



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • FALL 2023 • VOL. 25 N° 2

Township Taxes

Your township property tax bill will be mailed by March 1, 2024. The County tax bill is mailed in January and the School Tax bill (the largest of the three) will be mailed by the school district July 1st. If you do not receive any of these bills, it is your responsibility to follow up and get a copy. **There is also an Earned Income Tax in Pennsbury Township (0.312%) and it is collected by Keystone Collections.** Keystone collects this tax for all municipalities in Chester County that have the EIT tax. This is NOT a collection agency – they are the tax collector and can be reached at 866-539-1100.

You can find all this information on our website at www.pennsbury.pa.us. The budget for 2024 will be posted the beginning of November and will be considered for adoption at the December Supervisor's meeting.

Election Day November 7, 2023

Polls open at 7:00am and close at 8:00pm. Voting precincts are listed on our website.



Longwood Fire Company

We have some exciting news to share that we now have volunteer staffing overnight and on weekends—ensuring that a response to a fire/rescue call could be cut in half! This is great news for both residents and first responders as a fire grows double the size in only 30 seconds.

Crews have also begun training on a tractor-drawn aerial device called a “tiller.” It is a very challenging piece of equipment to maneuver and operate, but we are thrilled to be introducing it as a tool. Tillers provide flexibility and the options to fit in narrow places with greater ease.

We thank Pennsbury Township for its support of our first responders, and we encourage everyone to visit us at our annual Open House on October 21st from 12pm to 3pm. Hope to see you there! •



Best Practices

HEATING FIRE SAFETY

Put all fires out completely



Before going to bed or leaving the house, double check that embers are out in wood stoves and fireplaces.

Clean Your Chimneys



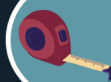
Have a professional chimney sweep inspect and clean your heating system annually.

Space Heaters can be Smart



Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.

Keep a Safe Distance



Make sure your stoves and space heaters are at least 3 feet from anything that can burn (including furniture).

Did you know that heating equipment caused one in seven home structure fires (14%) that took place in 2014–2018 (NFPA, 2021)? There are several small things you can do to make your home safer and warmer this winter!

Leaf Pick-Up

October 16 to November 30

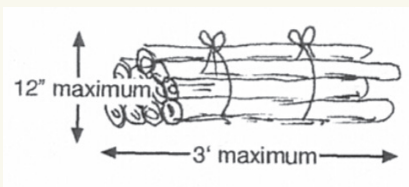
Bagged leaves can be dropped off at the township building in the designated space starting October 16 to November 30th.

Fall Branch Pick-Up Week

November 13 - 17, 2023

Brush and limbs must be properly prepared or they will not be collected.

- Brush and limbs must be from your Pennsbury Township property.
- Brush and limbs must be put out before start date as only one pass will be made through each neighborhood.
- NO roots, stumps and limbs with wire and/or nails.
- All brush and limbs must be in the right of way.
- Fresh cut (green) limbs, 2" in diameter and larger, should be left full length, placed along roadside with large ends closest to road.
- Dry, dead brush and tree limbs must be tied in bundles no greater than 3' long and 12" in diameter.



- A sample bundle is on display at the Township Building along with free bailing twine and instructions.
- Limit of 8 bundles of brush and/or tree limbs and 10 fresh cut (green) branches per property.

Christmas Trees can also be dropped off starting December 26th until the end of January.

Planning Commission Update

The following is an update of the Pennsbury Township Planning Commission's (PC) main activities and news since the last edition of the Pennsbury Township News.

Zoning Hearing Board Applications were reviewed and recommendations made on the following properties:

- Hillendale Elementary School - outdoor classroom.
- Madden - 157 McFadden Road - installation of hardscape increasing impervious ground coverage.
- McGlade - 851 Fairville Road - renovations to main house with disturbance to steep slopes and pool placement in the front yard.
- Ilium - 2007 Brintons Bridge Road - enlarged storage shed.

Subdivision applications were reviewed for the following properties:

- McAnally and Darlington - 2600 Brintons Bridge Road
- Atkins - McFadden Road

A conditional use application by Freddie and Marshie, LLC for a bed & breakfast at 1301 Brintons Bridge Road was initiated and remains on-going.

Several discussions took place regarding potential changes to our zoning ordinances regarding protection of specimen trees and riparian buffers.

