



# PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP NEWS

Summer 2018  
Vol 32, No. 3

www.pennsbury.pa.us

## Resident Responsibilities for Maintenance of Storm Water Management Basins

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) is encouraging municipalities to perform periodic inspections of all storm water management facilities located within their respective townships.

Storm water facilities inspections are part of the MS-4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Program which is administered by PaDEP. Pennsbury anticipates more stringent mandates from PA DEP concerning storm water facilities inspections.

Existing basins are generally either located within open space or on privately owned lots. Maintenance of these basins often are the **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOT OWNER OR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION.**

These basins need to be periodically cleaned out to keep the flow of water moving properly. Homeowners must arrange for this to be done. If the township receives word of a storm water basin not working properly, the township will notify that property owner and **they must take corrective action.** If no action is taken, the township has the right to enter the property to correct the problem and bill the homeowner for their work. It is imperative that proper maintenance of these basins is done and in a timely fashion and it behooves the property owner to know what their responsibility is when they take ownership of a lot.

If there are storm water facilities in new development, property owners will be required to sign an agreement and submit escrow (amount to be determined by the township engineer depending on the type of system installed) for these inspections.

A Storm Water Management Ordinance was adopted by Pennsbury Township addressing these regulations. The ordinance was the result of State Act 167, which addresses storm water management. If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to contact the Township office at 610-388-7323.



### PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Summer warm weather and longer daylight hours mean more walkers are out on township roads.

• **ALWAYS WALK AGAINST THE TRAFFIC.**

• If you are walking along a road and a car approaches, move to the side of the road.

• If you are driving, be courteous and careful when approaching a walker. Slow down and enjoy the countryside!

## Penn State Extension Offers Stormwater Information for Homeowners

See page 4 for a summary of an article on "How I can Control Stormwater on my property".

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Monday — Thursday  
Kathleen Howley, Twp. Manager

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



## ❖ **DRIVEWAY PERMITS ARE MANDATORY**

If you are resurfacing your driveway a permit is required. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to get the permit and NOT the paving company.

This ordinance has been in place for a number of years and each year we find paving companies resurfacing without permits. Please follow up with the township and apply for the permit. It can be obtained on line at [www.pennsbury.pa.us](http://www.pennsbury.pa.us) or the office can send you one. Permit fee is \$75.00.

No permit necessary to sealcoat your driveway.

## ❖ **REAL ESTATE SIGNS**

It's that time of the year when people are selling and buying homes and signs are appearing everywhere.

Sellers are allowed one sign per lot and if your property is a corner lot – you can erect two signs. Real Estate directional signs are NOT ALLOWED and will be removed. Open house signs are allowed up 24 hours before the event and must be removed within 24 hours after the event.

## ❖ **SUMMER ROAD WORK**

Roads to be worked on this summer are: Stockford, Shadow Lane, Spindle Lane, Sparrow Hawk, North and South Ridge Roads, Misty Meadow, Independence Way, Hanover Dr, Evergreen Court, Honey Tree Lane.

Road work will be done after school lets out. Please feel free to contact the Road Master, Dave Allen at 610-388-9180 if you have any questions.

## ❖ **ROAD REMINDERS**

- **Do not plant bamboo.** It is very invasive and extremely difficult to eradicate.

- Do not plant or place anything in the right of way. Although the Township does not own the edge beyond the road, if road work must be done in this area trees/bushes will be removed if necessary.

The right of way varies from road to road. To find the number for your specific road, contact Road Master, Dave Allen, at 610-388-9180

- If a tree falls into a road, the Township's responsibility is to open the road. Once this is done, it is up to the landowner to take care of the rest of the debris from THEIR tree.

## ❖ **PENNSBURY PARK**

The east parcel of land next to the Township Building, which has been cleared, will be treated for invasives before things grow back. This will occur this month. Growth will be allowed to reappear before seeding takes place. The goal is to get meadow grass growing before the winter and have walking trails in place in 2019, if mother nature cooperates!

Reminder — the Township park is closed on Mondays for grass cutting and maintenance and reopens in late afternoon.

