

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Spring 2006
Vol. 20, No. 2

www.pennsbury.pa.us

TO: Township Residents

FROM: Wendell Fenton, Supervisor

RE: Township Finances

In my campaign for Supervisor, I stressed the need for the Township to put its financial house in order. At the December 19 2005 meeting of the Supervisors, Interim Supervisor, George Asimos observed that the Township for the past eight years had been meeting its expenses in part from reserves built up over prior years and that was no longer possible. In other words, the shortfall between revenues and expenses in the past eight years has been met out of reserves and those reserves are now exhausted.

The Supervisors had no choice but to authorize an increase in Township taxes. The need for the increase was exacerbated by an accounting error which had credited to general revenue proceeds from the Earned Income Tax, which had been earmarked for open space. In addition, the Township had not been funding a reserve for replacement of capital items (such as a Township truck).

At a meeting on February 6, 2006 the Supervisors increased the property tax by .1 mil which is expected to generate \$37,179 in 2006. On Feb. 21 the earned income tax increased by .135%, to a flat .5%, which is expected to generate in this year (since there is a lag time for the earned income tax collections) \$55,000. With this additional revenue, the Supervisors plan establish both a cash reserve of \$75,000 and a capital reserve of \$85,000.

In connection with the review of the budget, the Supervisors also recognized the reality that the proposed plans to provide an all purpose field and a picnic pavilion in the park, are simply beyond the Township's financial capabilities at this time. Therefore, the balance of the funds borrowed in 2004 to be used for the park and as the match of County funds, has been repaid, which reduces the Township's interest expense. The entire amount borrowed for these purposes could not be repaid because unforeseen expenditures such as the Chadds Ford Knoll storm water project and Brinton's Bridge replacement were paid out of this borrowing.

TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DAY EVENTS

**Calendar and
Information on
page 3.**

- **BRANCH PICKUP**
- **YARD SALE**
- **DUMPSTER**
- **ROADSIDE CLEANUP**

**Check out the new features
for the Yard Sale and the
Dumpster.**

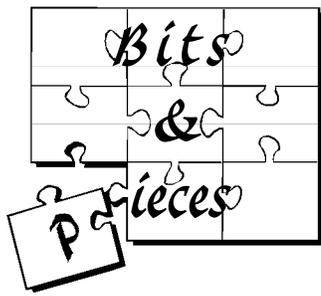


PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

610-388-7323
Fax 610-388-6036
email:
khowley@pennsbury.pa.us

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

SUPERVISORS
MaryAnna Ralph, Chair
Karen Wood, Vice Chair
Wendell Fenton



❖ TOWNSHIP PARK NEWS

- For the fourth year the Boy Scouts will have their annual “camp over” on May 20. Last year more than 200 Scouts and their families spent the night.
- More and more people use the Park for walking so please heed Park laws: ATV’s are strictly prohibited; dogs must be leashed; and clean up after your pet (“doggie stations” are for your convenience).
- The Township returned a county grant of \$250,000 for development of the park (see article on Township tax increases on page 1). It was

decided there was no matching money at this time. The other \$250,000 grant will remain in place in case there is money in the future. It will expire in three years.

❖ OUTDOOR BURNING

There have been complaints about outdoor burning of leaves and brush, which can be hazardous to health. The Township offers spring and fall leaf and branch collection and also has brush piles at the Township Building to dispose of branches. Please utilize these resources so you won’t have to burn leaves or brush.

❖ COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A draft of the new Township comprehensive plan will be available for public inspection in May. The Plan-

ning Commission will hold an informational meeting on April 25 at 7:15 pm at the Township Building. Comments will be welcome.

❖ PENNSBURY VILLAGE STATUS

A committee of concerned citizens has been meeting with all parties to reach a compromise. The Supervisors and the interveners have signed a stipulation which will be presented to County court laying out the agreement for development.

The residential plan is moving forward but no decision has been made on where the roads accessing the developments on both sides of the Township Building will go.

There is also a conceptual plan for sewage but nothing has been decided and things will change as the land development review process progresses. The proposed TND amendment is now off

the table.