All township residents are welcome to attend Planning Commission meetings which are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM in the Township Building. •

Driveway Permits are REQUIRED for Resurfacing Your Driveway

These can be obtained on line at www.pennsbury.pa.us or call the office at 610-388-7323. Permits are NOT needed for sealcoating your driveway—only for resurfacing.

The Road Department can be very helpful in advising you what to look for in a good job. You can call them at 610-388-9180. Too many driveways are done with minimal materials and fall apart quickly. **THE HOMEOWNER IS RESPONSIBLE for obtaining the permit BEFORE the work is done.** •



Oh, The Holidays! Decorate, Taste – Watch Your Waste!

Quick – what time of year generates the most trash for landfills? That's right, it's the holiday season. Online shopping and shipping, wrapping paper, more uneaten food, toys, and electronics being replaced. You get the idea. Household waste increases about 25% this time of year!

Can you be more TrashSmart? Try these ideas (or even just one!):

- Downsize – Smaller gathering, less decorations, careful gifting* so you create less waste
- Reusable, durable plates and silverware, cups, napkins, tablecloths (ask about renting)
- Shop (and wrap!) with reusable bags
- Have guests bring reusable containers for leftovers they may take home
- Cleaning the house – old socks for dusting rags; microfiber fleece cloths are washable
- Vinegar for glass surfaces
- Electronic invitations – Evite®, Greenvelope, Punchbowl®, Zazzle, Inc.
- Online resources can help you plan how much food you need
- *Gifts for experiences – tickets to an event, museum or zoo membership, cooking class or trip
- *Gifts of your time – Babysitting, pet sitting, gardening help, lessons for a new hobby, teach someone a new skill
- *Gift cards for services, not goods – gas stations, car washes, hair/nail salon, massage, lawn service, audio books, pet services
- Homemade food and gifts show your creativity, time, and effort
- Reusable, useful containers such as cookies in a flowerpot, or jewelry in a new pair of gloves



RECYCLING BIN: Non-metallic wrapping paper and greeting cards without batteries
COMPOST: Evergreens, tea bags, coffee grounds, leaves, twigs, fresh cranberries
GARBAGE CAN: Cellophane, tissue paper, musical greeting cards, plastic ware

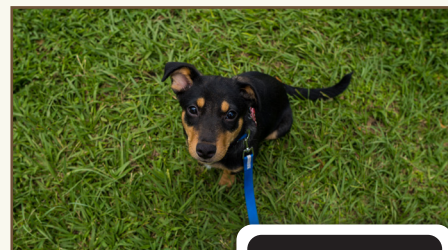
So, this year... celebrate how mindful you are with sustainable consumption and disposal practices. What GOOD behaviors and habits can YOU start on your way to being TrashSmart? And New Year's resolutions are just around the corner. •

READYChesCo.org

ChesCO.org – ReadyChesCo is the official notification system for weather emergencies, missing persons alerts, prison incidents, evacuation, and shelter-in-place orders and more. Users can choose which types of information to receive and can also note any special needs information that may be useful for emergency responders.

- Receive messages by text, email or phone call, or any combination of the three
- Get messages for more than one address (home, office, relatives' homes, schools)
- You can set up a quiet time so as not to receive messages during sleep hours.

For more information and to register, visit www.readychesco.org.



REMINDER!
Dogs must
be on a leash
while in the
park.

IT'S THE LAW
**DOGS
MUST BE
LEASHED
AT ALL
TIMES**

Once again there has been several incidents where dogs have been off leash in the park and the township has received complaints. You must have your dog on a leash when they enter the park AND when walking in the park. It is the LAW. If other dog walkers see this violation, please speak up and gently remind people that there is a leash law.

The township is getting new signs throughout the park reminding owners their dog **MUST BE ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES**. It's great to see dogs and their owners enjoying the park. The township would like to keep it that way.

Kennett Library

The new Kennett Library & Resource Center has become a community hub for all!

Early in the morning you can find our regulars reading the daily paper in the Bayard Taylor room, mid-day the upstairs is full of children and teens participating in a program or creating and coding in the maker spaces. All day you can find people working on computers, meeting friends, or sitting in comfortable chairs reading a book.

On Sunday August 27th, we welcomed over 1,800 people to our Grand Opening Celebration! To say we were overjoyed is an understatement. The day featured a ceremonial book pass down State Street, a land acknowledgment with the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, brief remarks by local dignitaries, a ribbon cutting, performances in the auditorium, family activities, and more.

