the Trust.

PLGIT serves more than 3,300 local governments and schools in Pennsylvania, oversees more than \$11 billion in assets (as of December 31, 2025), and provides investors with tools such as online account management, check scanning, procurement cards, and more. In accordance with its information statement and investment policy, PLGIT seeks to invest solely in investments permitted under all applicable codes governing local governments, schools, and municipal authorities in Pennsylvania.

PLGIT is governed by a Board of Trustees selected from seven statewide sponsoring associations -- a critical structural difference that sets PLGIT apart. Who votes for the members of that Board? You do,

as a PLGIT Investor.

That vote is important because PLGIT's Trustees play a vital role. The Board you help elect performs important work overseeing service providers and helps ensure that PLGIT's stewardship is sound.

#### **Nominated by you, elected by you**

The 11 members of the all-volunteer Board of Trustees are nominated each year by PLGIT's sponsoring associations, which include: The Pennsylvania Municipal League; PSATS, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors; PSAB, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs; PMAA, the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association; CCAP, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania; PSATC, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners; and PASA, the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

Those nominees are, in turn, voted for and elected by PLGIT Investors. The Board of Trustees meets quarterly in public

meetings to review, discuss, and act on the business of the Trust.

To help ensure adequate representation of the diverse interests of participating entities, the Trust's nominating committee must nominate at least one candidate representing each of the following: boroughs, cities, counties, municipal authorities, school districts, townships of the first class, and townships of the second class. All Trustees must be either an elected official or a full-time employee of their respective municipality or school district. The Trust seeks to maintain a Board that represents a cross-section of entities, geographic regions, and municipalities of varying sizes. (For a full listing of PLGIT Board Members see our [website's Board of Trustees page](#).)

At its most recent elections in May 2026, Crandall O. Jones was elected as the Board's new President. He has served as a PLGIT trustee since 2018 and has been the Chief Administrative Officer of Upper Darby Township since 2024. Prior to his role in Upper Darby

Township, Jones served as Municipal Administrator for the Municipality of Norristown, Pennsylvania, for nearly 11 years. He has also held city and county management positions in Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Having Board members who are elected officials or administrative members from the investors PLGIT serves places decision-making responsibility in the hands of individuals with first-hand knowledge of the issues that affect local governments.

### **Ownership -- and stewardship -- on your behalf**

PLGIT's Declaration of Trust is the governing document of the Trust. It was initially drafted in 1981 and has been amended over time. The Declaration of Trust grants the Trustees broad decision-making authority, stating that "the Trustees shall have exclusive and absolute control...over the affairs of the Trust to the same extent as if the Trustees were the sole owners of the Trust Property." This authority empowers the Trustees to guide PLGIT's overall direction.

While the PLGIT Board of Trustees is not directly responsible for making Trust investment decisions, it does have important policymaking and oversight responsibilities that have a direct bearing on the success of the Trust. These duties include:

- **Reviewing vendors who work for the Trust.** The Board of Trustees reviews

the performance of service providers, including the investment advisor/administrator, legal counsel, auditors, and other vendors. The Board also reviews proposals and contracts for new services and vendors for the Trust.

- **Monitoring the performance of the PLGIT portfolio.** PLGIT Trustees are responsible for staying informed about the performance of PLGIT investments and understanding how Board-approved policies may affect that performance.
- **Receiving and reviewing the annual audit.** The Board of Trustees is responsible for selecting the firm that audits the Trust's accounts each year, reviewing the completed audit, and communicating the results to PLGIT investors.
- **Provide input on products and services.** Because PLGIT Trustees municipalities and schools of varying sizes and types, they offer valuable input on new programs and services designed to provide the greatest benefit to the widest range of Investors, such as the PLGIT-CD Purchase Program.

### **PFMAM: The Investment Advisor**

The Trust was formed, in part, to place municipal funds under the stewardship of school district and municipal officials—the PLGIT Trustees—who best understand the goals and requirements of

government investing. One of the Trustees' most important responsibilities is the selection and ongoing oversight of those advisors.

In 1981, the Board selected the firm that later became PFM Asset Management (PFMAM) to serve as investment advisor to PLGIT. The Trustees regularly review PFMAM's performance and the quality of service its staff provides – once again placing PLGIT's members in control. PLGIT's long-standing partnership with PFMAM has enabled the firm to develop a seasoned investment and service staff that works exclusively with local governments and schools.

These responsibilities fall under the Board's duty to ensure that investments remain consistent with the policies of the Trust. Trustees serve as the eyes and ears of the municipalities and schools they represent and act as advocates for those entities, as well as for the Trust as a whole.

For more information about the work of PLGIT's Board of Trustees, contact your PLGIT representative, or visit [www.plgit.com](http://www.plgit.com).

***Matt Conlin** is an Institutional Sales & Relationship Manager at PFM Asset Management, Investment Administrator to PLGIT. He works primarily with investors in the central part of the Commonwealth. He can be reached at [conlinm@pfmam.com](mailto:conlinm@pfmam.com).*

## **Important Disclosure Information**

*This information is for institutional investor use only, not for further distribution to retail investors, and does not represent an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any fund or other security. Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in any of the Trust's portfolios. This and other information about the Trust's portfolios are available in the current Information Statement, which should be read carefully before investing. A copy of the Information Statement may be obtained by calling 1-800-572-1472 or is available on the Trust's website at [www.plgit.com](http://www.plgit.com). While the PLGIT and PLGIT/PRIME portfolios seek to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1.00 per share and the PLGIT/TERM portfolio seeks to achieve a net asset value of \$1.00 per share at its stated maturity, it is possible to lose money investing in the Trust. An investment in the Trust is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Shares of the Trust's portfolio are distributed by U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc., member FINRA ([www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org)) and SIPC ([www.sipc.org](http://www.sipc.org)). PFM Asset Management is a division of U.S. Bancorp Asset Management, Inc., which serves as administrator and investment adviser to the Trust. U.S. Bancorp Asset Management, Inc. is a direct subsidiary of U.S. Bank N.A. and an indirect subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp. U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. is a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp and affiliate of U.S. Bank N.A.*

**pfm** asset  
management



**Member**  
The League's  
Business Leaders Network