Dog park users, please remember to pick up after your dog and use the containers in the park for debris and not toss the bags elsewhere.

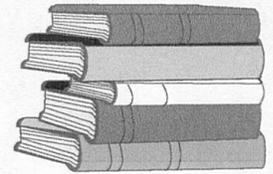
## ❖ **FALL SEMINAR**

Pennsbury Land Trust is planning to offer a seminar this fall on the maintenance of wells and testing for water quality.

This is something that all homeowners should know whether you have a well or use public water.

Public water is provided to some residents either by Chester Water Authority or Aqua of PA depending on where you live in the township. All others are on well water. More to come on this in the fall Township newsletter.

# Kennett Library News



Just because it's summer, don't think there is nothing happening at the Kennett Library.

There are loads of activities, including events for adults, children and teens. Check the Kennett Library website at [kennettlibrary.org](http://kennettlibrary.org) for the full schedule. You can also sign up for their email updates, so you don't miss any of the fun.

Here is a small sample of the numerous events, camps, classes, playgroups and clubs:

- Family Bingo
- Chocolate Night- June 25
- Artisan Market Fair- July 21
- Science Explorers- begins July 11
- Comedy Magic Show- July 16
- Toddler Music Camp- selected Mondays
- Back to Nature camp- selected Thursdays

## Demolition by Neglect

Can “Demolition by Neglect” be defined, or is it simply a visual understanding one has upon seeing an old building, deteriorating beyond repair? The 2012 Pennsbury Zoning Ordinance has described it in regard to an historic building as “the deterioration, razing, destruction or removal, whether deliberately or by neglect of any historical resource,...in its entirety or in part, including the removal of significant exterior architectural features.”

The 2012 Ordinance forbids Demolition by Neglect of any Class I or Class II resource. Discussed in Article XVII, the term includes, but is not limited to “vandalism or decay by the elements.” It further states historic properties, “whether occupied or vacant, shall comply with Township property maintenance codes.”

Preservation of the Township’s resources provides knowledge and appreciation of our local history, an understanding of how Pennsbury was settled by colonists over 300 years ago and how buildings have evolved over time as residents prospered after the country gained its independence from England. Successful preservation yields a richness in the Township’s cultural fabric that cannot be replicated by new construction.

This summer the Barns Brinton House, a unique example of careful restoration standing very close to the Baltimore Pike, will be open to visitors on weekends. The old house, once a tavern, along with the Chadds Ford Winery and the Gables Restaurant were part of the large farmstead owned by the Brinton family during and after the Revolutionary War. The Fairville Inn and the Pennsbury Inn offer unique opportunities for tourists to lodge in historic structures while visiting area attractions. The Brandywine River Antiques Barn, located across Route 1 from the Pennsbury Inn, was owned by the Lancaster family, who operated the Inn during the 19th century. If these buildings had not been preserved by different owners through the years, Pennsbury would have lost much of its historic character.

The 2009 Township Historic Resource Survey lists over 150 properties, most of them private residences. Pennsbury recognizes the contributions by historic site owners to the Township’s quality of life, and encourages responsible care of these special resources, so that other residents may have the same opportunity in future generations. For further resource information, the 2009 Historic Survey is available at the Municipal Building.

Lynn Luft, Historical Commission



## Planning Commission Update

The following is an update of Planning Commission (PC) actions and activities.

With the help of the township's Code Enforcement Officer, Rusty Drumheller, the PC reviewed signs along US Route 1 and PA Route 52. Our conclusion was that the signs judged to be out of compliance with the current zoning ordinance were grandfathered. A suggestion was made that perhaps the township should contact the non-compliant businesses and ask them to voluntarily improve the aesthetics of our township by bringing their sign into compliance.

Mr. and Mrs. Aasif Chadandin attended a PC meeting to inquire about signage concerns pertaining to their beauty salon situated off Pond's Edge Drive. Their sign is in compliance with current ordinances but they are concerned about the visibility of their sign to customers who sometimes miss seeing it and end up in the Pond's Edge Townhouse community. The Chadandins would like to place their sign on the side of the building which is not permitted under the current regulations. PC members were sympathetic and discussed possible ways to help alleviate the problem, one being working with his landlord to change the signs in the business complex.

