



# Penndel Borough

## Winter 2025 Newsletter



### Mayor's Corner

Tom Sodano

Hello everyone! The winter season is here and from our home to yours, my wife Barbara and I wish you a safe, warm and Joyous Holiday Season!

I was happy to see many of you at the Borough Holiday Tree Lighting on December 7th. Thanks to the Penndel Fire Company for making sure Santa arrives on time and safe for the Tree Lighting, and for driving Santa through the Borough on Christmas Eve. Also, thank you to the Activities Committee of Penndel for hosting the event with cookies, hot chocolate and goodies for the kids.

Thanks to Chief Perry and the Penndel Police Department for another great year protecting and serving Penndel. We have worked together to improve all aspects of the service the Department provides for the residents of Penndel and will continue to work together to get better every day.

As we move into the winter weather season, please remember in the event of a snow emergency declaration, parking is prohibited on designated emergency routes until they are cleared. For all snow events, whether a declared emergency or not, please do not park in the streets until they are cleared. Snow will be cleared from the even numbered side of the streets first. If you lack off street parking, please park on the odd numbered side until the even side of your street is cleared, then move your vehicle to the opposite side of the street.

Some final thoughts for this year. As I look back at my first term in office and look forward to my second, I am thankful to all the residents who have been coming to Borough meetings. Lately, those who can't attend can at least see video. Council will soon pass a budget for how to spend YOUR money in 2026. The re-elected Council persons and I will be sworn in on January 5th. We all are YOUR representatives. Regardless of politics, get engaged in YOUR community. Stop making excuses and start making a difference.

Together we can take Penndel back to greatness.

Best regards,  
Tom Sodano

Mayor, Penndel Borough



**President's Spotlight**  
John Stratz

Good afternoon, Penndel, the Election is in the rear-view mirror now, and it's time for any animosity to end. Citizens must adapt, regroup, and move on to bring wholeness to our town.

Penndel has many challenges ahead, and for Council it is our calling to move our town forward.

Over the past year we've done many improvement projects. Our streetlights were all converted to L.E.D. to lower the Borough's electric bill. We have made many upgrades to the Memorial Rec Field, including all new L.E.D. lighting in the entire field, a new basketball court, new restrooms, new fencing, and new bleachers. These were expensive upgrades, but we pursued and won grants for all of them, to save our residents as much money as possible. Our hope for next year is to put in an exercise/walking trail around the entire Memorial field. We will also be doing the requisite street paving. This year has been a success, so we want to keep up the momentum.

Council thanks you for your support and the faith you have in us.

John Stratz  
Your Council President



# Penndel Police Department

Chief Sean Perry

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## 🎄 Penndel Police Department Holiday Safety Bulletin 🎄

The Penndel Police Department wishes everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season! As we celebrate, please keep these important safety reminders in mind:

- **Secure your vehicles:** Keep your car doors locked and avoid storing gifts or valuables in your vehicle. Thieves often target vehicles parked at malls or shopping centers.
- **Protect your home:** Lock all doors and windows, keep lights on timers, and report any suspicious activity immediately.
- **Package safety:** Try not to leave delivered packages outside for long. Have a trusted neighbor collect them if you're not home.
- **Financial safety:** Use caution when using debit/credit cards. Cover your PIN and watch for skimming devices. If something seems off, use cash instead.
- **Traveling for the holidays?** Let Penndel Police know if you'll be away. We can conduct periodic house checks while you're gone.
- **Winter weather reminder:** During snowstorms, please move vehicles off the streets so plows can clear roads efficiently. Avoid tickets or towing by keeping roadways clear.
- **Fire and decoration safety:** Turn off holiday lights when unattended, keep live trees watered, and never leave candles burning when you're not home.

Let's all do our part to keep Penndel safe this holiday season.

**From all of us at the Penndel Police Department — Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!**

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 **We're Here for You**

 **Non-Emergency Line: 215-757-5151**

 **Emergency: 9-1-1**

# PENNDDEL BOROUGH

## Mayor & Council

300 Bellevue Avenue  
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[www.pennadelboro.com](http://www.pennadelboro.com)  
215-757-5152

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**Assistant Borough Secretary**  
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**Borough Manager**  
**Geoff Thompson**  
[gthompson@boroughofpenndel.org](mailto:gthompson@boroughofpenndel.org)

## Upcoming Events

### Borough Meetings Calendar

#### Council Meetings

Monday, December 15

Monday, January 19

Monday, February 16

#### Zoning Hearing Board

Wednesday, December 17

Wednesday, January 21

Third Monday of the month as needed

#### Planning Commission

Last Thursday of the month as needed

#### Borough Office Closed

Christmas, Thursday, December 25

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1

### ONLINE PAYMENTS

Pennadel Borough now accepts credit cards for sewer/refuse payments and all other fee payments. Links available on Borough home page: [www.pennadelboro.com](http://www.pennadelboro.com).

