

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Winter 2005
Vol. 19, No. 1

www.pennsbury.pa.us

TOWNSHIP FUNDING

Our two previous newsletters alerted you to a Township funding issue involving cost increases that cannot be met with current revenues. We have drafted a budget for 2005 that was acted on at the December 20, 2004 supervisor's meeting. This budget faces expected revenues of \$616,000 with an expenditure need of \$886,000. Note the following recent history:

Year	Revenue	Expenditures
2003	\$587,000	\$745,000
2004	\$650,000	\$748,000
2005	\$616,000	\$886,000

As you can see, we have had relatively stable revenues but increasing expenditures, causing a loss of cash surplus. Therefore, we are planning to balance the 2005 budget with a combination of borrowing, increasing the property tax .2

mil for a total of .6 mil and instituting a .17% earned income tax (EIT). These changes will produce \$174,000 in additional revenue, giving us a balanced budget which includes a year-end surplus of \$75,000. We would remind you that Open Space Tax proceeds are not included here — they are kept separate from all other Township accounts.

The .2 mil property tax on a property appraised at \$400,000 yields \$80 in increased taxes. The .17% EIT on \$100,000 of taxable income equals a \$170 tax increase.

We believe this budget to be the best available balance between maintaining essential Township services, while at the same time recognizing the economic pressures on our residents — both as landowners and wage earners.

For more details of the budget, please visit our website at www.pennsbury.pa.us.

Board of Supervisors



Photo courtesy of the Chadds Ford Historical Society

Where is it? Answer on page 5

Do you remember:

- When U.S. Route 1 was three lanes?
- When Chadds Ford School was segregated?
- The gazebo on the hill where Chadds Ford Knoll is now located?
- When trains stopped at Chadds Ford Junction?
- What it was like to be a kid in Pennsbury Township?
- How you connected with your Pennsbury Township neighbors?

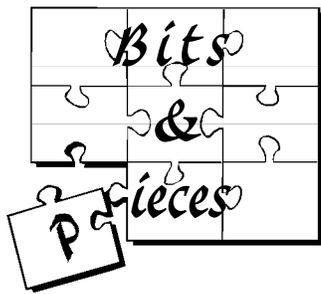
If so, then we would like to hear your stories. To be a part of the Pennsbury Oral History project, contact Kathy Howley at the township office.

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
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Chadds Ford, PA 19317

610-388-7323
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Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Monday - Thursday
Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

SUPERVISORS
William Reynolds, Chair
MaryAnna Ralph, Vice Chair
Karen Wood



** TOWN CENTER

A conditional use decision was rendered on September 9th and the decision was appealed by the developer and a group of residents. The plans are being revised and the Planning Commission is reviewing them with the understanding that no decision can be made until the court makes its decision on the appeals.

** COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Planning Commission continues to work on the update of the Township Comprehensive Plan with the assistance of the County Planning Commission. This is a two year process and work has been ongoing for a year. The plan was last updated in 1980! The public is welcome to attend the Planning Commission meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Building.

** VERIZON

Verizon Communications is starting engineering and

construction work in the Township with the intent of upgrading facilities, enhancing service and reducing maintenance and trouble. This work, which will continue in various stages and sections of the Township throughout the first half of 2005, will include placing and rearranging telecommunications cable along roads and in residential developments, both on pole lines and underground. You will see Verizon trucks and personnel, as well as authorized contractors for Verizon, at work throughout the Township. All personnel should have appropriate identification.

** SOME FACTS ABOUT ACT 319

- 10 acres minimum or \$2,000 gross agricultural income annually are needed to participate .
- Only land assessment is affected.
- Land assessment is based on the agricultural use value of the land according to the productivity of the soil.
- Act 319 assessment remains on property in perpetuity or until a change in use occurs.
- Owner may include more than one deeded parcel under one application — parcels must be held in common ownership and

must be contiguous.

- The entire parcel under one deed must be included in the program.

- Owner is permitted to subdivide 10% of the enrolled property for residential purposes, but not more than a total of 10 acres, and not more than 2 acres per year.

- Owner may separate 10 or more acres, provided no parcel less than 10 acres is created. Owner of separated parcel may build a personal residence. However, if the new owner of any separated parcel breaches the covenant, that person will be responsible for paying the roll-back taxes for the entire property under covenant.

- Owner who changes the use of the land is responsible for roll-back taxes for the entire property up to 7 years after the separation. After 7 years, each parcel is treated separately.

- Roll-back taxes are paid up to 7 years maximum plus 6% interest per year.

- Applications are accepted March 1 – June 1.

** TOWNSHIP PARK

Construction documents have been advertised for bid for park facilities. By year end a firm to do the work should be identified. Construction should start in the spring of 2005. The Town-

ship is taking out a loan to cover approximately one half of the cost and County grants will cover the rest.

