



PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Summer 2015
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www.pennsbury.pa.us

SIZZLING SUMMER REMINDERS

Open Burning

When a County ban is not in effect, open burning in Pennsbury Township is covered by the following clause in the Zoning Ordinance Update of 2012:

"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."

Several recent incidents in the Township illustrate the importance of being cautious. Residents burning brush in dry weather and high winds found the fire out of control. In one case the house caught fire and did significant damage. In another, over half the brush in the yard burned and the fire company was needed to get the fire under control.

In addition, the Chester County Fire Marshall warns against refueling lawn equipment while the unit is running or it is hot. Refuel with the engine OFF and after a cool down period. Do not refuel in a garage or building as vapors from the refueling could cause an explosion.

Driveway Permits

If resurfacing a driveway, the property owner must obtain a permit before the work is done. Permit fee is \$75.00 and the form can be obtained from the township website or by calling the office at 610-388-7323. 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 improper drainage creating a hazard on a township road.

There are many paving companies that come through the area and not all of them are "good" Do your homework to make sure you have a reputable company doing the job. Call the Road Department at 610-388-9180 if you have any questions on what a "good" job looks like.

The road crew will need to confirm that the swale (if any) is still functioning properly after the work is done.

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.

Fence Permits

Pennsbury Zoning Ordinance requires a permit for the erection, alteration or substantial replacement (more than twenty-five percent) of a fence or retaining wall.

The Zoning Permit should be filled out and dropped off at the Township Building, Russel Drumheller, Code Enforcement Officer will review and issue the permit if the application is complete.

**PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
OFFICE**
702 Baltimore Pike
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

610-388-7323
Fax 610-388-6036
email:
khowley@pennsbury.pa.us

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

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



❖ MAINTAIN THAT SEPTIC SYSTEM

A reminder that all septic systems need to be pumped/inspected every three years and confirmation 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.

❖ CLEAR THAT RIGHT-OF-WAY

Property owners are reminded they are responsible for keeping trees trimmed back from roadways.

Nothing should be planted/installed in a right-of-way. Any planting may be cut when the road crew mows or they may die due to application of oil or salt on the road.

Do not plant bamboo. It is very invasive and extremely hard to eradicate.

If you are not sure where the right-of-way is call Road Master, Dave Allen, at 610-388-9180.

❖ REDUCE STORM WATER RUN-OFF

- Raise your mower height to 3 inches for summer months. Taller

grass shades and protects the soil, is less prone to disease, pests and weeds, and captures more excess rain water.

- Wash your car on the grass.
- Water plants and lawns during cool times of the day.

❖ RECYCLE ELECTRONICS

Anything with a plug is e-waste and by law it cannot be put in a land fill.

Some sites in our area to dispose of that old computer or TV are:

- SECCRA landfill in West Grove
- Goodwill Industries on Rte. 202

Manufacturers must provide no-cost recycling opportunities for their devices so check their web sites.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection's website has more info or call the Recycling Hotline at 1-800-346-4242.

❖ KENNETT SENIOR CENTER

The Kennett senior Center has the following programs of interest on Wednesday, June 24: local author Ed Charlton will be discussing his book "The Problem with Uncle Teddy's Memoir" at 12:30 pm and at 7 pm Ted Trevorror will lead a workshop on Astronomy.

The Center is open Monday through Friday. Call 610-444-4819 or visit www.kennettseniorcenter.org

❖ YARD SALE NEEDS SOME HELP!



This year's annual Township Yard Sale in the Pennsbury Park was the usual success. Many people look forward to it to clear out and sell their "treasures"! It takes place the fourth Saturday in April from 9 am to 2 pm.

In order for this popular event to continue volunteers are needed. Bill Reynolds, long time chair, has announced his retirement from the event. The mechanics are already in place so only a coordinator is needed just to make sure everything is in place.

In addition, some more parking volunteers are needed. If you are willing to help, please call the Township at 610-388-7323. The event will be discontinued if a chair cannot be found.

Bayard Taylor Library Summer Programs

The theme of this year's Summer Reading Program for children at the Kennett Public Library is "Every Hero has a Story." The program will celebrate mythical heroes, folk heroes, historical heroes (both young and old) and the local hero who lives down the street. Kennett Library invites families to join the fun of summer reading and keep children reading during summer vacation so that valuable reading skills won't be lost. Children can track their reading using a special calendar log, and have the opportunity to earn prizes. For more information, or to register, contact John Hendrix, children's services coordinator at 610-444-2702 ext. 104 or email jhendrix@ccls.org

The programming team at the Kennett Public Library is pleased to offer a variety of fun, educational, and community-building programs for teens this summer!

For a full schedule of events, information on how to register, and any other questions, email Ivy Weir, program coordinator, at iweir@ccls.org.

