



# PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

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## NEW REGULATIONS FOR BURNING, FENCING AND A DRIVEWAY REMINDER

### Open Burning Regulations

A new clause regarding control of Open Burning in Pennsbury Township was incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance Update of December 2012. Everyone needs to be aware and comply with it. There are four subsections to Section 162-1911.A, Air Quality. Subsection 4 requires the following. Please read also 1 through 3 as well as 4 below in the zoning ordinance. The full ordinance is available on the Pennsbury Township website under Municipal Code.

#### SECTION 162-1911. PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

##### A. Air Quality

4. Except for the open burning of leaves and branches, open burning of all other materials is prohibited in the Township and/or in accordance with the regulations of the Chester County Health Department. Unless prohibited by other statutes, ordinances or regulations, open burning of leaves and branches on the property where the leaves and branches originate is permitted only on weekdays (except legal holidays) only between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM prevailing time, at which time the fire shall be fully extinguished. Prior to starting the fire, the local fire department shall be notified and the property owner shall comply with all requirements of the fire department.

Please be considerate of your neighbors in complying with the above regulation. Violations will be subject to citing by the Township Zoning Officer and potential action by the District Court.

### Fencing Permits and Regulations

The Zoning Ordinance update of December 2012 requires a Township permit for the erection, alteration or substantial replacement (more than twenty-five (25) percent) of a fence or retaining wall. Everyone needs to be aware and comply with it. There are 10 subsections to Section 162-1915 regulating fences, hedges, and walls. Subsection A requires the following.

#### SECTION 162-1915. FENCES, HEDGES, AND WALLS

- A. A zoning permit shall be required for the erection, alteration or substantial replacement (more than twenty-five (25) percent) of a fence or retaining wall. Applications shall be filed in triplicate and on forms furnished by the Township and shall be accompanied by detailed plans, drawings, specifications and such other information deemed neces-

*Continued on page 2*



*Photo Courtesy of Brandywine Conservancy*

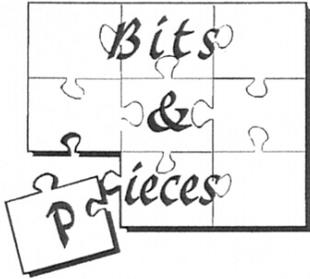
Volunteers from Pennsbury Land Trust joined others from the Brandywine Conservancy to plant more than 400 trees at Historic Pennsbury Mill on the morning of May 3. The trees will help reduce erosion and storm water runoff.

**PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP  
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**Office Hours:**  
8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.  
Monday — Thursday  
Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

**SUPERVISORS**  
Scotty Scottoline, Chair  
Wendell Fenton, Vice Chair  
Aaron McIntyre



## ❖ PENN DOT PUBLIC MEETING

Penn Dot recently held a public meeting for input from residents on the proposed replacement of the Rt. 926 bridge over the Brandywine. They are finishing up environmental studies and hope to let the project by year end.

The detour going west will be: Rt. 202 to Rt.1 to Rt. 52 by Longwood to Rt. 926.

Going east, from the junction of Rts. 926 and 52, the detour will head north on Rt. 52, crossing over the Lenape Bridge or south to Rt. 1. Construction will take 18 months.

## ❖ YARD SALE

The weather was perfect for buying and selling at this annual event held in Pennsbury Park on April 26. Everyone had a good time!

## ❖ REMINDER

All septic systems need to be pumped every three years and confirmation should be sent to the Township Office. The form is available online or from the Township Office. A septic system is very expensive to replace and proper maintenance will extend its life.

## ❖ REDUCING STORM WATER RUN-OFF

Raise your mower height to 3 inches for summer months. Taller grass grows deeper roots, shades and protects the soil, is less prone to disease, pests and weeds, and captures more excess rain water.

## ❖ BAYARD TAYLOR LIBRARY TO RELOCATE

The intention to build a new state of the art "green" library was recently announced by the Bayard Taylor Library Board. The new library, to be built on land the Library already owns, will be located on Waywood Road off E. Cypress Street in Kennett Township.

Although specifics of the design and layout will be determined with input from community stakeholders in the eight municipalities the library serves, the Library Board is committed to building a "green" building with abundant parking to serve existing patrons and the expected increase in visitors that comes with a new facility.

## ❖ KEEP YOUR TREES TRIMMED

Property owners are reminded they are responsible for keeping trees trimmed back from roadways as the Township does not own any trees.

## New Fence Regulations and Driveway Permits

*Cont. from page 1*

sary by the Zoning Officer to determine the location and details of construction of such fence or retaining wall. No change in those plans shall be made without notification to and approval by the Zoning Officer. If the Zoning Officer is aware of a property line dispute, he or she may require a survey by a licensed professional land surveyor as part of the application. A survey is required if the fence is proposed within five (5) feet of the property line.

