

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Summer 2009
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www.pennsbury.pa.us

COMING IN NOVEMBER Referendum to Renew Open Space Funding

Preserving the rural character of Pennsbury Township has been identified as a top priority by Township residents. This requires thoughtful and sensitive planning for proposed developments, while achieving the goals of property owners. Our Township is an "oasis" within the surrounding area. However, the support of Township residents is necessary to assure the continuation of the character of the Township.

Your Board of Supervisors spends much of its time and energy trying to achieve those values. One of the tools available is the purchase of development rights from landowners. Benefits to Township residents from such purchases include maintaining the rural atmosphere, limiting traffic congestion and keeping costs for infrastructure needed for a development (such as roads) and taxes (such as school taxes) from increasing. Numerous studies show that the cost of public services to a development far exceed the increased tax revenues from the project. These increased costs will be

borne by all Township residents. Protection of open space also adds to the value of the existing homes in the Township. For landowners the ability to realize some value from their land without having to sell to a developer can be extremely attractive.

There are County and State funds available for the purchase of development rights. These generally require a match from the Township or other organization. The Township needs a source of funds to participate in these programs. In 2003

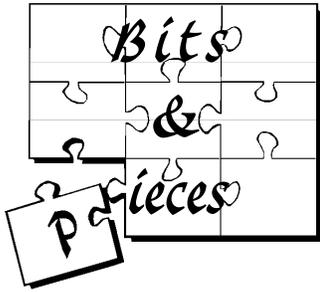
the then-Board of Supervisors passed an open space tax without a voter referendum, effective in 2004 with a five-year

sunset clause. There has been considerable discussion on the imposition of such taxes without voter input. Many Townships in our area have held voter referenda to authorize funding for open space initiatives, all of which have been approved by a considerable margin.

Continued on page 3

Question as it will appear on the Ballot in November
"Do you favor the imposition of a tax on real estate of 0.79 mills to be used to acquire real property for the purpose of preserving open space and securing open space benefits under the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Preservation Act" YES OR NO

**Pennsbury Township park is open Tuesday through Sunday from dawn to dusk.
It is closed Monday for mowing.**



❖ **PENNSBURY PARK NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Residents have expressed a desire to have more activities in the park.

The Park Committee has been reactivated. If you have an idea for an event, facility or any other park related item the Committee would like to hear from you.

Better yet, the Park Committee would welcome your help, either as a Committee member or as a volunteer to help plan and work on special park events.

You can find out when the Park Committee meets either by checking the Township website, calling the township office or e-mailing Kathy Howley.

❖ **SOLAR ENERGY SEMINAR**

The township held a resident awareness seminar on April 22 which looked at the pros, cons and cost of solar energy. The event was attended by 40 residents. This comes at a time when PECO caps on energy costs will be lifted at the end of 2010.

Suggestions for future seminars are welcome. Call the Township office with your ideas.

❖ **LOOKING TO EXPAND**

If you are planing to expand, subdivide or build new buildings the following regulations apply.

All earth disturbances over 5,000 sq/ft are required to have an erosion and sediment control plan designed and available onsite. Any project that disturbs one acre or more over the life of the project is required to apply for an NPDES permit from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

❖ **CAN YOU BE FOUND?**

To aid in quick response to 911 emergency calls, house/building numbers need to be posted. In addition they should be posted in a way which is clearly visible with numbers large enough to be easily read and which contrast with the background.

❖ **HISTORIC COMMISSION**

The ongoing historic site survey of the Township is coming to a close. The results will be made public in September at a special meeting which will be advertised and open to the public.

