

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Winter 2007
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www.pennsbury.pa.us

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District Tax Study Commission Background

Act 1 of Special Session 2006, which impacts all Pennsylvania school districts, was signed into law on June 27, 2006 by Governor Rendell. Act 1 is complex legislation setting rules for slot money distribution, requiring front-end voter referenda on tax shifting to provide homeowner and farm owner real estate tax reductions, mandating new school district budget practices, and requiring back-end voter referenda on future tax rate increases above an inflation index.

Act 1 has potential collateral impacts for the school district, including implementation costs, labor negotiations, educational programs, bond ratings and borrowing ability.

The first required step was for the school board to appoint a Tax Study Commission for the purpose of making a recommendation on the tax rate that will be included

in the mandatory May 2007 front-end referendum question on shifting taxes from the real estate to income tax. Unionville-Chadds Ford Board of School Directors appointed the nine member Commission effective September 14, 2006.

The Commission commenced to examine the four required areas of study outlined in the law: to study historic and existing district revenues; percentage of district revenues provided by current taxes; projected revenue from current and possible new taxes; and age, income, employment and property use characteristics of the new existing tax base.

The product of the Commissions work will be a non-binding recommendation on the shift to an earned income tax (EIT) or personal income tax (PIT)

and the tax rate to be proposed in a public referendum spring of 2007. The new tax on income will be used to lower real estate taxes on homesteads / farmsteads and is effectively revenue neutral to the School District. The Commission made a presentation on their study and their recommendations at the School

Board meeting on December 11, 2006 in the LGI Room at Unionville High School. More information about Act 1 is available on the School District's web site, www.uchsd.org/newsite/boff/tsc.html.

*Robert Cochran,
Director of Business & Operations,
Unionville-Chadds Ford
School District*



Ready to Roll

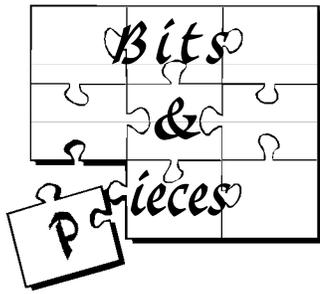
Pennsbury Township Roadmaster, Dave Allen (right) and Road Crew Member, Jeff Miller (left) hook a new snow plow up to the township truck in preparation for winter. See Dave's article on page 3.

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
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Monday - Thursday
Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

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



❖ ANNUAL MEETING

The Pennsbury Supervisors organizational meeting for 2007 will be held on Tuesday, January 2 at 7:30 pm at the township building. The public is welcome.

❖ SUBDIVISION UPDATES

- **Pennsbury Village** - is in litigation and undecided. Zoning Hearing Board meeting continue on the request by the developer for a special exception for a gas station on the western parcel next to the township building. Zoning Hearing Board meeting dates are on the township web site and the agenda on a phone message.

- **Parker Preserve** - has received final approval, plans have been filed and construction begun.

- **Hawk's Crest** - is a new development on Brintons Bridge Road. Developer Tom Spano has proposed 9 lots. A conditional use hearing will be held December 18 at 7 pm in the township building. The Planning Commission is proceeding with preliminary subdivision review.

❖ 2007 BUDGET

The proposed township budget for 2007 is now posted and advertised for adoption at the supervisor's December 18 meeting at 8 pm. There is no tax increase and it is a balanced budget of \$1,113,100. The complete budget can be found at www.pennsbury.pa.us.

❖ PLAY IT SAFE

Families moving into the township from places where there are sidewalks and street lights are advised that it is extremely unsafe for children to ride bikes and/or play in the road. Please stress to children the rules of the road and to be alert for cars.

Be cautious before pulling onto Route 1 at stop lights — too many motorists don't notice the lights and run the red.

❖ PENNDOT

PennDot maintenance has moved to a new location. They are responsible for all County maintenance issues including road kill on state roads (Parkersville Rd., Pocopson Rd., US 1, Rt. 926, Rt. 52). Their new phone number is 484-340-3200.

❖ CORRECTION

The PA Game Commission phone number for reporting road kill on township roads is 610-926-3136.

❖ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- The Township is looking for residents who are interested in keeping our roads safe to join the Traffic Safety Committee.

- The Township seat on the SECCRA (Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority) Board has become vacant. This governing body operates the landfill used by Pennsbury residents when they recycle and by private trash haulers who provide service in the township.

Contact Kathy Howley, Township Manager, if you are interested in helping your township.

Pennsbury Land Trust Natural History Field Trip for Adults

Assateague Seashore - Chincoteague Island Getaway

Friday - Sunday, March 23 - 25, 2007

Registration Deadline: February 1, 2007

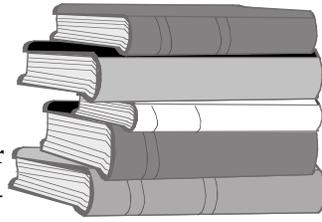
Explore Assateague National Seashore at a time when spring has arrived in Northern Virginia. Investigate beaches and wetlands on this barrier island, home of the famous Chincoteague wild ponies, endangered Delmarva fox squirrels, Sika deer, otters, abundant marine life, and coastal birds. Watch for migrating shore and woodland birds as we walk along Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge trails, use magnifiers to compare Atlantic beach with bay marine life and enjoy optional sunrise birding walks. See special presentations about the islands at the refuge centers and learn about America's space program at Wallop's Island NASA Visitor Center. During a stop at Potomoke State Park, stroll along a boardwalk through a unique lost-in-time cypress swamp.