While this was an amazing day for the library - it was much more important for the community. This is **YOUR** library. The Kennett Library is a place to meet, a place to learn, to teach, to share, to connect, a place to build, to expand horizons. This new building gives us the opportunity to reach more people and expand our essential services and programs. Programs like ESL classes, art workshops, family story times, nature camps, book groups, webinars, author talks, and more.

FALL 2023 PROGRAMS

We have a full roster this fall!

Popular children's programs are back like Sunshine Yoga and Lego Club, along with new programs such as our 5 Senses Walk at New Leaf Sensory Park and Classic Children's Movie Day in the Auditorium.

For teens and young adults, we've brought back Chess Club, Anime After School, and will introduce Dungeons & Dragons.

For adults, our book groups are ever growing but some new programs include Where Do Old Books Go and YoQi With Jan. Please join our "Monday Makers" meetings on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. You'll get an introduction to the outstanding collection of equipment in our Adult Makerspace.

We have a little something for everyone so please stop by and see what the Kennett Library has for you. Learn more about our Fall Programs online at kennettlibrary.org or scan QR code. Our Winter programs will be announced at the end of November. •



Area elected officials celebrate the grand opening of the Kennett Library. Note the third person from the top left corner is our Pennsbury Supervisor, Aaron McIntyre





Sign Proliferation

A vendor/contractor sign is allowed on a property during the course of the project. When the project is completed, the sign must be taken down. If not taken down in a timely fashion, the township will remove it and the property owner can be cited.

Political Signs must have landowner permission for placement, no larger than 6 sf in size, must not be placed sooner than 30 days prior to the election and **must be removed within 3 days after the election.** •





#998 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Chester County has joined communities across the nation, to introduce "988" as the direct phone connection support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress.

People who call, text, or chat with 988 will be directly connected to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The existing Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will remain available. Callers can also connect with the Veterans Crisis Line or assistance in Spanish. Lifeline services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no cost to the caller. Trained crisis response professionals can support individuals considering suicide, self-harm, or any behavioral or mental health need for themselves or people looking for help for a loved one experiencing a mental health crisis.

Well Water Study

Researchers at Temple University are looking for families who drink water from a private well for a paid study. For more information visit their website at www.wettrial.org, call them at 215-204-5124, or email them at wettrial@temple.edu.

Grants

Pennsbury Township, through the assistance of the Brandywine Conservancy, is applying for a Chester County Vision Partnership grant to assist the Planning Commission drafting language to protect specimen trees, riparian buffer zones and adding regulations addressing medical marijuana. The grants will be awarded by the County at year end and if the Township receives a grant, work will start in the Spring, 2024.



It's Time for Those Winter Road Reminders

- 1 Do not park on the streets during snow and ice events.** 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 after the road crew has finished the rest of the township. If vehicles are still on the street, the Township will have them towed at the owner's expense.
- 2 Do not put leaves in the street or gutter.** It is dangerous for cars and impedes water run-off.
- 3 Trim trees and shrubs along roads.** Make sure they do not impede visibility or make passage difficult.
- 4 Do not plant trees in the township right of way as well as placing rocks or boulders alongside the road.** These present a hazard to township vehicles plowing and can hinder road repairs. The Right of Way should always be kept clear of any object.
- 5 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.
- 6 Keep the right-of-way clear.** Any installation of plants, mailboxes, etc. is done at the owner's risk.
- 7 Do not push snow into the street.** It is in violation of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to push snow into the street. It is also a danger to passing motorists.
- 8 Main subdivisions will be plowed first.** Less populated areas next.

New "Snow Emergency Route Signs" in Chadds Ford Knoll

– these signs are installed at strategic points along the streets advising of "no parking" during weather events. Cars will be towed. Residents must park in their driveway.

Unionville Chadds Ford School District

Greetings from the Unionville Chadds Ford School District and welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We wanted to highlight a few items in this newsletter.

First, this is the centennial year for the school district and there will be numerous events to celebrate the 100 year anniversary. There will be a parade from Unionville Elementary School to the high school, as part of Homecoming activities on October 6th. There will be an Open House at Unionville Elementary on November 4th. There will be historical bus tours throughout the year showcasing the history of our community. Last, there will be a Gala at the Longwood Gardens Conservatory on April 13th. For more information on these events and for sign ups go to www.ucfsd.org/about/centennial.

