

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

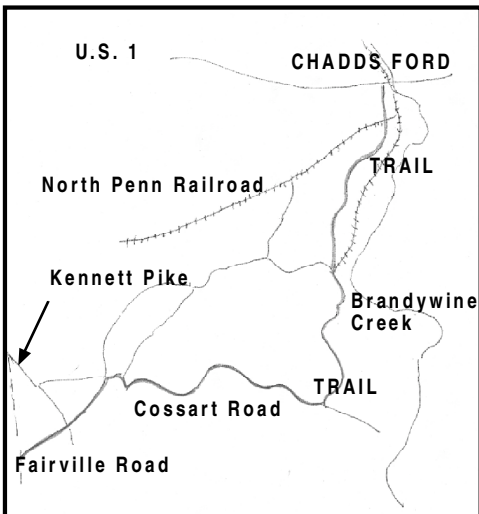
Summer 2013
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www.pennsbury.pa.us

Mason-Dixon WHAT'S IN A NAME

The Mason-Dixon Line is widely known as the symbolic divider between the Southern (slave) and Northern States during America's Civil War. The Line is actually a colonial boundary that settled long running disputes between Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. Mason-Dixon has also given its name to a hiking trail that goes through Pennsbury Township.

The Mason-Dixon Trail is a 193 mile hiking trail that begins at the intersection of Route 1 and the Brandywine River in Chadds Ford. It runs southeast through Pennsbury Township and Hockessin and ultimately connects to the Appalachian Trail. Information about the Trail can be obtained from the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. at 12 Denise Drive, Thornton PA 19373, and at www.masondixontrail.org



The Mason-Dixon Hiking Trail

MASON-DIXON LINE ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the arrival of Messers. Charles Mason, an astronomer, and Jeremiah Dixon, a surveyor in Philadelphia in 1763

The description of the boundary in the grants to Calvert (Maryland) and Penn (Pennsylvania) did not match and there was confusion as to where the boundary lay. The British Court declared that the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland should lie 15 miles south of what was then the city limits of Philadelphia. The two families agreed and set out to have the boundary surveyed. They recruited two experts from England, Mason and Dixon, to do the job.

Their first task was to determine the southernmost point in Philadelphia after which they moved on to mark the east-west line between PA and MD. Establishing boundaries in the New World was no simple task. The surveyors had to deal with many hazards, including the Native Americans in the region.

Several public events are scheduled this summer to celebrate the achievements of Mason and Dixon. Sponsored by "Surveyors' Rendezvous 2013," which will be held in Philadelphia for surveyors, astronomers, and history buffs. On August 29th, a new marker will be placed near Mason's and Dixon's Stargazer's Stone at Harlan House in Embreeville, Newlin Township, to mark the precise point where the pair determined the latitude and longitude from the stars and began to measure the Line.

On August 30th, a new Historic Marker will be unveiled at South and Front Streets, the southernmost part of colonial Philadelphia in 1763 and where the surveyors actually began their work. Finally, on August 31, a memorial service will be held for Charles Mason in Christ Church Cemetery near Independence Hall where he is buried. His stone will be a 1766 Pennsylvania and Maryland boundary stone from the Mason-Dixon line itself.

More information at: www.SurveyorsRendezvous.org

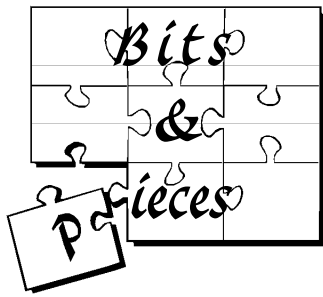
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Scotty Scottoline, Chair
Wendell Fenton, Vice Chair
Aaron McIntyre



❖ ROAD DEPARTMENT

• Summer road resurfacing has been completed on Brintons Bridge Road, Hickory Hill Road, Cossart Road and Joshua's Way.

• Road bank mowing will continue throughout the summer. It is usually done at least three times during the season.

• By law, a permit is needed if you are going to resurface your driveway. However, seal coating does not require a permit.

• Please make sure tree limbs and brush are cut back so sight distance when pulling out of your driveway onto a road is not compromised.

• Do not blow grass onto a roadway. This can clog storm water drains creating a hazard and is in violation of the PA Vehicle Code.

❖ PLANNING COMMISSION

• The Township's application for a grant from the County Vision Partnership Program (VPP) to fund the update of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) was not granted so the township will reapply in July for the second round which will be awarded in September.

• The Township is reviewing a proposed "four step design process" to be incorporated into the SALDO.

• Planning Commission members continue to work on amending the zoning ordinance with regard to swimming pool size under accessory structures.

• There is a proposed use of property that borders Old Baltimore Pike and Baltimore Pike for a winery. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on May 15, at their public meeting spelling out the conditions for the use of this property.

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❖ ZONING HEARING BOARD

The following variances have been awarded: Russo-mango - pool in the front yard and size variance (granted with conditions); Macie - pool in side yard, set backs and size; Walker - fence in flood plain variance. A pending variance: Atkins - back yard set back for a garage.

❖ TOWNSHIP SPRING CLEANUP

• With perfect weather, the annual yard sale in the

Park on Saturday, April 27 was a huge success with over 70 vendors and everyone looking forward to doing it again next year!

• Cleanup Day and the dumpsters at the Township Building were also successful. Residents filled three large dumpsters to dispose of items they no longer had use for.

❖ PENNSBURY PARK

This continues to be a popular place for dog walking (on a leash). Recreational lacrosse and soccer groups have enjoyed the field for spring practices and will continue to do so in the fall.