Double-occupancy lodging at the Refuge Inn on Chincoteague Island where we can pamper ourselves with wine and cheese, indoor pool and whirlpool before dinner.

Travel is by carpool. Leader is biologist and Land Trust President, Karen Travers.

Cost is \$170/person Included – double-occupancy lodging with private bath, entrance fees, wine and cheese party, two picnic lunches, pre trip information, and professional leadership. Not included – dinners and breakfasts. Designated drivers will receive small mileage allowance. To register send check for \$170/person (non refundable after Feb. 1) made out to Pennsbury Land Trust. Include name(s), address, phone, and e-mail, if available. Mail to Pennsbury Land Trust, 702 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. Limited to 10 participants. Questions: 610-388-7995.

Bayard Taylor Library News



January means a new look for the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library, with a new logo and new library cards, including a key-ring friendly version. The Chester County Library System recently worked on a new strategic plan for county-wide services, and part of the plan was a new brand and logo. Beginning the month of January library patrons can turn in their old Bayard Taylor library card for a new, free card. Patrons who have lost their old card will also be eligible for a new, free card. (Normally there is a \$5 fee to replace a lost card.)

The past few months have been extremely busy at the Bayard Taylor, with programs offered for patrons of all ages, and the continuation of partnerships with community organizations to bring interesting and enlightening offerings for our patrons. The Kennett Symphony returned Dec. 1 for an evening of holiday music, which also included special guests Suzanne Roberts, who read some of her favorite Christmas stories, and none other than Santa himself! Citadel continued its financial workshops at the library with the latest offering – Strategies for Reducing Your Taxes. Both the Symphony and Citadel plan to return to the library for more cooperative programming in 2007.

For children and teens, the library expects to offer once again its popular Star Wars trivia contest, and family BINGO this winter. Also in the schedule will be storytimes for our younger patrons, and chess club for young adults. Check with the library starting in mid-December for a complete schedule of children's and teen programs. December 9 saw the library host the second Holiday Craft Day, in which children of all ages can make holiday crafts to decorate or give as gifts.

A new phase of fund-raising will begin in 2007 for the planned new library at Ways Lane. Architectural plans have been revised, and a renewed effort at raising the money will soon be underway.

*Donna Murray,
Librarian*

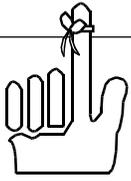
Township Winter Road Maintenance Procedures

Pennsbury Township maintains 28 miles of roads with 36 cul de sacs. It takes 3.5 hours to salt the roads using three trucks spreading an average of 10 tons of salt. An average snow fall of 4 to 6 inches of snow takes another 4-6 hours to plow with 3 trucks. Depending on the amount and type of snow (wet or dry) it can take up to 8-10 hours to completely clear township roads. This does not take into consideration blowing and drifting snow, parked cars, down trees, wires, ice and equipment breakdowns.

Salting begins as the first flakes begin to fall or if freezing rain is in the forecast. Main roads are treated first, then developments. The salting is done for traction and keeping snow from packing and freezing to the road. When snow accumulates 2-3 inches plowing begins. Plowing only one pass in both direction is done to keep roads open. When snow ends, we begin pushing back snow to gutters, clearing intersections and cul de sacs. Snow is pushed back to gutters to insure proper drainage for melting snow, rain and future snow falls. Pushing back snow as far as we can is very important to give us a place to push future snow. Once the snow freezes on the surface, it is very hard to remove. When snow is pushed back into gutters in anticipation of another storm, we may plow up sod and grass. As soon as the weather breaks, the road crew will pick up sod and reseed damaged areas. Make sure your mailbox and post is secure. The township is NOT responsible for damaged mailboxes or posts. Any installation of plants, signs, mailboxes etc within the right of way is done at the owner's risk.

Please DO NOT PARK ON STREETS during snow and ice storms. If our drivers do not think they can salt or plow a street safely, they may skip your street. It may be several hours before they come back to clean up. If the vehicles are still on the street, the township will have that vehicle towed at the owner's expense. When plowing or shoveling your driveway, make sure the road way is cleared also. Leaving snow on the road is in violation of the PA Vehicle Code and you can be fined. The same is true for blowing grass and leaves into the road which creates hazardous driving conditions.

*Dave Allen,
Pennsbury Township Roadmaster*



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 is an optional workshop 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.

DECEMBER

26 Tuesday— Christmas Tree Collection at the Township Building begins.

JANUARY

2 Tuesday, 7:30 pm — Township Supervisor's Organizational Meeting. Township Building

3 Wednesday, 7:30 pm — Township Auditor's Organizational Meeting. Township Building

31 Wednesday — Christmas Tree Collection at the Township Building ends.

MARCH

28 Wednesday, 7:30 pm — Town Watch Annual Meeting. ChaddsFord winery.

Pennsbury Land Trust Annual Meeting - Details pending.



Leave undecorated trees in area near Township Building where bagged leaves are left.

sara corbishley, editor

Pennsbury Township
Mary McMullan Building
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Chadds Ford, PA 19317

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