❖ HUNTING SEMINAR

The Township Resident Awareness Program will sponsor a program on April 19 about hunting presented by the PA Game Commission. A flyer will be mailed to all residents.

❖ SAVE AUGUST 26 FOR PENNSBURY LAND TRUST’S COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Save the date for a community celebration in Pennsbury’s Park. “There’s No Place Like Home in Pennsbury” will have family activities from 4 - 7:30 pm and a showing of “The Wizard of OZ” at 7:50 pm. Information will be mailed later.

Meet Wendell Fenton

Pennsbury Township Supervisor, Wendell Fenton, was sworn into office in January. Not only is he a first time Supervisor but he is a first time elected official.

Fenton and his wife Jenny have lived in the township since 1978 and have three grown sons. He is a lawyer with the Wilmington firm of Richards Layton & Finger.

He has a strong background in environmental issues, having been on the Board of the Brandywine Conservancy for 29 years and it’s president for 19.



Fenton talked about three issues which are important to him; he would like to see the rural character of the township maintained, he is dedicated to sound financial management and planning, and he is a strong believer in good communications between citizens and elected officials.

He feels his work responsibilities will allow ample time for township business and that running for election was a valuable tool for learning what townships do.

When he has free time he likes to golf, ski and yank bittersweet vines from the trees on his property.

TOWNSHIP CLEANUP EVENTS

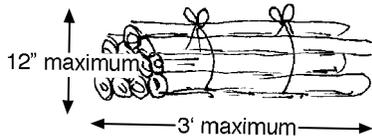
Branch Pickup — April 24 - April 28

The crew will come by only ONCE so be sure to have your branches out early.

This program is for residents to get rid of fallen limbs or small trees, **IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS A COMMERCIAL TREE SERVICE OR FOR LOT CLEANING.**

Preparation of brush and limbs (they will not be collected unless they are properly prepared) —

- Brush and limbs must be from your Pennsbury Township property.
- Roots, stumps and limbs with wire and/or nails will NOT be picked up.
- All brush and limbs must be in the right of way.
- Dry, dead brush and tree limbs must be tied in bundles 3' long or less and no greater than 12" in diameter.
- Fresh-cut (green) limbs, 2" in diameter and larger, should be left full length, placed along roadside with large ends closest to the road, not in a random pile.
- Limit of 8 bundles of brush and/or tree limbs and a limit of 10 fresh cut branches per property.



Dumpster — May 4 (5:30am to 3:30pm), May 6 (9am to 5pm), May 7 (12noon to 4pm)

This year Pennsbury Township residents ONLY will have access to the dumpster and proof of residency may be asked. It will be open to the public during the hours listed above and will be manned by Township personnel.

The following charges will apply (pay by cash or check made out to Pennsbury Township):

- \$4.00 for each car tire
- \$8.00 for each car tire with a rim
- \$10 for each truck tire
- \$15 for each truck tire with a rim
- \$15 for each refrigerator or air conditioner (for Freon recovery)

No hazardous materials will be accepted. Refer to the information on Household Hazardous Waste collection on page 5 or contact the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) at 610-869-8064..

Yard Sale — May 6, 9am-2pm (Rain Date May 13)

Start sorting your unwanted household items for this popular event to be held in the Township Park. Look for a separate mailing for information on how to be seller.



NEW As a service to residents, the Pennsbury Land Trust (PLT) will have a limited number of native trees and shrubs for sale at low bargain prices. You can also learn about non-native invasive plants at their table as well as environmentally friendly alternatives.

Roadside Cleanup — May 6

Help make our Township beautiful. Volunteers are needed to pickup trash along township roads. Bags and road vests are available, reserve supplies by calling the township office. Bags of trash may be left by the side of the roads and will be picked up by the road crew.

This is a great opportunity for neighbors to get together to enhance our community for everyone to appreciate.

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY 2006

Supervisors

(elected 6 yr term)

Meet: 1st & 3rd Mondays
7:30 p.m.