** DEER TOPICS

The Township does NOT control any aspect of hunting. The PA Game Commission writes the rules and regulations and sets the calendar. For information check their website:

www.pgc.state.pa.us

ROAD KILL:

on township roads — report to PA Game Commission, 1-877-877-9470, on Route 1 — report to PennDOT, 610-436-2091

ARCHERY CLUBS:

which will handle excess deer problems —

TreeTop Sportsmen

www.treetopsportsmen.com

Chadds Ford Archery Club

e-mail mike@Chadds

Ford.net

** DOG LICENSES

Beginning December 15, dog licenses for 2005 will be available from the Chester County Treasurer's office.

For complete information, including a copy of the license application, visit their website at www.chesco.org or call 610-344-6370.

Lifetime licenses are available if your dog is tattooed or microchipped. Call the Treasurer's Office for information.



STREET ROAD TRAFFIC STUDY

The Township requested that PennDOT do a traffic study on the 2.5 miles of Street Road between Route 52 and the Brandywine River to see if existing posted speed limits are too high.

To make their decision PennDOT conducted four radar speed surveys, analyzed the most recent reportable crash reports having speed related causes as probable factors, and did an evaluation of the sight distances at intersections and other locations.

• The radar surveys indicated that the average speed in the 45 mile per hour portion of the road between Route 52 and Cartmel Drive was 49 miles per hour (with approximately 57% of the motorists exceeding the posted speed limit). In the 40 mile per hour portion between Cartmel and the Brandywine River the average speed was 47 miles per hour with 76% of the motorists exceeding the speed limit. The average speeds were close to those posted which indicated they matched road conditions .

• They analyzed 58 reportable crashes. Twelve occurred in the 45 mile per hour speed zone and seven at the intersection of Route 52 and Street Road. Only one of those had a probable factor related to speed.

The remaining 46 crashes happened in the 40 mile per hour speed zone between Cartmel Drive and the Brandywine. Twenty three had probable factors related to speed; however, the crash rate was below the acceptable rate for roads with similar characteristics.

• The evaluation of sight distances revealed that the intersections had acceptable sight distances.

Therefore, PennDOT's recommendation was that a reduced speed zone is not warranted at the present. The Township requested a similar study in 2003 and will do so again in the future if traffic warrants it.

RELOCATION SCHEDULED FOR ROUTE 52

PennDOT is planning the relocation of PA Route 52 through the Longwood Gardens property. The project will consist of relocating approximately 1 mile of PA 52, the widening of 1,400 feet of PA Route 926 and of 4,300 feet of U.S. Route 1 as well as traffic signal improvements to the affected intersections.

A bridge is planned near the middle of the project to carry Route 52 over the steep ravine and the associated stream and wetland areas. Also, two dedicated left-turn lanes at the intersection of U.S. 1 and 52 for northbound traffic on Route 52 are under consideration.

Continued on page 5



❄️❄️ **Do not put leaves in the street or gutter.** It is dangerous for cars and impedes water run-off.

❄️❄️ **Secure your mailbox.** The Township is NOT responsible for damage to mailboxes. The mailbox and base should be strong enough to withstand flying snow and slush from traffic and snowplows. To prevent damage the front should be at least 12 inches from the edge of the road and the supporting post at least 3 feet from the edge of the road.

❄️❄️ **Keep the right-of-way clear.** Any installation of plants, mailboxes, etc. is done at the owner's risk.

❄️❄️ **Do not push snow into the street.** When clearing your drive, it is in violation of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to push snow into the street.

❄️❄️ **Do not park on the street.** If our drivers do not think they can salt, cinder or plow a street safely, they will SKIP your street or plow it last. If vehicles are still on the street, the Township will have them towed at the owner's expense.

HURRICANE JEANNE BRINGS TOWNSHIP RECORD RAIN

On September 28 the township was paid a visit by Hurricane Jeanne. The afternoon weather forecast led no one to believe that anything was amiss but by 5 pm it was raining buckets and shortly after that the flood was in full swing. The road crew had gone home for the day, but about 5:30 the emergency management team contacted Roadmaster Dave Allen that trouble was brewing. Since it wasn't raining badly in Toughkennamon where Dave lives, he wondered about the necessity of returning to Pennsbury, but as he came east things got worse and by the time he got to Pennsbury he was practically swimming.

The road crew worked at clearing drains and tried to counteract Mother Nature. In the meantime, the emergency management team was keeping in contact with the road crew, Chadds Ford Township (as to the status of Route 1) and Penndot. The road crew (Dave Allen, Roadmaster, James Decker and Jeffrey Miller) and emergency management center personnel (Jim Sears, Reese Reynolds and Bob Updegrave) worked until about midnight and didn't leave until all roads were accounted for.