Audit Report for 2008

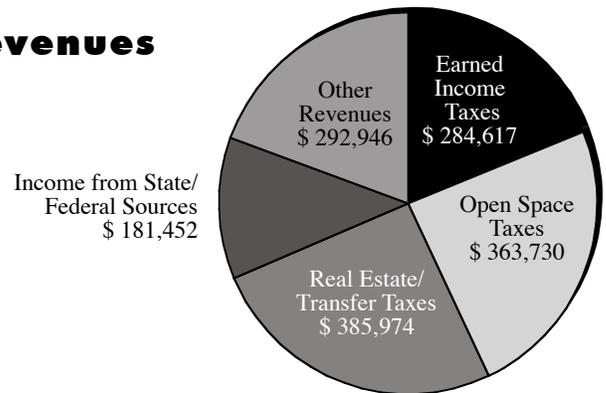
Records were kept in good order and there were no adverse findings. Township employees who handle money are duly bonded.

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PA

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

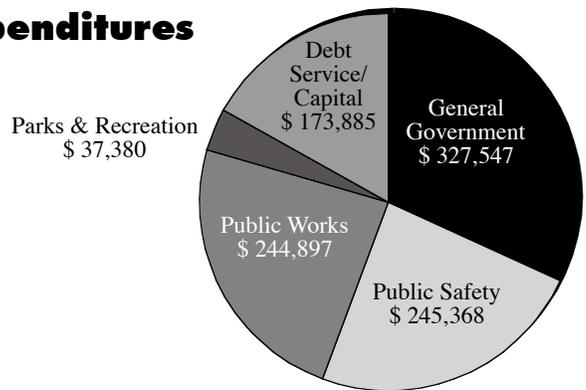
Net Assets as of 1/1/08 \$ 1,048,646

Revenues



Total Revenues \$ 1,508,719

Expenditures



Total Expenditures \$ 1,029,077

Net Assets as of 12/31/08 \$ 1,528,288

Outstanding Debt at 12/31/08 = \$ 705,000

Umbreit, Korengel & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants
714 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA 19348



❖ **SUMMER ROADWORK**

Roads to be resurfaced are: Chadds Ford Knoll, Chadbury Lane, Hillspring Road, Raven Lane, Whitewood way, Cheryl Lane, and Graychal Lane.

❖ **TREES & BUSHES**

Remember that landowners are responsible for keeping trees and bushes trimmed back and out of the road.

❖ **DRIVEWAY REMINDER**

Resurfacing an existing driveway requires a permit. They can be obtained from Roadmaster, Dave Allen, at 610-388-9108 or online. Sealing a driveway does NOT require a permit.

❖ **GREENER LIGHTS**

Traffic signals along Route 1 in the Township will now have LED lighting. The township partnered with New Graden Township and Avondale Borough and received a 50% matching state grant for this work.

❖ **CHADDS FORD KNOLL CURBS**

A \$194,000 project to install new curbs and storm water piping along Constitution Drive from the top of Stirling

Way to Route 1 has been awarded to Wexcon. The work will commence in mid June and take about four weeks to complete. There may be one more section of Chadds Ford Knoll that needs to be addressed and that will be looked at later this year.

❖ **CARTWAY/ROADWAY**

We are often asked “what is the township right of way and what is a cartway/roadway?”

The Township right of way is usually 50 ft. and sometimes 33 ft. on smaller roads. That means that the road right of way is 25 feet back from the center of the road on each side. The cartway/roadway is that part of the road surface from the center of the road to the edge of the road.

The Township has the responsibility for maintaining the right of way for all Township roads. Residents should NOT erect or plant anything in the right of way which would impede snow plowing, general maintenance or utility maintenance.

❖ **NEW STOP SIGN**

There is a new **FOUR WAY** stop sign at the intersection of Pocopson and Brintons Bridge Roads. Travelers take note.



The Pennsbury Township Road Crew recently welcomed Patrick Yerkes as a full time member. Patrick had previously worked part-time for the Township. Road crew members are (L to R) Jeff Miller, Patrick, Jim Decker and Roadmaster Dave Allen.