MaryAnna Ralph, Chair
610-388-7044

Karen Wood, V. Chair
610-388-3314

Wendell Fenton
610-388-6861

Township Manager

Kathleen Howley
610-388-7323

Substitute Secretary

Lula Mae Sears

Tax Collector

Berkheimer Associates
1-866-309-6939

Tax Collector (elected 4 yr term)

Joann Updegrave

Code Enforcement Officer

Russell Drumheller
610-388-1790

Solicitor

John Spangler, Esq.
610-696-2208

Township Engineer

Matthew Houtmann
610-565-6363

Roadcrew

David Allen, Roadmaster
610-388-9180

James Decker
Jeffrey Miller

Constable

(elected 6 yr term)

Harry McKinney

Planning Commission

Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
7:15 p.m.

William Holloway, Chair
610-388-2918

Scotty Scottoline, V. Chair

Michael Lane, Sec.

Robert Crandell.

George Beer

Stephan Bucci

Anthony Sciscione

Zoning Hearing Board

John Blankenbaker

Joseph Carbonell

David Patten, Esq.

James Porter

Jim Sears, Alternate

Township Auditors (elected 6 yr term)

Donald Altmaier, Chair

Adelaide Jones, Sec.

Ed Southerling

Traffic Safety Committee

Jim Fisher

John Kuniholm

Barry Levin

Ginger Mitch

SECCRA & Recycling

Bill Corbishley

Emergency Management

Art Bielby

Barbara Camp

Dick Camp

Ben Detwiler

Charles Ditzel

Joseph Evans

Stephen Lunkins

Ginger Mitch

Reese Reynolds

Jim Sears

Bob Updegrave

Historical Commission

Susan Hauser, Chair

610-388-2308

Beth Beck

Lou Dickinson

Janet Haldeman

Lynn Luft

Robert Macdonnell

Tony Sciscione

Karen Wood

Park Committee

David Allen, Roadmaster

George Asimos Jr

Russell Drumheller, Code

Enforcement Officer

Joseph Evans

Kathleen Howley, Manager

Joan Stalford

Bruce Swayze

Karen Travers

Richard Ward

Open Space Selection

Lisa Doherty

Paul Haldeman

Michael Lane

Aaron McIntyre

Lance Oehler

Commercial Code Appeals Board

John Blankenbaker

Joseph Carbonell

Lance Oehler

James Porter, Jr

Jim Sears

Vacancy Officer

H.G. Haskell, III

Bayard Taylor Library Board

Susan Macdonnell

Newsletter Editor

Sallie Corbishley

Computer Assistant

Eric Barsamian

Animal Control Officer

Chester County SPCA

610-692-6113

State Police at Avondale (non emergency)

610-268-2022

To Report Road Kill:

On US 1 - PennDot

610-436-2091

All other roads - PA Game

Commission

1-877-877-9470

UNIONVILLE- CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT (elected 4 yr term) District C

Bruce Swayze

610-388-2706

Timotha B. Trigg

610-388-6220

Ed Wandersee

610-388-1380

ELECTED FEDERAL, STATE OFFICIALS

U.S. Senator

Richard Santorum (06)

Widener Bldg., 1 South Penn
Square, Suite 960

Philadelphia PA 19107

215-864-6900

U.S. Senator

Arlen Specter (10)

600 Arch Street, Suite 9400

Philadelphia PA 19106

215-597-7200

U.S. Congressman

Joseph Pitts (06)

P.O. Box 837

Unionville PA 19375

610-444-4581

State Senator

Dominic Pileggi (08)

100 Granite Dr., Suite 105

Media PA 19063

610-565-9100

State Representative

Chris Ross (06)

P.O. Box 835

Unionville, PA 19375

610-925-0555

*Get involved, become a township volunteer. A variety of committees can use your help.
Call the Township office for information.*

2006 Community Service Events



Pennsbury Townwatch is pleased to announce our 2006 training programs. As part of our Outreach Program, Townwatch will subsidize part of the cost of two certified training courses.

- Beacon Safety will conduct an Adult & Pediatric CPR program on April 29th from 10:00am to Noon at the Pennsbury Township Building. You will receive a 2-year internationally recognized CPR certification upon completion. Registration is \$20.00 per person with registration limited to 20 people. Townwatch is underwriting 50% of the normal \$40 course cost as a community service for residents.