## Driveway Permits

When resurfacing your driveway, a property owner must obtain a permit. Permit fee is \$75.00 and can be obtained from the township website or by calling the office at 610-388-7323. If there is a question as to whether or not you need a permit, please call the office or the Road Master Dave Allen at 610-388-9180. If a driveway is put in without a permit and improperly done, the property owner may have to have it redone correctly because of the hazard of drainage created on a township road. The is the property owner's responsibility to obtain the necessary permits for this work.

*Celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the Barns-Brinton House*

**Exhibit through Saturday, Dec. 6th**  
on the history of the Barns-Brinton House  
in the Barn Visitors Center of the Chadds  
Ford Historical Society

**Saturday, June 21st**  
Birthday Party for the whole family  
10 am - 4 pm at the Barns-Brinton House

**Saturday, September 27**  
Program about local artists' painting of the  
historic house

*The House will be open for tours on every  
Sat. & Sun. from 1 - 5 pm until Labor Day*

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# A Pennsbury Historic Building — Barns-Brinton House

Resting extremely close to the south side of U.S. Route is the 300 year old Barns-Brinton House. William Barns, a blacksmith by trade, bought 104 acres located along the “Great Road to Nottingham” from Peter Dicks in 1711. On this property in 1714, Barns built a fine two story brick residence, designed to house his family and operate a tavern.

The two story house reflects the typical Colonial south orientation, having large chimneys enclosed in the eastern and western walls. The steeply pitched roof and pent eaves exemplify English and early Colonial architecture. The three bay house has casement windows, rarely seen in the rural mid Atlantic area. On the south or front side of the house, the red brick wall is laid in the fashionable Flemish bond pattern. The remaining three walls are laid in the more usual English bond pattern with alternating courses of headers and stretchers, all the same color.

The interior includes finely crafted mantles surrounded with wood panelling. Most of the woodwork is original and some cabinets and doors still have antique iron hinges, examples of Mr Barns' smithing talent.

Barns received a license for a tavern in 1722, but operated it for only a few years. He lost his tavern license due to financial problems in 1728. When he passed away three years later, Mr. Barns left his wife and children with over 168 pounds of debt, quite a sum in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Barns' family home and farm was obtained by James Ffew, Barns' major creditor, and sold to Isaac Taylor in 1742. James Brinton, who owned several hundred acres of adjacent farmland, bought the property in 1753. The Brinton family owned the house for over one hundred years, using it as a tenant house on their farm.

By the mid twentieth century, the house, often left empty, was in grave disrepair. The Chadds Ford Historical Society came to its rescue, buying the building in 1969. Since then, the Historical Society has carefully restored and maintained the structure. The Barns-Brinton House achieved listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 due to the Historical Society's efforts.



Views of the North Side of the Barns-Brinton House over the years.

TOP: c. 1905 before US 1 was moved to the South side of the House  
*Courtesy of Chester County Historical Society*

CENTER: c 1969 before restoration

BOTTOM: Current view showing the kitchen garden.  
*Photos courtesy of the Chadds Ford Historical*



# 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** meeting at 7:30 pm on Monday, June 16 at Unionville High School. More info at: [www.ucfsd.org](http://www.ucfsd.org)

#### ALL SUMMER

Mon - Fri, 9am - 2 pm  
Sat. & Sun, 1- 5 pm — **A Toast to the Tavern: 300 Years!** Exhibit celebrating the 300th birthday of the Barns-Brinton House 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** Guided tours by colonial guides. Fee. More info: [www.chaddsfordhistory.org](http://www.chaddsfordhistory.org)

#### JUNE

21 Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm — **BARNS-BRINTON BIRTHDAY PARTY** at the Barns-Brinton House on Rte. 1 next to Chaddsford Winery. Free

#### AUGUST

5 Tuesday — **NATIONAL TOWN WATCH NIGHT OUT**

#### SEPTEMBER

6, 7, Sat & Sun, 10 am - 5 pm — **CHADDS FORD DAYS** 49th annual fair celebrating the Battle of Brandywine. Held on the CFHS grounds on Creek Road. Fee for non-members.

6 & 7, Sat & Sun — **MUSHROOM FESTIVAL** in Kennett Square. Info at: [www.mushroomfestival.org](http://www.mushroomfestival.org)

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

#### OCTOBER

6 Tuesday — **LAST DAY TO REGISTER BEFORE THE NOVEMBER ELECTION**

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

sara corbishley, editor

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