The force of the water lifted whole sections of Pocopson Road and deposited them in a field, giving new meaning to the term gully washers. Chandler Road was hard hit. Cossert Road, Brintons Bridge Road and Hickory Hill Road all experienced damage. Rain gages in the township recorded from 7 to 12 inches. There was a run on orange highway cones to mark wash-outs.

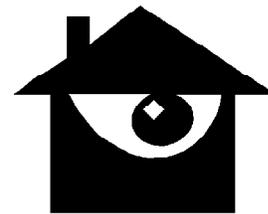
The next day emergency management members Barb and Dick Camp and Teri Hoopes took damage assessment photos. Since Chester County was declared a disaster area, some money will be available to the township. FEMA has also assessed damage to the homes that were reported to them by homeowners.

2,000 tons of stone was used to stabilize township roads until spring when repair work can get underway. It is estimated that the roads sustained \$40,000 worth of damage.

The road crew and the volunteers of the emergency management team are to be commended for their long hours and dedication to seeing that the roads were safe for all Township residents.

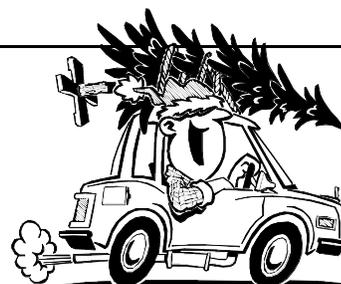
PENNSBURY TOWNWATCH DONATES BREATH ANALYZER TO PA STATE POLICE

In its continuing efforts to support those groups and activities that contribute to the overall safety and security of Pennsbury



Township residents, Pennsbury Townwatch has donated a Portable Breath Testing Instrument (PBTI) to the Avondale Barracks of the Pennsylvania State Police. The PBTI, better known as the *Intoximeter*, is a computerized, hand-held device that allows a trooper to test — at the scene — the breath of a suspected impaired driver, after establishing probable cause, to determine whether or not the driver's normal faculties are impaired. In addition, the *Intoximeter* is a valuable tool in enforcing underage drinking laws.

Through the use of this instrument at the scene of a traffic stop or accident, the police can be well assured that their response is appropriate to the situation at hand. "All Pennsylvania Troopers are trained in standardized field sobriety testing procedures designed to remove an impaired driver from the State's roadways" says Lt. Dennis Dougherty, Commander of the Avondale Barracks. He adds "this donated unit will supplement an initial PBTI, already in use by the Troopers and we greatly appreciate this donation that will help to keep our roads safe".



Christmas Tree Recycling

December 26 - January 31

Undecorated trees can be left behind the Township recycling center in the composting area located to the right of the driveway.

RELOCATION SCHEDULED FOR ROUTE 52

(continued from page 3)

The project will address numerous concerns and roadway deficiencies within the existing Route 52 corridor such as:

- The existing corridor has several sharp horizontal and vertical curves along the alignment.
- The Route 52 & 926 intersection is skewed and has offset approaches.
- There is an inadequate merge distance between the existing Route 52/U.S. 1 intersection and the Longwood Gardens interchange.
- Internal Longwood Gardens traffic conflicts with the Route 52 through traffic.
- During heavy visitation periods, Longwood Garden's traffic stacks along Route 1.
- The three signalized intersections within the project limits lack adequate turning lanes.

Construction is expected to begin in 2007 and be completed approximately 18 months later.

The photo on page one is of the Barns-Brinton House, on Route 1, and was taken before 1932 when the road was widened and relocated to the back of the building.

Pennsbury Land Trust
Spring Adult Field Trip

Wildflowers and Mills on the Susquehanna

Saturday, April 16

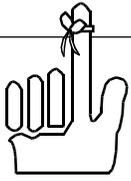
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

As the mighty Susquehanna River created rich, sheltered habitats for a wealth of wildflowers and wildlife, it also provided waterpower for mills and transportation. Walk along a section of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal through drifts of Dutchman's Breeches, bluebells, toothwort, phlox and the unusual white form of the purple trillium. See evidence of the pioneer settlers' reliance on the river for mills, canals and the surrounding land for natural resources. Learn about the region's ecology, watch for migrating birds, and check out an eagle's nest.

Bring lunch and beverage, binoculars if you have them, and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Pennsbury Township Building to carpool the easy one hour drive to Susquehanna State Park.

Trip is limited to 15 people. To reserve space: call the Township Building at 610-388-7323 or e-mail khowley@pennsbury.pa.us.

Cost: \$5 per person
(free for Pennsbury Land Trust members)



Pennsbury Township Calendar

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Supervisors - meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Township Building.

The Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Township Building.

The Unionville Chadds Ford School Board - meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at Unionville High School at 7:30 pm.

DECEMBER

Christmas Tree Recycling — begins Sunday the 26th. Drop trees off at the Township Building.

JANUARY

Christmas Tree Recycling — continues through the month.



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