



Shrewsbury Township

Newsletter

March 2024

2024 BUDGET & TAXES

New for 2024 is the implementation of a special tax for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which is further explained later in this newsletter. Also new for 2024 is the abolishment of the per capita tax.

The general purpose real estate tax remains unchanged from 2023, as does the fire protection tax, and the water hydrant special assessment.

The total budget (combined revenue & expenditures) for 2024 is \$7.74 million dollars.

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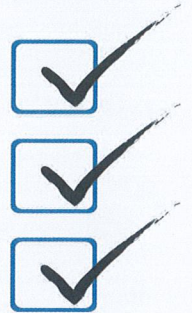
OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY INPUT

SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Southern York County Regional Planning Commission (SYCRPC) is currently working on an implementable, action-oriented 10-year Comprehensive Plan update for the Boroughs of Glen Rock, Railroad, New Freedom, Shrewsbury, and the Township of Shrewsbury. The plan will cover a range of topics, including community goals and objectives, future land-use maps, and implementation strategies.

A comprehensive plan is a long-range plan that captures the vision of where the community wants to be at some point in the future. It is an ordered process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. This resulting document expresses and regulates public policies on transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing. Comprehensive plans typically encompass large geographical areas, and a broad range of topics, and cover a long-term time horizon.

The SYCRPC is seeking community input to ensure that the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the residents of the Southern York County Region. To this end, the commission will launch online community surveys to gather feedback from the public. The survey is available on the Shrewsbury Township website.



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MISSED THE OPEN HOUSE?



The Open House of the new municipal complex, held on November 4, 2023, was a success with a steady flow of visitors during the 3-hour event.

For those who were unable to attend, but have an interest in a tour, please call the Township office at 717-235-3011 to schedule a time.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

On Saturday, **May 4, 2024** from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, York County residents (no businesses) can participate in this FREE event by dropping off their household waste (hazardous, chemical based cleaners, etc.) at 2685 Blackthorne Court, York, PA 17405.

REGISTRATION is **REQUIRED**, which will open online and by phone in early March. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.ycswa.com/services/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/>

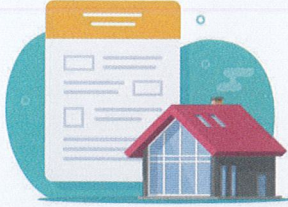
3.57 TONS OF MEDICATION DESTROYED IN 2023

In 2023, the York County Solid Waste Authority (YCSWA) disposed of a total of 3.57 tons of unused and expired residential medication collected via the YCSWA's secure Medication Return Box Program.

Currently, 20 York County police department locations partner with the YCSWA to host Medication Return Boxes in their police department lobbies, including the Southern Regional Police Department, 47 E. High Street, New Freedom, PA 17349. Unused and expired medications can be dropped off anonymously in the police department's lobby, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Residents should remove their personal information from containers before depositing them in the box. **ONLY RESIDENTIAL** prescription medications are accepted, as well as pet medications.





UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILLS

The Township Office and the Tax Collector frequently receive questions about tax bills. What is this tax bill for, who receives the taxes, why do I receive two (2) tax bills each year, etc. Hopefully, the following brief explanation of each tax bill will help answer those questions.

FEBRUARY (Municipal) Tax Bill (Calendar Year)

The tax bill that is mailed in February of each year includes both the York County and the Shrewsbury Township taxes/assessments on one (1) bill. The breakdown is as follows, **based upon** a property **assessed value** of **\$200,000**:

TAX TYPE	RATE	TAX AMOUNT	TOTAL TAXES COLLECTED FOR EACH TAX TYPE
York County ¹	6.9000	\$ 1,380	\$ 4,415,715
Township ²	0.0740	\$15	\$ 47,357
EMS ³	0.3300	\$ 66	\$ 211,186
Fire ⁴	0.4600	\$ 92	\$ 294,381
Hydrant ⁵	0.0950	\$ 19	\$ 26,468