Referendum to Renew Open Space Funding *Continued from page 1*

After much deliberation the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to have a voter referendum conducted as part of the November general election to replace the existing, expiring open space tax. The current Township open space taxes consist of a 0.45 mil property tax and a 0.188% earned income tax. The Pennsylvania law governing open space tax referenda permits one or the other type of tax, but not both. It was the judgment of the Board that a real estate tax was more equitable for this purpose than an earned income tax since all residents benefit from open space and pay property tax either directly or indirectly, whereas only about one-half pay earned income tax.

The November referendum, if enacted, will authorize a Township real estate tax of 0.79 mils, an increase of 0.34 mils. The open space component of the Township earned income tax would be eliminated. This equates to a median increase in Township property tax of about \$70. The decrease in earned income tax would depend on individual and household circumstances. However, for illustrative purposes only, for \$100,000 per year of earned income the earned income tax reduction would be \$188.

There will be more information distributed in the coming months. Have a wonderful summer of enjoying our beautiful rural atmosphere and environment!!



Townwatch Advises - Lock Them Up

Officials say the best deterrent to keep thieves from stealing your property is a lock and key. Using your locks can be one of the best crime prevention tools. This is particularly true at this time of the year when various criminals use the warm weather to their advantage. Make life difficult for a burglar, use locks and keys to protect your property.

- Never leave a patio door unlocked while away from home. Always lock windows on the first floor or ground floor. This applies even if there is an enclosed or screened-in porch. It takes so little time and effort to cut through screen mesh and gain access to a home.

- Always secure windows and doors in the basement. It can be easy to forget about this area of the house during the summer months when we're running in and out doing chores.

- Lock the door at night to keep out unwanted guests.

- Some other areas to lock up when not in use — sheds and garages. When not using them, lock them. Don't forget to lock the windows of the garage too. If there is an entrance to the house through the garage, a thief can enter your residence while you are out tending to the garden or washing your car. Securing the door leading from the garage to the house will make it more difficult to gain entry into the house.

- Home burglaries can occur by first breaking into a vehicle parked in the driveway or in the street in front of the residence. Often, these vehicles are not even locked. The garage door opener is a key to your home and should not be left in your vehicle.

- Remember to always lock your vehicle even if you only plan to be away for a short time.

I hope these few tips are a help and I wish you a happy, safe summer.

Kevin D Meloney, Pennsbury Townwatch

55 ALIVE PROGRAM will be offered by Townwatch on November 14 & 21 from 9 am - noon. If you can't wait til then, contact the Kennett Senior Center at 610-444-4819 for their schedule.



Bayard Taylor Library News

Children's Programs

The Library is gearing up for a fun-filled summer of programs, activities and, of course, reading. This year's theme is *Be Creative*, with programs planned for kids of all ages. Kids in grades 1 through 6 will have a chance to learn about art history through reading and hands-on art activities. It all begins with a June kickoff party at Anson B. Nixon Park.

Teens can participate in summer reading activities, whether by joining the Anime Club, or reading more books to take chances on cool prizes. There will also be a "Chester County had Talent" contest for tweens and teens. Kids with any talents are encouraged to participate. More details will be available at the library.

New Web Site

Some new features were added to the library website recently, including lists of new items in the library, the opportunity to suggest an item for purchase, and the ability to support the library with an on-line donation.

Adult Literacy

The Adult Literacy Program is dedicated to assisting anyone in the community who seeks English language instruction or improvement in literacy skills. It is expected that over 400 students will be enrolled this year. There are 115 active volunteer tutors working with individual students two to three hours each week. Currently, there are more than 60 adults waiting for tutors.

Support

The Library is very proud of these programs and services but needs community support more than ever. To continue offering programs, services and free Internet access your financial help is crucial. Get info online at www.bayardtaylor.org.