### SEWER/REFUSE BILL PAYMENTS

### GENERAL PAYMENTS (TRAFFIC TICKETS, PERMITS, LICENSES, ETC)

\*Transaction Fees Will Apply\*

These service fees are not collected by Pennadel Borough, and are not refundable

Credit/Debit Cards: 2.75% (\$2.00 minimum)

E-Checks: \$1.50 per transaction

## **Reach Out Foundation Launches Innovative, Accountability-Based Programs to Help Homeless Neighbors Become Self-Sustaining**

Reach Out Foundation of Bucks County, located in the heart of Penn del, is introducing a series of new and innovative programs designed to uplift individuals experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges—by inviting them to be part of the solution.

Building on its long history of peer-led mental health support, Reach Out has expanded its program offerings with new groups focused on responsibility, self-governance, and practical skill-building. These groups provide participants with structure, accountability, and the expectation that everyone has something to contribute to their recovery and to the community.

“We believe people thrive when they are needed,” said Executive Director Desiree Arney. “Our participants are stepping into leadership roles, taking ownership of their decisions, and recognizing that their strengths are essential to their future. We’re not just providing services—we’re building a community.”

### **Participants as Partners in Solutions**

What makes Reach Out’s approach different is that participants are not treated as passive recipients of help. Instead, they are active partners in shaping programs, generating ideas, and creating real plans for their own success.

From restorative circles and peer accountability meetings to new vocational workshops, participants are developing the habits and confidence needed to rebuild their lives. Many groups are now facilitated by individuals with lived experience—people who once faced similar struggles and are now helping others rise.

Board President Andrea Dames emphasized the heart behind these changes:

“We are watching our participants transform in real time. When you give people structure, respect, and expectations, they rise. Their ideas, their work ethic, and their leadership are shaping the future of Reach Out Foundation.”

### **Innovative Social Enterprise Pathways**

One of the most exciting developments at Reach Out Foundation is the creation of peer-led social enterprises that provide built-in employment opportunities for people transitioning out of homelessness. Several projects are in development, including:

- A moving and hauling service
- A coffee and smoothie cart
- A cleaning and maintenance crew
- Upcycling and creative reuse projects

These enterprises will allow participants to earn income, learn job skills, and take pride in meaningful work. The goal is long-term self-sustainability rather than long-term dependency.

“This is more than a job—it’s a pathway to stability and dignity,” Arney said. “When people work, contribute, and hold themselves accountable, everything changes. Our community deserves to see what is possible when people are given a real chance.”

## **A New Model for Bucks County**

As homelessness continues to rise nationwide, Reach Out Foundation is working to demonstrate a new model for Bucks County—one rooted in accountability, community, and empowerment rather than short-term fixes.

Participants are showing that with structure, support, and expectations, people can rebuild their lives, reconnect with purpose, and become contributing members of the community once again.

“Our neighbors experiencing homelessness are not the problem,” Arney emphasized. “They are a key part of the solution.”

## **Acknowledging Community Partners**

Reach Out Foundation extends sincere gratitude to the local law enforcement agencies that continue to support collaborative efforts around homelessness. Their willingness to learn, understand, and partner has strengthened the safety and success of the community-based approach Reach Out is building.

The foundation also thanks State Representative Hogan’s office and Tiffany O’Neil for their ongoing interest in innovative solutions and for taking the time to meet, listen, and help connect community partners to new possibilities.

“We’re grateful for the partnerships forming across Bucks County,” said Dames. “When law enforcement, elected leaders, and community organizations work together, we can make meaningful and lasting change.”

Reach Out Foundation invites the community to learn more, volunteer, or partner in building a more compassionate and sustainable approach to homelessness in Lower Bucks County.

Reach Out Foundation of Bucks County  
152 Monroe Ave  
Penn del PA 19047  
office 215-970-5462





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Our Lady of Grace Knights of Columbus**

#### **Monthly Food Drive**

Saturday, December 13, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Our Lady of Grace Church Parking Lot

### **House Decorating Contest**

December 15-18

Penndel Activities Committee

Please have your lights on by 7:00 pm that week to be judged.

### **Our Lady of Grace Cemetery Cleanup**

Thursday, January 8

Please retrieve any items that you wish to keep before that date.

### **Redeemer Lutheran Church**

Friday, January 23

Bingo – watch for more details!



To The Residents of Penndel:

After 23 years, it is hard to find the right words to say that I am retiring. This community has been such a huge part of my life for so long that it feels like I am saying goodbye to family. Each of you-through your kindness, your stories, your challenges, and even your tough days-has shaped these years into something I will never forget.

I hope that I gave you the service, compassion, and dedication you deserved. I tried every day to go above and beyond, not because it was expected, but because I truly cared about you. Even when times were difficult, I did my best to treat everyone with patience, understanding, and kindness.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. It has been a privilege, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me. This isn't really goodbye, it's see you around the borough! I will still be involved in the events that we have!

Karen Kondrk