- ¹ **York County (Real Estate Tax)** – revenue from this tax is used for the general operation of the County. The tax rate is set by the York County Commissioners.
- ² **Township (Real Estate Tax)** – revenue generated from this real estate tax is used for general operations of the Township [*i.e. roads, stormwater, recreation, parks, personnel, administration, legal, engineering, insurances, equipment, building & equipment maintenance, utilities, planning & zoning, debt service, and community organization donations (libraries, senior center, rail trail, etc.)*]. Current tax rate has not changed since 2008, which is set by the Shrewsbury Township Board of Supervisors.
- ³ **EMS Tax** – this is a new tax beginning in 2024, which was implemented to provide additional support to the two (2) ambulance services that serve the Township; specifically, Rose (New Freedom) EMS and Glen Rock Ambulance. The decline in volunteers and reduction in Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement, has resulted in the need to rely on more paid staff. This tax can be used ONLY for EMS; it cannot be used for any other purpose. The tax rate is set by the Shrewsbury Township Board of Supervisors.
- ⁴ **Fire Tax** – this tax has been in place since 2008. It provides financial support to the three (3) “*all volunteer*” fire companies that serve Shrewsbury Township, which includes Glen Rock Hose & Ladder, Rose (New Freedom) Fire Company, and Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Company. The revenue collected by this tax can be used ONLY to support the volunteer fire companies. The tax rate is set by the Shrewsbury Township Board of Supervisors.
- ⁵ **Hydrant Assessment** – this is a special assessment on any property that is located within 780 feet (maximum distance set by state law) of a fire hydrant owned by The York Water Company or Glen Rock Water Authority. The Township is billed annually for the rental of each fire hydrant. Shrewsbury Borough does not bill for their fire hydrants. The revenue collected from this special assessment is also restricted to expenses related to the fire hydrant rental charges. The assessment rate is set by the Shrewsbury Township Board of Supervisors.

JULY (School) Tax Bill (Fiscal Year July 1 – June 30)

This tax bill is mailed in July of each year and is for the Southern York County School District (Susquehannock). The tax rate is set by the Southern York County School Board. The breakdown is as follows, **based upon** a property **assessed value** of **\$200,000**:



TAX TYPE	RATE	TAX AMOUNT	TOTAL TAXES COLLECTED FOR SCHOOL
School	19.9100	\$ 3,982	\$ 12,741,574

ANNUAL TAX SUMMARY

In summary, if your property is assessed at **\$200,000**, your **TOTAL TAXES** are **\$5,554**, and of that amount, the amounts paid to each of three agencies is as follows:

TAXING AGENCY	TAX AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL TAX
SCHOOL	\$ 3,982	71.70%
COUNTY	\$ 1,380	24.85%
TOWNSHIP	\$ 192	3.46%

ABOLISHED - TOWNSHIP PER CAPITA TAX

The \$5.00 per capita tax (often referred to as a “nuisance tax”) assessed on every resident aged 18 or older has been abolished by the Board of Supervisors, effective January 1, 2024. You will no longer receive that tax bill with your County/Township tax bill.

ENACTED - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) TAX

As most are aware, volunteerism across the country and in every organization/service continues to rapidly decline. This trend is very evident in the volunteer ambulance services, with local ambulance services turning to partial or fully paid staff. The combination of the need for paid Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), significant reductions in Medicare/Medicaid payments for EMS services, and rising operating costs, has led to the need for greater financial support from the communities in which the ambulance companies serve.



The time has arrived that the Township had to enact a special tax strictly for the purpose of provided emergency medical services to the residents. All revenue collected from this tax can be used only for EMS. This new tax will appear on the County/Township tax bill that you received in February. A home assessed at \$200,000 will pay \$66.00 in 2024 for EMS.