A Pennsbury Historic Building — The Line House



Once a tavern, the Line House stands directly on the division line between Pennsylvania and Delaware. Located on the left side of the Kennett Pike on the way to Wilmington, the house is protected by a 7 foot high stone wall with iron fencing across the small front yard.

The three story stucco over stone building was remodeled and enlarged in the mid nineteenth century and is now a rare and fine example of the Italianate style. It is defined by the exposed decorative roof brackets which support a flat hipped roof, a classical pedimented front entry, and a symmetrical window pattern on the front of the house. The windows on the first floor are larger than those on the second and third floors, suggesting a change during the remodeling.

The Italianate design, popular in the Victorian era, hides the age of the house. Interior chimney and wall locations suggest the tavern was originally built in a typical proportion of 32 by 40 feet with end gables. Early Chester County

tax records and tavern applications reveal that Charles Twaddell owned and operated a tavern on the opposite side of the Kennett Pike in the early 1800's. Deed transfers show that Mr. Twaddell bought two acres across the road in 1815 for a small sum of money and built a new tavern there.

Initially, the tavern was called the "Spread Eagle." After Charles Twaddell's death, the tavern's ownership changed many times. It became known as the Pennsylvania and Delaware Inn. Prior to the Civil War, the inn became a "Temperance House" and was later even known as a lyceum. There is a subcellar and a closed up tunnel under the house that have given rise to stories about the Line House's involvement with the Underground Railroad. Nothing has ever been found to substantiate those claims.

By the 1900's the tavern no longer had a license, and the building became a private residence. Writings by several of the past owners about the house and its history can be found in the Pennsbury Historic Resource files. The preservation of the Line House is due to these dedicated owners. The last private owner, Mary Potter Kitchel Garret, sold the property to the Centerville School in 2004. Since then Centerville School has rented the house as a residence.

Although most of the house is located in Pennsylvania, Delaware receives taxes on the property due to the location of the master bedroom. The Line House has been designated a Delaware Heritage House and eligible for the National Register. The 2009 Pennsbury Historic Resource Survey includes a description of the Line House, which is available at the Township Building Office.

Planning Commission Update

Recent Planning Commission activities have included the review and processing of three Zoning Variance Applications pertaining to the installation of pools and decks, the construction of a garage and a minor subdivision plan. We also have a collaboration with National Land Trust and The Brandywine Conservancy to upgrade and strengthen our riparian buffer ordinances so as to afford more protection to the Township's waterways. Additionally, we have continued our work on an initiative, led by Lynn Luft, to review the current Village Residential Area and Bulk Regulations and recommend any needed ordinance changes to the Board of Supervisors.

As previously reported, a large portion of the Planning Commission's time and efforts over the past fifteen

months has been committed to reviewing and upgrading Pennsbury Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. We completed the primary portion of this important project in late May with the inclusion and leadership of Township Manager Kathy Howley, Brandywine Conservancy Consultant John Snook and Township Engineer Matt Houtman. The draft document is in the process of being reviewed by Solicitor Tom Oeste and the Supervisors with a plan to have this project completed by year end.

A future item not previously mentioned will include further work on protection of the Township's natural resources.

All residents are welcome at Planning Commission meetings.



Pennsbury Township Calendar

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Supervisors usually meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Harris Room of the Township Building. For accuracy, call the Township or check the website.

Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 5 pm at the Township Building.

SCHOOL BOARD

Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board meetings begin at 7:30 pm. on the third Monday. Locations vary. More info at: www.ucfsd.org

ALL SUMMER

Wed - Sat, 10 am - 4:30 pm
Sun, 1 pm - 4:30 pm —
Come to the Faire: 50 years of Chadds Ford Days Exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of this annual event. The Barn Visitors Center of the Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Free

Sat 11 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm —
JOHN CHADS & BARNSBRINTON HOUSE TOURS
Guided tours by colonial guides. Fee. More info: www.chaddsfordhistory.org

SEPTEMBER

12, 13 Sat & Sun, 10 am - 5 pm — **CHADDS FORD DAYS** 50th annual fair

celebrating the Battle of Brandywine. Held on the CFHS grounds on Creek Road. Fee for non-members.

12 & 13, Sat & Sun — **MUSHROOM FESTIVAL** in Kennett Square. Fee. Info at: www.mushroomfestival.org

12 Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm — **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION (no e-waste)** Oxford School District Admin. Bldg., 125 Bell Tower Lane, Oxford

OCTOBER

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

10 Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm — **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION (no e-waste)** Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester.

22, 23, 24 Thurs - Sat, 5pm to 9 pm — **GREAT PUMPKIN CARVE** at the Chadds Ford Historical Society on Creek Road. Fee for non-members.

27 Tuesday — **LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION**

sara corbishley, editor

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