The PC began discussing the development of an ordinance to cover the use of event space in the township. This initiative is being led by Lynn Luft.

During multiple meetings, the PC discussed the status and direction of Chester County's plan for the future of land use entitled, Landscapes 3 which is a work in process being conducted by the Chester County Planning Commission. PC members attended a public meeting in Malvern and reported on the information discussed and voiced potential concerns regarding development in the county along Route 1. The county planning process is expected to conclude in the first quarter of next year.

A zoning variance application by Dr. John Lewis regarding the parcel located at 455 Old Baltimore Pike was discussed by the PC. Dr. Lewis seeks to open a veterinary dental clinic and also reside in a home on this property. The PC unanimously recommended support for the requested application.

All residents are welcome to attend Planning Commission meetings which are scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 5:00 PM and are held at the Township Building.

Dennis Smith, Chair

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## When in Doubt, Throw it Out

The United States generates more recyclable material than any other country in the world and China is the world's largest buyer of recyclable material. The Chinese government recently imposed new rules severely restricting the levels of contamination allowed in the recyclable material they accept. These changes have had consequences on the US recycling industry.



When too many non-recyclables (trash) are mixed in with the recyclables it all becomes "trash", is too costly to separate and requires disposal at a landfill. Meanwhile too much money has been spent on collection, transportation and processing material that wasn't worth collecting in the first place.

Scrap metal, hangers, pieces of rope or hose, pieces of wood, yard waste and children's toys are just a few of the items that "contaminate" the recyclables. Scrap metal may be taken to a scrap dealer, yard waste should be composted and reusable children's toys may be donated or thrown away if broken. **Do not** put them in the recycling bins.

What is contamination? Contamination is any non-recyclable item (aka trash) that gets mixed into a bale of recyclable material. When bales of recyclables arrive in China, they are cut open and sorted through. Items such as plastic bags, clothing, medical waste, Christmas lights and any other non-recyclable items are considered "contamination."

Previously, bales were allowed to have around 5% contamination in them, or 92 lbs of trash, in a 1,850 lb bale of recycled paper. Beginning in 2018, China changed those restrictions to a 0.5% contamination rate, or 9lbs of trash in a 1,850 lb bale of recycled paper. This is a number that recycling companies cannot yet meet.

Recycling continues to be the future of the waste industry but it will come at a cost if there is no market for recyclable material. Recycling companies need their customers' help in making sure they're not throwing trash in with their recycling so that China's new contamination limits can be met.

Please, please throw it out! That may not be the message you want to hear, but the truth is "too zealous recyclers have contaminated the recyclables with trash". They are ruining the ability to market the material nationwide. Chester County residents are great recyclers, but shouldn't be tempted to be too passionate putting items in the bin that do not belong and "trashing" the recyclables. Properly prepared and collected recyclables are valued commodities

Plastic bags present another problem. Recyclables should never be put in plastic bags. Plastic bags are not recyclable in curbside programs. They jam the source separating equipment at recycling facilities. Plastic shopping bags can be returned to your local grocery store and plastic trash bags should be used for trash only not recyclables.

Most curbside programs in Chester County collect mixed paper, flattened corrugated cardboard cut down to 18" x 24", glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminum cans, plastic bottles and containers #1-5 plus 7. Our programs also collect clean aluminum foil and pie tins and empty steel aerosol cans. No Styrofoam, polystyrene, foam. Everything else should be thrown away and that's okay. Remember only plastic containers and bottles with recycling symbols can be recycled. If there is no recycling symbol, throw it out. Most recyclables will come from the kitchen or in the mail as paper or corrugated cardboard. If you really want to do something positive for the planet, do it right. **IF IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.**

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## How Can I Control Stormwater on My Property?

