

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Winter 2006
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Preserving An Historic Farm

The first use of money from the open space tax that was passed in 2003 and went into effect in 2004 will be used to buy development rights of the Mendenhall property on Hillendale Road in the southern part of the township. The purchase will be in partnership with the Pennsbury Land Trust and Chester County.

Development rights to the 60 acre farm are being offered to the township at 50% of the estimated value of \$1.28 million by the Mendenhalls. The County will pay \$360,000 and the Land Trust \$64,000. The Supervisors plan to use \$218,000 from the open space taxes.

The Mendenhall farm, Springdale, is part of a thousand acre grant purchased in 1703 by Benjamin and Anna Pennell Mendenhall and is the only property in the township owned and lived on by descendants of the original owners. The original portion of the house is believed to date back to 1718 with a new wing added in 1836.

The farm lies within the area of the Battle of the Brandywine and family history tells of Private Joseph Mendenhall who was drafted into the Chester County Militia and fought in that battle. Later, the farm was the "coat holder" for the neighboring farm which was an important station on the underground railroad. Fugitives had to cross Springdale Farm to get from Delaware to the first station in PA and pursuers either needed permission to chase the slaves or had to take the long way round, either way the farm was able to buy time for the fugitives.



Springdale Farm, named for the 36 springs on it, is rich in history having connections with the Battle of the Brandywine and the underground railroad.

The Mendenhalls are also donating a two-plus acre parcel for a public park on the corner of Hickory Hill and Hillendale Roads. The horse farm itself will remain private.

Planning a Home Improvement Project?

Some projects need a building permit. Pennsbury Township requires building permits for many types of improvements such as:

- Building decks, additions, sheds, retaining walls over 48" high, above or in-ground pools exceeding 24" deep;
- Converting garages, enclosing sun-rooms;
- Installing heaters, central air conditioning, attic fans;
- Enlarging driveways or adding parking;
- Removing load-bearing walls or demolition;
- Remodeling bathrooms.



If you are constructing an addition, patio, deck or driveway, you need to be aware of impervious surface area (all surfaces which do not absorb rain). Different percentages of impervious coverage are allowed in each zoning district.

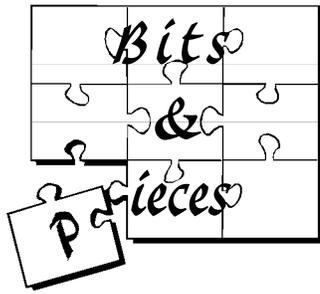
Before undertaking any project, it's a good idea to check with the Township Building Inspector, Rusty Drumheller, to see whether a permit is needed. Call 610-388-1790 to reach his voice mail.

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❖ **SUBDIVISION UPDATES**

• **Kissell Four Lot Subdivision** on Hickory Hill Road has received final conditional approval. Plans have not been signed or recorded

• Plans have not been signed or recorded for **Parker Preserve** on Rt. 926. Work is continuing on PennDot and DEP approvals.

• The sewage module for **Penn's Village** on Rt. 1 is being sent to DEP for approval.

❖ **NO TAX INCREASE**

The proposed 2006 budget has been posted for

viewing and will be adopted at the December 19th Supervisor's Meeting. The balanced budget amount is \$899,100 and has no township tax increase.

❖ **TOWNSHIP PARK**

The township has received another park facility grant for \$250,000 from Chester County. This brings the total grant money to \$500,000, but it is approximately a 50% match. The Supervisors are studying the plans and if the project can be done in 2006. If matching funds are not found and the grant not used in 2006 the money will be withdrawn.

❖ **CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING**

Drop off your Christmas tree between December 26 and January 31 behind the recycling center in the composting area.



- ❖ Report road kill on Rt.1 to PennDot at 610-436-2091, on all other roads to the PA Game Comm. at 1-877-9470.
- ❖ PECO will be trimming trees in the township north of Route 1 this winter.

❖ Phase III of the Chadds Ford Knoll project has been completed. The township is working on the engineering plans for the next segment, Phase IV.

❖ Brintons Bridge Road is now open for traffic. Guide rail will be put up to finish the project.

WINTER ROAD REMINDEERS



❖❖ **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 or cul de sac safely, they will SKIP it or plow it last. If vehicles are still on the street, the Township will have them towed at the owner's expense.

❖❖ **Main subdivisions will be plowed first.** Less populated areas later.