Now that summer is here, plan a picnic in the park or bring your favorite canine for a romp in the Bark Park, located along the eastern border of the park.

The road crew will be "redefining" the park entrance and sprucing it up. Please note that this is THE ONLY park entrance, so all users should go in and out from the parking lot. DO NOT walk out of the park through the township maintenance garage area, which is off limits to the public. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

❖ RECYCLING

Remaining household hazardous waste collection dates are Saturday, September 7 and Saturday, October 12. See calendar on page four for times and places.

Nothing with a "plug" should go into the landfill. Old TV sets can be recycled through Best Buy and electronics that can be recycled for a small fee at the SECCRA land fill. Info at: www.seccra.org.

❖ PENNSBURY TOWNWATCH

National Townwatch Night Out is Tuesday, August 6. Leave your lights on over night and be watchful of your surroundings. Report anything suspicious and volunteer to join Townwatch and do a patrol once a year.

Contact Kevin Meloney, President of Pennsbury Townwatch, at 610-793-0474 for information. We need patrollers. Let's all do our part to take a bite out of crime.

❖ KUDOS ALL AROUND

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Township, the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, the Brandywine Conservancy and the Brandywine Valley Association the storm water issues at Hillendale School are being solved. The Township funded the design which was

Continued on page 3

More Bits & Pieces

prepared by Township Engineer Matt Houtman and the school board has awarded the bid for the job. Pennsbury Supervisor Aaron McIntyre spearheaded the project and it was truly a good experience in partnering with our neighbors to get the job done. The project should start within the next month.

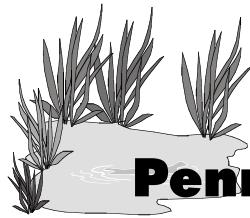
In addition to alleviating storm water runoff it will also help clean up Craig's Run, the stream that runs through that area.

❖ **CAMP CADET**

The State Police will again hold Camp Cadet from August 11 to 16. It is an overnight camp for boys and girls ages 11 - 13 that promotes a positive relationship between law enforcement officials and young people. To learn more and to download an application, www.cccampcadet.org.

❖ **PENNSBURY HISTORIC COMMISSION**

The Pennsbury Historic Commission is planning a fall tour of "Underground Railroad" sites. A tour bus will take people from the Township Building to designated sites. Look for more information in the Fall Township Newsletter!



Pennsbury Land Trust News

Craig's Mill Run Stream Tree Planting Project

The Pennsbury Land Trust invites volunteers to assist in planting trees along Craig's Mill Run in Fall 2013. Craig's Mill Run is listed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection as an impaired stream. Nearly two miles of the stream are impaired due to siltation caused by soil erosion from adjacent properties. Roots from trees and shrubs stabilize the stream banks and reduce erosion.

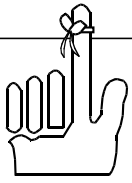
We will be planting hundreds of trees this fall on a date to be determined. We welcome anyone interested in protecting our waterways to join us in this fun project, no experience is necessary. For more information please contact the Land Trust at 610-388-7401 or email: pennsburylandtrust@gmail.com.

Stream Watch

Volunteers are sought to join our Stream Watch Team in monitoring water quality in Pennsbury Township waterways. Changes in the environment tend to take place over long periods of time and if left unchecked, can lead to unhealthy waterways. We regularly test water quality and keep records so that we will be alerted if changes occur.

Nature is in a delicate balance that requires diversity of plants and animals. Some plants are beneficial while others are considered weeds, likewise, some insects are beneficial while others are considered pests. We wade into the streams to collect and study the organisms living there, hoping to find diversity as well as a high proportion of beneficial organisms.

Volunteers are welcomed to join our dedicated group as we regularly test water quality in our township. It's fun and a great learning experience. No experience is required. Because our ability to test is dependent on weather, our schedule changes frequently. For more information, please contact the Land Trust at 610-388-7401 or email: pennsburylandtrust@gmail.com



Pennsbury Township Calendar

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Supervisors meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Harris Room of the Township Building.

Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Township Building.

SCHOOL BOARD

Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board meets at 7:30 pm. on Monday, June 17 in the LGI Room of Unionville High School. More info at: www.ucfsd.org

ALL SUMMER

Mon-Fri, 9 am - 2 pm
Sat & Sun, 1 - 5 pm
WHAT'S IN A NAME? ROOTS TO BRANCHES OF AN OLD FAMILY TREE
Exhibit at the Barn Visitors Center of the Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Free

Sat & Sun, 1 - 5 pm
JOHN CHADS & BARNS-BRINTON HOUSE TOURS led by colonial guides. Special programs at Barns-Brinton House some Saturdays. See the beehive oven in action at the Chads House. Fee www.chaddsfordhistory.org

AUGUST

6 Tuesday — **NATIONAL TOWN WATCH NIGHT OUT** See page 2

SEPTEMBER

7&8 Sat & Sun, 10 am-5pm — **CHADDS FORD DAYS** *Summer's End Fair - Celebrating the Battle of Brandywine*, 1736 N. Creek Rd, Chadds Ford. Fee

7&8 Sat.& Sun.— **MUSHROOM FESTIVAL** in Kennett Square. Info www.mushroomfestival.org

7 Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm — **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND E-WASTE COLLECTION**
New Garden Township Maintenance Bldg., 8934 Gap Newport Road, Landenberg

OCTOBER

12 Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm — **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND E-WASTE COLLECTION-COLLECTION** Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester.

sara corbishley, editor

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