Second, the three directors on the district's school board representing Region C (Pennsbury and Chadds Ford Townships) will be up for election in November's municipal election. **There are 6 candidates running for the 3 four year terms (2023-2027). The candidates are Erin Talbert (incumbent), Jody Allen, Britain Hammell, Brian Lamb, Brian Schartz and Madeline Werner. Please learn about these candidates and vote in November.**

As always, visit the district's website to learn about what is going on in the district and we appreciate the community support for our athletes and performing artists. •



Township Recycling Bins are NOT for Garbage

The bins on the township property are NOT for garbage. There is a sign on each bin outlining what is ACCEPTABLE. Putting in the wrong items can disqualify the entire load. Remember to break down all boxes.

Unbroken down boxes can quickly fill up the space. If anyone sees someone illegally dumping in the bins, please notify the township office with a license and description of the vehicle. The state police will investigate and violator can be fined. •



School Bus Safety

It's that time of the year! For the safety of drivers and our children on school buses, please do not park vehicles, especially landscaper trucks, on roadways. Parking on roadways often impairs the line of sight which creates a hazard. Make sure trees and shrubs are trimmed and not blocking sight distances, especially at corners and driveways. The Township has the right to trim if residents do not. **DO NOT PLANT IN THE RIGHT OF WAY AND DO NOT PLANT BAMBOO.** Watch for children. **NEVER pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights.** •





PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

EST. 1770

702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone: 610-388-7323

Fax: 610-388-6036

Web: www.pennsbury.pa.us

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday:
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY 2023

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(elected 6 yr term)

Meets 3rd Wednesday of
every month at 7:00pm

Wendell Fenton, *Vice Chair*
(term ends 2023)
610-388-6168

Aaron McIntyre, *Chair*
(term ends 2027)
610-388-9795

Dan Boyle (term ends 2025)
484-757-9776

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Kathleen Howley
Township Manager
610-388-7323

Pat Carpenter
Christina Church
Office Staff

Barbara Biedekapp
Financial Director

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Russell Drumheller
610-388-1790

SOLICITOR

Tom Oeste, Esq.
610-436-4400 ext. 1550

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Matthew Houtmann
610-565-6363

ROAD CREW

David Allen, *Road Master*
610-388-9180

Pete Laws
Michael Quinn
Patrick Yerkes

CONSTABLE

(elected 6-year term)

David E. Cox
610-637-5621

TOWNSHIP AUDITORS

(elected 6 year term)

Patrick Barron
Adelaide Jones
Maceo Davis

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Greg McCauley
Ed Foley, Attorney
James Porter
Bill Talman
Alternate - Greg Williams
Alternate - Jerry Snyder
Alternate - David MacMain

VACANCY BOARD

Robert Luft

HISTORIC COMMISSION

Joan Gummey
Lynn Luft
Eileen Mallouk
Brenda Mendenhall
Susan Williams
Judi Wilson
Russell Drumheller

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets 4th Tuesday of every
month at 5:30pm

Dennis Smith - *Chairman*
Kay Ellsworth - *Vice Chair*
Corinne Murphy - *Secretary*
Mike Clements
Alan Matas
Karen Meloney
Jeff Streitell

SECCRA & RECYCLING

Will Sappington

RT 52 SCENIC BYWAY COMMITTEE

Mary G. Fahner-Short

KENNETT LIBRARY BOARD

Barbara Necarsulmer
Todd Bruce

COMPUTER ASSISTANT

Gary Summers

ANIMAL CONTROL

Brandywine Valley SPCA
610-692-6113

STATE POLICE

Avondale Barracks
(non emergency)
610-268-2022

TO REPORT ROAD KILL

On U.S. 1 (PennDot):
484-340-3200

All other roads
(PA Game Commission):
610-926-3136, prompt #0

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT C (elected 4 year term)

John Murphy
Erin Talbert
Jen Brown
District Office: 610-347-0970

ELECTED FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. Senators:

Robert P Casey
555 Walnut St., 1st Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-231-7450
casey.senate.gov

John Fetterman
320 Market St, Suite 475E,
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717 782-3951
fetterman.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives District 6:
Chrissy Houlahan
709 E Gay St., West Chester, PA 19389
610-883-5050
www.houlahan.house.gov

PA Senator District 9: John Kane
717-756-1548
610-436-3320

PA House of Representatives
District 160: Craig Williams
1 Beaver Valley Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610-358-5925
Craig.Williams@PAHouseGOP.com