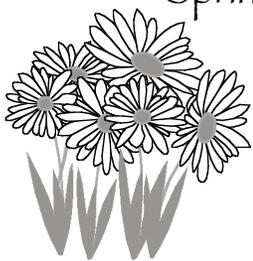
❖❖ **Trim trees and shrubs along roads.** Make sure they do not impede visibility or make passage difficult.

Pennsbury Land Trust Adult Field Trip

Spring Wildflowers at Mt. Cuba

Wednesday, May 10, 8:30 - 11:30 am

(meet at the township building to car pool)



Description of Mt. Cuba on back page.
Light Refreshments provided. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather, we go rain or shine.

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: \$10 per person

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REFUSE AUTHORITY

SECCRA-SWAP.com

Residents of southern Chester County have a free resource for getting rid of unwanted items and at the same time reducing the amount of trash going to the landfill. Designed as a virtual swap meet, SECCRA-SWAP.com lets citizens offer items for free, for trade or for sale up to \$50. Postings remain up for a month and one can browse available items by category, ranging from electronics to yard and garden, to books, toys and games.

The site, which is operated exclusively for those living in the area covered by SECCRA, is simple and easy to use. New users must register with a login name and password and appropriate contact information. While SECCRA hosts the site, it has nothing to do with the actual transaction; users contact each other directly and conduct the trade.

GREEN POWER

The Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA) has awarded SECCRA \$50,000 to be used in developing a landfill to gas energy project. The renewable energy generated from this project commonly known as green power will be able to power 500 homes. The grant will be used to reduce the capital cost of implementation which is to be expected to be \$2,100,000. After the generator comes online in February of 2006, it will provide electricity for SECCRA and will make money in future years as SECCRA will sell the excess to PECO thus offsetting some of costs of the landfill.



New recycling receptacles at the township building replace the single large dumpster which had to be removed to be emptied. Residents can now recycle every day.

TIPS FROM PENNSBURY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

STORM SURVIVAL AT HOME

As Katrina just reminded us, storms, both tropical and winter, can cause any of us to become shut-ins for a period of time (possibly without power). Would your family be ok in this situation for as long as 3 days?

For information on what to keep on hand, visit [HYPER-LINK "http://www.fema.gov"](http://www.fema.gov) www.fema.gov and search for "Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit".

DIGGING?

We don't mean planting mums here, but stuff like; planting trees in front of your home, building a retaining wall, installing cable, running electricity to a post light.

Before you dig, we urge you to call the Pennsylvania One Call System (POCS), at 1-800-242-1776. It's free to the homeowner, and it's the law in Pennsylvania. It's a law that can save you lots of inconvenience, or worse!

Give POCS three working days advance warning, and they will notify each of the public utilities serving your home — they, in turn, will arrive within those 3 days to mark the location of their lines.

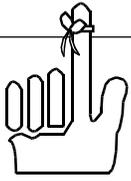
If you are using a contractor, be sure he has called. If you're not sure, ask him to give you his serial number from POCS. He should not charge you for this as he pays \$50 once a year for his POCS membership.

DIALING 911 FROM YOUR CELL PHONE

If you call 911 from your home telephone land line, but are unable to give them information on your location, the Emergency Providers can find you. They know the address where your phone is located.

But, that isn't always the case when you use a cell phone! All 911 systems are being upgraded to know exactly where you are, but the process will take some years to complete.

Should you have to call 911 from a cell phone, be sure you can describe where you are, and how you can be identified, like – "Chadds Ford, at the Wawa, green Chevy pickup". A clear description could save your life.



Pennsbury Township Calendar

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.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

DECEMBER

26 Monday — **Christmas Tree Recycling** begins and continues through January. Drop trees off at the Township Building behind the recycling area.



JANUARY

28 Saturday — **Antlerless deer season ends.**
31 Tuesday — **Christmas**

Tree Recycling ends.

MARCH

23 Thursday, 7:30 pm — **Pennsbury Land Trust Annual Meeting**

25 Saturday, 10.30 am — **Townwatch Annual Meeting.**

APRIL

1 Saturday — **Last day to register for the Pennsbury Land Trust trip to Mt. Cuba's wildflower gardens.** Just 20 minutes from Pennsbury is the Mt. Cuba Center, the country estate

of the late Pamela and Lamont Dupont Cope-land. Walk through this showcase of diversity and beauty in woodland, pond, stream and meadow settings. Enjoy a wealth of blooming native wildflowers while finding out which ones really work best for our area. Get practical advice for your own garden whether you are just thinking of incorporating native plants in your home landscape or have been using these gems for years. *Registration info on page 2.*



sara corbishley, editor

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