TAX COLLECTOR

The Shrewsbury Township tax collector is elected to a four (4) year term, who is responsible for collecting the above taxes from Shrewsbury Township property owners on behalf of the Township, York County, and the Southern York County School District, each of whom set their own tax rates.



ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Asphalt Paving Vs Calibrated Chipping

A common question asked during the paving season is why the Township uses calibrated chipping (often referred to as “tar & chip”)

instead of the traditional asphalt (blacktop) paving.

Both methods provide a durable and long lasting road surface, but calibrated chipping is more economical than asphalt paving.

For example, a road that is one (1) mile long & 18 feet wide (10,560 sq. yd.):

- ◆ \$80,400 - Asphalt (9.5 MM at 2” depth)
- ◆ \$34,240 - Calibrated Chipping (double application)
- ◆ \$46,174 - **Cost savings** per road (using calibrated chipping)

There are several factors in determining the resurfacing application, such as condition of the existing roadway, daily traffic volume, and location (rural, residential, high density housing, low density housing, etc.).

JUST IN TIME FOR ST. PATTY’S DAY

Could you have some luck of the Irish? The Pennsylvania Treasury Department encourages everyone to check if you might have a piece of their \$4.5 billion worth of unclaimed property.

Unclaimed property is turned over the PA Treasury Department for dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks, insurance policies, stocks, etc. The average claim amount is \$1,600.

It is easy to find out online: patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, April 23, 2024



The Pennsylvania Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Polls are open from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. If you are not sure of your polling location, you can call the York County Office of Elections at 717-771-9604, or you can check online by visiting <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx>

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

Friday
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

12341 Susquehanna Trail S
Glen Rock, PA 17327

NUMBER OF PRESERVED FARMS GROWS IN TOWNSHIP

The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board recently approved the addition of 128 acres of preserved land in Shrewsbury Township, which increased the total of preserved agricultural land in the Township to **3,230 acres**.

When land is preserved under the program, a deed of agricultural conservation easement has been executed, and the restrictions placed on the land limits the use to commercial agricultural preservation in perpetuity (forever).



Meeting Dates

The following meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Municipal Complex
12341 Susquehanna Trail'S, Glen Rock

Board of Supervisors

March 6, 2024
April 3, 2024
May 1, 2024
June 5, 2024

Planning Commission

March 20, 2024
April 17, 2024
May 15, 2024
June 19, 2024

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

March 29th
Good Friday

May 27th
Memorial Day

Subdivision & Land Development Activity

During the period of October 2023 through February 2024, the following plans have been either received for consideration, have been (conditionally) approved, or approved & recorded at the York County Recorder of Deeds.

Pending Plans (under review by Township Staff or Board of Supervisors; not yet approved)

- ~ Dun-Par Holdings LLC - 836 E. Forrest Avenue; revised preliminary/final land development plan to redevelop property for mixed use (retail & self-storage).
- ~ Laricina Development (formerly known as Smith Tract Development) - E. Tolna Road & Mt. Airy Road; 46 Unit Active Adult Community.
- ~ Presidential Heights Associates - Mt. Airy Road; preliminary subdivision plan for 152 residential dwellings.
- ~ Shrewsbury Commons Joint Venture - Elm Drive; land development for 550,000 sq. ft. warehouse.
- ~ U.S. Industrial Club V Enterprises LLC "Hillwood" - Elm Drive; land development for 611,000 sq. ft. warehouse.

Approved Plans (conditional approval)

- ~ Rock Land Company, LLC (formerly Willard Agri Services) - 120 Theater Road; final land development for manufacturing agricultural fertilizer for direct field application.