Have you ever wondered what you can do to control stormwater on your property? Maybe you experience property damage from excessive water runoff, live in a community that floods frequently, or care about the health of local streams. Regardless of your motivation, there are many different things you can do to manage stormwater on your property, including:

- Downspout Disconnect/Redirect
- Rain Barrels
- Planting Trees

- Meadows
- Rain Gardens
- Pervious Pavers

These are just a few of the many options available for controlling stormwater. Many projects you can tackle on your own but if you have complicated stormwater issues on your property, consider getting help from an engineer or landscape professional.

To access the Penn State Stormwater Education series, go to [extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu) and click on "Water" under menu and then "Stormwater Management".

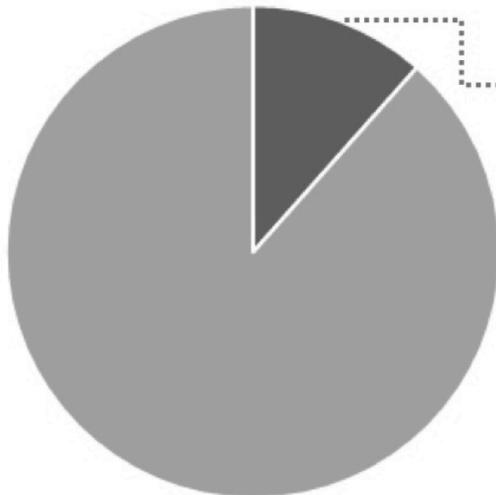


## Pennsbury Township @ SECCRA

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of the original 10 municipalities that formed SECCRA. William Sappington is Pennsbury's appointee to SECCRA's Board of Directors. Mr. Sappington has served on SECCRA's Board since 2016.

**2,547** tons of Pennsbury Township trash received by SECCRA in 2017.



**2.4%** of the waste that comes to SECCRA is from Pennsbury Township

**962** Total loads of trash from Pennsbury Township.

**159** Loads from citizens and small contractors.

**7** commercial trash haulers brought Pennsbury Township's trash to SECCRA in 2017.

**\$~500** will be donated as Pennsbury Township's share of HHW costs to Chester County in 2017.

**>\$30,000** Grant awards in municipality from the Dockstader Foundation for environmental projects and scholarships.

**58** kilowatts of power are generated by Pennsbury Township's trash at the SECCRA Community Landfill.

**35** homes are powered by Pennsbury Township's trash.



# 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, however dates may change. 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](http://www.ucfsd.org)

#### ALL SUMMER

Sat 11 am to 4 pm —  
**TOURS OF BARNs-BRINTON HOUSE**  
Guided tours by colonial guides. Fee. More info: [www.chaddsfordhistory.org](http://www.chaddsfordhistory.org)

#### JUNE

21 Thurs, 7-9 pm —  
**TAVERN TALKS: ENLIGHTENED** Chadds Ford Historical Society's monthly experience at the Barns-Brinton House for attendees over 21. Fee [www.chaddsfordhistory.org](http://www.chaddsfordhistory.org)

23 Sat., 9 am - 3 pm —  
**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION (no e-waste)** Coatesville Learning Center , 1425 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville

#### SEPTEMBER

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

13 Thurs, 7-9 pm —  
**TAVERN TALKS; LIBERTY OR DEATH** Chadds Ford Historical Society's monthly experience at the Barns-Brinton House for attendees over 21. Fee [www.chaddsfordhistory.org](http://www.chaddsfordhistory.org)

#### OCTOBER

5, 6, 7 Fri, Sat & Sun —  
**UNIONVILLE COMMUNITY FAIR**  
101 East State St., Willowdale, Kennett Square  
More info: [www.ucfair.org](http://www.ucfair.org)

9 Tuesday — **LAST DAY TO REGISTER BEFORE THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION**

11 Thurs, 7-9 pm —  
**TAVERN TALKS: FERMENTED AND TORMENTED** Chadds Ford Historical Society's monthly experience at the Barns-Brinton House for attendees over 21. Fee [www.chaddsfordhistory.org](http://www.chaddsfordhistory.org)

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

sara corbishley, editor

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