Recycling Made Easy

Pennsbury Township's recycling center for residents is located at the Township Building on Route 1 and is available 24/7. There are separate containers for comingled bottles and cans, paper and corrugated cardboard. Please follow the directions on what and how to recycle. SECCRA (Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority) handles the recycling and if foreign materials or objects are found in the bins, then they must be landfilled and cannot be recycled. **If you take the time to recycle, please take the time to do it right!**



What Can be Recycled

All acceptable aluminum, metal, glass and plastic may be mixed together. Rinse and remove lids. Breakage of glass should be minimized. Crush cans and plastic containers. NO PLASTIC BAGS.

Stack and bind paper with twine or bag in brown paper grocery bags. Do not use synthetic cords or metal to bind or PLASTIC BAGS for packaging.

ALUMINUM CANS

Yes Aluminum beverage cans **No** Foil, pie plates, chair legs, aluminum siding

METAL FOOD CONTAINERS

Yes Clean metal food cans **No** Paint cans, pipe, cylinders
Any metal which is not a food or beverage can

GLASS — CLEAR, GREEN, BROWN

Yes Glass food containers
Glass beverage containers **No** Plate glass, mirrors, Pyrex, light bulbs, headlamps, ceramics.
Any glass which is not a food or beverage container.

PLASTIC BOTTLES

Yes PETE #1, soda bottles
HDPE #2, unpigmented jugs
HDPE #2, pigmented bottles and jugs
Numbers are usually located on the bottom **No** Butter tubs, plastic pots, PVC, plastic sheets/bags, polypropylene, buckets
Anything plastic that does not have a #1 or #2

NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER PAPERS

Yes Newspapers (including inserts)
Magazines, junk mail, catalogs, phone books, Flattened cereal boxes without plastic inserts, Office paper **No** Waxed paper, metal reinforced packaging, milk cartons, metal coated papers, plastic coated papers, fiberboard, hard cover books and other heavy materials

CORRUGATED BOXES

Flatten boxes

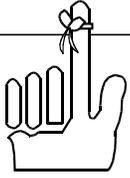
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates and Locations



Saturday, September 19
9 am-3 pm — New Garden Township Maintenance Bldg., 8934 Gap Newport Rd., Landenberg.

Saturday, October 10
9 am-3 pm—Government Services Center, 601 West-town Road, West Chester.
Computers accepted

For information call SECCRA at 610-869-2452.



Pennsbury Township Calendar

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

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

The 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 the 3rd Monday of the month in the LGI Room of Unionville High School at 7:30 pm.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

ALL SUMMER

Monday-Friday, 9 am-2 pm
Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 pm
— **Moo to You: Dairying Around Chadds Ford.** Exhibit at Chadds Ford Historical Society Barn Visitors Center, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Free

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Saturdays, Sundays, 1-5 pm
— **John Chads' & Barns-Brinton Houses Open.** Tours led by colonial guides at both locations. Beehive oven baking demonstrations at the John Chads' House. Special hearth cooking demonstrations at Pennsbury Township's Barns-Brinton Tavern on July 18 and August 15. Fee. Info www.chaddsfordhistory.org.

SEPTEMBER

12&13 Saturday and Sunday, 10 am-5 pm — **Chadds Ford Days.** Annual Colonial Fair at the Ford sponsored by the Chadds Ford Historical Society on Creek Road, Chadds Ford. Free

12&13 Saturday and Sunday — **Mushroom Festival** Kennett Square. Admission Info www.mushroomfestival.org.

19 Saturday, 9 am-3 pm — **Household Hazardous Waste Collection.** New Garden Township Maintenance Bldg., 8934 Gap Newport Rd., Landenberg.

OCTOBER

2,3,4 Fri., Sat., Sun — **Unionville Community Fair.** Unionville.

3 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm — **Chester County Day.** Annual home tour, this year featuring the northwestern section from Exton to Elverson. Tickets \$35. Info at 610-431-5301 or www.cchospc.com.

5 Monday — **Last day to Register for the November Municipal Election.**

10 Saturday, 9 am-3 pm — **Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Computer Recycling.** Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester.

27 Tuesday — **Last day to Apply for an Absentee Ballot for the November Municipal Election.**

sara corbishley, editor

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