VISION STATEMENT

ShrewsburyTownship will continue to cherish and preserve our agricultural heritage and protect our farmlands and open spaces, while embracing reasonable growth that adds value to our community without impeding the existing infrastructure. The Township will contain development within our defined growth area, and continue to promote landscaping enhancements and environmental stewardship, which will improve the quality of living throughout the Township. We will focus on the recreation and open space needs of the community, and promote improvements for the safe, convenient, and efficient movement of people and traffic. The Township will continue to work with neighboring municipalities on regional issues, and partnership with them to improve efficiency of services.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Shrewsbury Township is to provide efficient, fair, responsive, cost-effective services, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our residents and businesses. We will preserve our rural character while planning for reasonable and smart growth that adds value and improves the quality of life for all who live in, work in, and visit Shrewsbury Township.

SURVEY *continued from page 1*

This is an excellent opportunity for residents to have their say on the future of their community. The survey is designed to be accessible and user-friendly, and it should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete. The commission is keen to hear from as many people as possible, so please do take the time to share your thoughts and ideas.

The comprehensive plan for the Southern York County Region will focus on several major themes, including:

- ◆ **Agriculture, Open Space, and Other Forms of Preservation:** This theme will focus on preserving the natural beauty of the region, including farmland, forests, and other open spaces.
- ◆ **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** This theme will focus on promoting cooperation between local governments to address common issues and challenges.
- ◆ **Being an "Aging-In-Community":** This theme will focus on creating a community that is welcoming and supportive of residents of all ages, including seniors.
- ◆ **Increasing Access to Active Transportation:** This theme will focus on improving access to walking, biking, and other forms of active transportation.
- ◆ **Growing and Strengthening of Tourism and Economic Development:** This theme will focus on promoting economic growth and development in the region, including tourism and other industries.

The **survey** is **available through March & April 2024**, which can be assessed through the SYCRPC website at: <https://sycrpc.org/>
If you do not have internet access, or want to complete the survey in paper form, call the Township at 717-235-3011 for a copy to be mailed to you.



A promotional poster for the S.Y.C. Fire Camp. The background is a large, intense fire. On the left, a firefighter in full gear is shown from the back, with a yellow circular badge that says "\$100 FOR THE WEEK". In the center, the text reads "BUILDING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF FIREFIGHTERS" in white, followed by "S.Y.C. FIRE CAMP" in large yellow letters, and "JULY 24-28, 2023" in white. Below the text are three fire department logos: "PHEASANT CREEK FIRE CO. #1", "SHREWSBURY VOL. FIRE CO. #58", and "SHREWSBURY FIRE CO. #61 STATION 61". On the right side, there are five circular inset photos showing children participating in camp activities like obstacle courses and fire drills. At the bottom right, the contact information for Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Company is listed: "SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, 21 WEST FORREST AVENUE, SHREWSBURY, PA - 17361, WWW.SHREWSBURYFIRE.COM". At the bottom center, it says "MORE INFORMATION CALL: (717)-235-4476 OR EMAIL: SYCFIRECAMP@SHREWSBURYFIRE.COM".

Shrewsbury Township

12341 Susquehanna Trail S
Glen Rock, PA 17327

Phone: 717-235-3011
Fax: 717-227-0662

www.shrewsburytownship.org

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2023 PA PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

Older adults and people with disabilities 18 and older in Pennsylvania may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 in rebates. The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program supports homeowners and renters across Pennsylvania by providing a rebate ranging from \$380 to \$1,000 to eligible older adults and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The program is supported by funds from the Pennsylvania Lottery and Gaming.

Homeowners and renters in Pennsylvania may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 through a standard rebate. The amount of money you will receive is based on your income. Some applicants may qualify for supplemental rebates as well.

Income	Maximum Rebate
\$0 - \$8,000	\$1,000
\$8,001 - \$15,000	\$770
\$15,001 - \$18,000	\$460
\$18,001 - \$45,000	\$380

This program supports Pennsylvania homeowners and renters who are 65 and older, widows or widowers 50 and older, or people with disabilities 18 and older. In addition to age requirements, your household income must be \$45,000 or less annually.

There are a few ways to apply for the program: by mail, in-person, or online at <https://www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/Pages/default.aspx>.

Applications are due by **June 30, 2024**.