- AARP will conduct a 55-Alive defensive driving course on consecutive Saturdays, May 13th & 20th. Each session will be held at the Pennsbury Township Building, 9:00am to 1:00pm. You must attend both sessions to receive certification. Certificates are good for 3 years. PA law requires insurance companies to give a 5% discount for drivers 55 and older who successfully complete the course. Registration is \$10.00 per person with registration limited to 20 people.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE Collection Sites and Dates for 2006 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bring unwanted hazardous household, automotive, home maintenance, lawn and pest control products to any of the sites on the following dates.

April 22 - HHW and Computers

Tredyffrin Township Wilson Farm Park
500 Lee Road, Wayne

May 13 - HHW

Owen J. Roberts High School, Pottstown

September 9 - HHW

New Garden Township Building
8934 Gap Newport Rd., Landenberg

October 7 - HHW and Computers

Government Services Center
601 Westtown Road, West Chester

For information: www.chestercountyswa.org

New Zoning Hearing Board Member Appointed

John Blankenbaker has recently been appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board. He comes with many years experience in land use issues as he previously served on the Township Planning Commission.

The Blankenbakers moved here in the mid 1980's and became interested in Pennsbury Township government as a way to become acquainted with the community. As one of a few attendees at township meetings, John was soon asked to fill a volunteer role and has been volunteering ever since.

Before retirement Blankenbaker's career was spent in the computer industry. His interest in the subject began as a college student looking for an easier way to solve mathematical problems rather than using logarithmic tables and slide rules. He worked off and on for a number of years on designing an affordable computer for private use. Finally in 1970 he founded the Kenbak Corporation and designed the Kenbak-1 a small unit which sold for about \$750. About 40 units were sold before he decided the company would not be profitable and sold it.

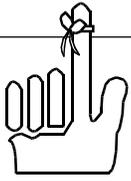
Last October John was honored by the American Computer Museum in Bozeman, Montana by receiving the George R. Stibitz Pioneer of Computing Award for designing the "first personal computer". By the way, John's Kenbak-1 still works after 34 years!

When John isn't helping the Township he can be found on the back lot of his Chadds Ford Knoll home where he is completing a monumental clearing project, and planting trees and shrubs to attract birds and discourage deer.

History and genealogy are also among his many interests and for many years he authored a bimonthly newsletter on the subjects.

John and Eleanor Blankenbaker caught in a brief moment of relaxation.





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 Tuesday of the month at 7:15 pm at the Township Building. The 4th Tuesday will be optional workshops at the call of the chairman.

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

MARCH

25 Saturday, 10am-noon — Annual Meeting Townwatch. Township Building.

23 Thursday, 7 pm — Annual Meeting Pennsbury Land Trust. Township Building.

APRIL

A few spaces are left for Spring Wildflowers at Mt. Cuba. Register now for May 10 trip by calling the Township.

18 Tuesday —Last day to

register for the Primary Election.

19 Wednesday —Hunting Seminar. Information will be mailed to all residents.

29 Saturday, 10 -12 am — Adult & Pediatric CPR. Township Building. Sponsored by Townwatch. Fee See page 5

MAY

10 Wednesday, 8:30 to 11:30 am —Spring Wildflowers at Mt. Cuba.

11 Thursday , 10 -12 am — 13 Saturday , 12 -2 pm — Mother's Day Luncheon Tea Tour. Colonial Tea Tour of Chad House and high tea. Chadds Ford Historical

Society's Barn. Reservations 610-388-7376. Fee

13 & 20 Saturdays, 9am-1 pm — 55-Alive. Township Building. Sponsored by Townwatch. Fee See page 5

16 Tuesday, 7 am to 8 pm — PRIMARY ELECTION

27 Saturday — Historic Houses Open. The John Chad and Barnes-Brinton Houses will be open weekends through September 3 for guided tours that include cooking demonstrations. Fee

27 & 28 Saturday & Sunday, 1 to 5 pm —Hospitality Days. Free tours of the John Chad and Barnes-Brinton House.

sara.corbishley, editor

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Pennsbury Township
Mary McMullan Building
702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

